

**POA Membership Meeting  
May 21, 2019**

**Called to order:** by Cliff Wiener, President, at 7 pm.

- All Board members present except excused members: Susan Ball, Tita Dumagsa and Reb Benson.
- Organizations present: Senior vs. Crime, SHINE, Foxfire Realty, SECO and A1 Lightning.
- Treasurers Report: We showed a loss of \$6,868.59 in April.

**Announcements:**

- Bill Schikora encouraged members to send in their renewals and consider supporting POA by volunteering, even for a position on our Board of Directors.
- POA Bulletin available online by request; over 1,000 households have already opted in. Forms up front to opt in. Next month those electing online receipt will NOT receive a paper in the driveway.
- July POA Membership meeting is being moved to Mulberry due to Laurel Manor renovations.

**Questions:**

- Can anything be done about the continuing problem of solicitation, especially by TruGreen? Complaints from Villages of Caroline and Fenney. A call to Community Watch indicated that Community Standards is advising little can be done (confirmed by an audience member who works in Community Watch and stated those soliciting seem to know that). A call to the Police can help, especially in Marion County. *The POA has "No Soliciting" decals available which seem to help.*
- Any news on the Hacienda Restaurant and Tiki Bar reopening? *No, but the Developer has said they'll get the pool bar open soon. POA is keeping a close watch on this.*
- Can we expect our amenity fees to increase? *Yes, at your next anniversary an increase equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.*
- Who do we call to report an abandoned house with an overgrown yard? *Community Standards.*

**Speaker:** Len Hathaway, Lightning Expert (with Danny Mack, A1 Lightning, and Roby Smith, SECO)

- 8th time here for Len, who has also contributed about 50 articles published in the "POA Bulletin".
- We live in the "Lightning Capital" of the US. We average over 80 thunderstorm days per year.
- Lightning counts within our 50 square mile area average over 100 each year with 124 in 2018.
- Lightning deaths in the US have dropped from average of 375 per year in 1941-45 to 25 in 2011-15.
- Florida had 7 of 22 lightning deaths last year - 83% males; "Ladies know when to come in out of the rain." Three subjects to discuss: Personal Safety, Indirect Strikes, and Direct Strikes.
- Personal Safety: When Thunder Roars, Get Indoors. Lightening can strike without it raining. In The Villages, lightning struck a boy 2 miles from where it rained. Lightening can even strike indoors via plumbing, electrical, windows and corded phones, so avoid all those during a thunderstorm.
- Indirect Strikes: are more frequent, and usually less severe than a direct one. Lightning seeks the least resistant path to ground and it loves technology. Surge protectors provide resistance.
  - Primary surge suppressors are placed at your electric panel, and protect your major power components: HVAC, stove, refrigerator, etc. NOT electronics.
  - Secondary surge suppressors are the small units for TVs, computers, etc.
- Direct Strikes are infrequent, but much more severe. This is where the whole house burns down. A Lightning Protection System (LPS) is your best protection in case of a direct strike.
- Len explained the components of a good LPS and stressed they must be properly designed and installed to be effective. That can be problematic because there are no universal standards or building codes to be enforced. Only a qualified master installer using UL approved components correctly will be effective in protecting your home. He also debunked the lightning myths that LPS: Attracts lightning...no it doesn't; Does not work...yes it does; Provides protection if neighbor has a system...no it doesn't.

- Of the 16 direct lightning strikes to homes in The Villages since 2004: NONE had an LPS; 11 were concrete block and 5 were frame and siding; 13 had Corrugated Stainless Steel (CSS) gas pipe in their attics and 3 were all electric homes.
- After a class action lawsuit in 2007, a heavier CSS pipe (i.e., CSST) was developed and is now considered safe in private homes. Many new homes in southern The Villages area these pipes.
- Len's recommendations: Consider your own risk tolerance. Lightning is highly unpredictable. The only thing for sure is it seeks the least path of resistant to ground. To reduce your lightning risk:
  - Provide a Lightning Protection System (LPS)
  - Replace any CSS or CSST gas pipes with rigid steel
  - Provide a primary surge suppressor at your panel
  - Provide secondary surge suppressors for all your electronics
  - If you have a LPS and you get your roof repaired or replaced, do not let the roofer move it. Call an LPS specialist, like A1 Lightning.
- Numerous questions followed, most of which were answered in Len's excellent presentation.

A drawing was held for a LPS, provided by the POA and A1 Lightning, and the lucky winner was Kathy Maksymiak. The Maksymiak's already have a LPS by A1 Lightning so they gave it to their neighbors.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.  
Submitted by: Cathy Peppers