

# VHA Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes

Lake Miona Recreation Center 1:00 PM July 27, 2023

**Board Members - Present:** Modesto Alcala, Fred Briggs, Russ D’Emidio, Mike Dollard, Walter Martin, Peter Moeller, Peter Russell, Sandra Rzepecki, Vivian Stephens, Chuck Wildzunas

**Board Members - Absent:** Ray Viall, Phil Walker

**Invited Attendees:** Al Arnold – VHA Helping Hands President, Peggy Fiore – VHA Foundation Chair, Dave Fountaine – VHA South VP, Joan Sullivan –VHA Secretary

**Call to order:** President Peter Russell called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Approval:** Peter asked for a motion to approve this meeting’s agenda. Sandra Rzepecki requested additional agenda item “Filing of VHA Articles of Incorporation.” Peter stated this item will be addressed after this meeting. Motion made to approve original meeting agenda, seconded and approved.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Peter asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the June 22, 2023 meeting. Motion made, seconded, and approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Mike Dollard reported financials are stable. Bingo profits this year total \$11,725 including a deposit of \$1100 last month. Mike explained internet service to the VHA office went down and QuickBooks was sporadically unavailable. After purchasing a portable hard drive, a work around was setup with QuickBooks. QuickBooks will be imported back to the office computer when internet service is consistent. Consideration needed to replace the office computer, which will eliminate issues of keeping QuickBooks up-to-date.

Q. Is VHA Helping Hands connected with the office computer?

A. Yes.

Noted: The VHA and VHA HH will need to work together to resolve the computer issue. The VHA and VHA HH have separate computers and printers, but share the internet.

## New Business

**Annual Report to the Board:** South Area Vice President Dave Fountaine reported moving to the Village of Hawkins in February 2021. Dave is a retired Army Officer and still working as an Adjunct Professor for Master level courses with a Ph.D. in Training and Performance Improvement. Dave explained VHA membership south of SR 44 totaled 42 in January 2022 and is now over 1500. The VHA south region includes CDDs 12-14 with one new Neighborhood Representative in CDD 14. There are about 10 programs presented to members each year focused on orientation for new residents while incorporating information for residents living here a while. In 2023, pre-registration became available for people to attend. With a seating capacity of 140, many people were turned away in 2022, which left negative impressions. Programs are now live streamed on the VHA Facebook page with a link on the VHA website where the programs are stored. The Community Watch program was well received and helped explain why the Community Watch budget needed to be increased. Major issues in the south region include traffic flow, ongoing construction, mail delivery and a Duke Energy sub-station. Dave and his Asst AVP Mike Williamson are trying to arrange a program to give Duke Energy an opportunity to address residents’ concerns. Meggison Road is a route many residents take to the FL turnpike. A golf cart lane leads cart drivers across 4 lanes of Meggison Rd traffic. Dave is also working with Lake County to help address issues with mail delivery to CDD 14.

## Old Business

**Update Health and Wellness Expo:** Peter reported plans for Health & Wellness Expo are moving quickly with a secured platinum sponsor. There are five (5) gold sponsors in the works to follow up and confirm. There is confidence that remaining spots will be filled. Expected HW expenses will be about \$20,000. Villages Health’s marketing department is working together with The VHA, which will help cover their sponsor fee. Villages Grown has given several choices of bags for VHA to select the one which will be given to all guests attending the HW Expo. The VHA Foundation is working on a plan of how the funds raised at the HW Expo will be distributed.

**Update Safe Mobility for Life:** Peter explained VHA’s initiative to promote the VHA partnership with Safe Mobility for Life was announced at a District Meeting led by District Manager Kenny Blocker. Peter thanked Chuck Wildzunas for his work in bringing this program to The VHA. Chuck explained SMFL is a cooperative between FDOT and FL State. Gail Holly is Manager and Stefanie Hartsfield Coordinator. SMFL will be promoted August 17, 2023 to Villages residents. In mid-October another program is planned as it is pedestrian month with months May – bicycle and July – golf cart. Planning for 2024 is to present four (4) SMFL programs a year with details TBD.

Q. Will FDOT help with marketing expenses?

A. We will look into this.

**Update: VHA Foundation:** Foundation Chair Peggy Fiore announced to date the Foundation has distributed \$12,500. Some of the programs receiving funds include Best Buddies, Horizon Service Dogs, Our Moment Café, Angel Wigs for Hope, Tutors for Kids and Girl Scouts Book and Pajama drive. The Foundation is now looking into other programs to receive Foundation donations.

Peter reminded Board members to encourage people they feel would be an asset to volunteer on the Foundation committee.

**Update: July Town Hall:** Peter explained there was a great response to the new Town Hall format. Heather Long's presentation was great and helped explain that today's CMS ratings are based on data from 3 to 5 years ago while also showing how numbers are improving. August 6, 2023 there will be an insert about the hospital in the Daily Sun newspaper. Russ D'Emidio noted following the Town Hall meeting Heather expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present the information and arranged for Board members to tour the hospital in August.

Peter announced Chief Twiss will be featured at the October Town Hall meeting.

Note: Membership blasts of Town Hall meetings will no longer be sent to all members. The invitation will be sent to all VHA and VHA HH leaders with Area VPs inviting NRs.

Q. What is the expectation of people who attend Town Hall?

A. As attendees receiving information directly from Community Leaders, they are expected to bring this factual information to others and help dispel rumors.

Q. Is there any chance Commercial Properties would agree to speak at Town Hall?

A. Peter will look into this for January TH.

Peter explained the VHA Issues Team will be meeting August 7<sup>th</sup> to establish procedures for answering members questions and providing feedback to the VHA.

## **New Business (cont'd)**

**Rebranding Town Hall:** Peter stated VHA Town Hall needs to be rebranded. Discussion followed with changing or revising the name. Members were asked to bring suggestions to the next Board meeting.

**Rebranding New Resident Night:** Peter explained many residents who attend New Resident Night have lived in The Villages many years. Peter has already referred to this program as Resident Night and asked Board members for suggestions for renaming. Overall suggestion is to simply rename this program "Resident Night."

## **Members' Comments**

**Communications:** Peter noted the VHA reaches out monthly to members and residents with four (4) types of communication: print – Jan Palmer Voice Editor; website – Beth Musser Website Content Editor; newsletter – Doug Smiley Tangent Media; Social Media – Jim DeCastro Facebook Coordinator. Articles sent to Beth need to be Word version and photos in jpeg format.

**August Board Meeting Location:** Peter announced the Board is invited to hold the August 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting at Villages Grown in their conference room and have a tour of the facility.

See <https://thevillagesgrown.com> for address, attire and other tour information.

**Meeting with Cliff:** Peter reported following the District meeting announcing VHA and SMFL he had a casual conversation over coffee with Cliff Weiner POA President. Board members agreed that conversation is a good thing.

**Hurricane Relief Initiative:** Q. What happened with the July Hurricane Relief Initiative?

A. The initiative had been held up but is moving forward and should appear in the Daily Sun newspaper in August.

**Villages Hospital:** Vivian Stephens explained she had to be transported to The Villages hospital and noted the room and service were excellent. The food was disappointing. Vivian gave her comments to the hospital. Russ explained to all that the hospital reads all reviews and uses them to make improvements.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM**

Respectfully submitted, Joan Sullivan

**Next Board Meeting: Thursday - 1:00 PM - August 24, 2023 - Villages Grown**