



MATLACHA HOOKERS
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - JULY 2023

DATE: July 10, 2023

American Legion Post 136, 4106 Stringfellow Rd., St. James City, FL@ 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order by Madam DJ at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Madam DJ

Invocation by Tania Watkins

Please turn cell phones off or put on silence.

Please be respectful of those who are speaking and refrain from sidebar conversations.

(These requests came from Members and they suggested a \$5 Penalty after one warning!)

Guests: Small Business Grant Presentation- Awarded 12 grants

Patricia Sweeney, Nicole Cicchino, CJ Wagner, Jennifer Bennett, Mahdi Balfour, Debbie Memoli, Lisa Dence, Pat Burman, Frank Valcarcel, Ila Valcarcel, Shelby and Corey Bigler, Cindee Tolliver, Tahanee Horner and Kristin Holloway

BOARD REPORTS

Madam DJ Ruscik

1. 50/50: Chamber of Commerce; Natalie Garza made Motion to donate to Chamber of Commerce; motion carried
2. Storage Unit update: storage unit mandated insurance from their renters; we found insurance and now our contents are insured;
3. Pine Island Auto – Summer Special - 25% off Oil Changes and \$15% off Major Repairs only to the Matlacha Hookers as a Thank You.; a flyer will be posted in the next Herald;

1. Financial Requests

- a. We are donating a Matlacha Hooker Basket to the Sons of The Legion (SAL) for their Caribbean Jeep Poker Run on Saturday, July 15th at the Legion.
- b. We are donating a Matlacha Hooker Basket to Kowiachobee Animal Preserve fundraiser on Sunday, July 16th in Naples.

2. Upcoming Events and Volunteers Needed:

- a. MangoMania – Saturday, July 15th – Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, Stringfellow Rd, Bokeelia – At least six more volunteers are needed for parking in two-hour shifts – Linda. We need 6 more volunteers for parking; there is a sign-up sheet here at the meeting. One volunteer needed from 1:30-4:00 to sell Generator raffle tickets;
- b. 25th Anniversary- Anniversary shirt design ideas; Deadline to submit entries is August 1st.; you don't need to be an artist, it can be a "rough" idea;

3. Fundraising:

- a. Travel Raffle- Darcy- We will be selling raffle tickets at MangoMania; volunteers will wear Travel Raffle T-Shirts.
- b. P.I.E Derby - Julia/Monica – update; total will be later this month in the June financials
- c. Water Lantern Festival – Lorie; we don't have a date or location;40 volunteers will be needed for 4 hour shifts and 8 hour shifts; we get paid \$44/per person for 4 hour shift and \$88/person for 8 hour shift; Once the date, time and location is determined we will publish it in the Herald. Lanterns are launched off the water with goals, tributes, etc.; it's all environmentally conscience event; visit the website for more information www.waterlanternfestival.com
- d. Merchandise Report- Linda Bohacek- new item Pine Island map large;

4. Hooker Business:

- a. Hurricane Rebuilding Fund- Julia; Local Business Grant presentation.; hurricane preparedness kits in totes, possibly distributing them like the supply drives or registering to get one. The committee will meet and decide; the GPIA and Fire district are discussing have areas as supply depots throughout the island in the event we have a hurricane in the future, these will be designated areas; Matlacha Hooker will pay for one Starlink only during a hurricane, it will be an RV; suggestion to make the totes available to Hooker members who do not live on the island; discussion to have a second round of grants possibly 10 businesses and 5 nonprofit organizations that do not have national or state support/HQ. Discussion to change the criteria of the small business grants and possibly give \$3,000 grants; Raffle tickets are \$10 for generator raffle at MangoMania. The drawing will be at the end of the event

Vice Madam Julia Gaylor, Membership

1. Membership Report: 212 members; 93 new members
2. Meeting Attendance: 12 guests; 43 members
3. New member swear-in: Ila Valcarcel new member; 1 renewal
4. Call Girls Thank You and next month's volunteers: Thelma and Tracy Taylor
5. Birthday celebrations!
6. Next month starts the membership renewal; September and October will be Board nominations; members must be current on their dues in order to vote in November.
7. Board elections will start in November and swearing in of new board December

Secretary, Carolyn Ryzanych

1. Review and approval of general minutes; Heidi Lutz made motion to approve; motion carried
2. Mail – Read 2 thank you letters.

Treasurer, Deb Syring

1. Review and approval of financial reports; Tracy Wentz made motion to approve financials; motion carried

Chaplain, Tania Watkins

1. Chaplin Report – possibly sending sympathy cards to Adrienne's family; will publish in the Herald
2. Outreach Report -N/A

3. Thank you to everyone who helped with our 4th of July float and parade.
4. Beacon Bites; there are many individuals who volunteer to deliver the meals; if you know of a restaurant who is willing to participate, please have them call Beacon of Hope, currently 11 meals a week; currently there are not enough restaurants participating;
5. Joke read
6. Discussed Chaplain duties

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. Community Support

- a. Pine Island Food Pantry needs – Needs are: bar soap, dish detergent, laundry detergent, canned diced tomatoes, instant mashed potatoes, jelly, elbow macaroni, penne or ziti pasta, egg noodles and saltine crackers. Check updates in Hooker Herald. Bring items to the General Membership Meetings. Every member is asked to bring two non-perishable items to each Meeting and a Donation Jar is available.
- b. School Supply Drive - Christy Rau and Joyce Boyer- all bins in the community; supplies will be dropped off at the school on July 24th. Backpacks will be assembled on July 31st and August 1st. Let Joyce and Christy know if you would like to help.
- c. Stuff the Trailer event, Hookers/Pine Island Auto – Saturday, July 22nd – Four volunteers needed to help pick up the bins and we'll be hosting a 50/50 that day; will be \$5 a ticket; do not need to be present to win; Joyce Boyer, Julia Gaylor, Anna VanKirk, Sandy Reynolds and Heidi Lutz – DJ
- d. Blood Drive – August 5th; United Methodist Church, 10:00 - 3:00
- e. Free the Girls- donate gently used bras; organization supports girls who were trafficked in third world countries. Bring bras to general membership meetings.
- f. F.I.S.H Clothing Supply Drive- Darcy; Hookers allocate \$1000 and the names of 20 children we need 2 volunteers to shop for the kids Lorie Tidwell and Emily Pancoast;
- g. Trash Master/Adopt a Road - Lorie – July 29th at 8:30am meet at Blue Dog in Matlacha; July is canceled, hold off until August; we will pick a new date and post it in the Herald.
- h. PICC Food Pantry; open 10-1 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays; Beacon of Hope has Beacon Bites; No one goes hungry on Pine Island

OTHER:

50/50 collected \$225.00 Tonight's winners: Shirley Noble and Sandy Reynolds
Tonight's donation to Food Pantry \$ \$74.00
Next Board Meeting: August 7 at 6:00 p.m. @ Salty Girl Island Cafe
Next General Meeting: Monday, August 14, 2023 6:30 p.m. @ TBD
Motion made to adjourn meeting by Tracy Wentz
Meeting adjourned @ 7:54 p.m.