



**MATLACHA HOOKERS**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 2023**

**DATE: April 10, 2023**

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

Board Members In Attendance: DJ Ruscik, Natalie Gazda, Darcy Conner, Tania Watkins, Christy Rau, Deb Syring, Joanne Correia, Linda Bohacek

Call to Order by Madam DJ at 6:33 pm / Meeting end at 7:50 pm

Pledge of Allegiance led by Madam DJ

Invocation by Tania Watkins

**Guests**

- Tracy Wentz American Legion Auxiliary Presented a check for \$500 for Derby to go towards May Derby. Picture taken of check presentation. And was expressed that we would be asking again in November and the American Legion Auxiliary would again assist.
- Cindy James & Nancy Bierkman from the Beacon of Hope and Cindy Bickford from St. James City Civic Association- Check presentation
- Sue Hook, with the Beacon of Hope / Samaritan Health & Wellness Open every other Wednesday on Pine Island from 8am to 12 noon. The Next Clinicday is April 19<sup>th</sup> and services are available to newborn to elderly. No Proof of residency or income is required. Clinic is faith based but not necessary to receive services. For more information Contact [www.CapeSamaritan.com](http://www.CapeSamaritan.com) Jeannie Glenn made a Motion to donate \$500 to their Health Care Program offered – this was made after Sue left the meeting.

**BOARD REPORTS**

**Madam DJ Ruscik,**

1. 50/50: Pine Island Playhouse; Donna Trusik also motioned to have Samaritan Health added to the 50/50 list

2. Upcoming Events and Volunteers Needed:

- a. Pine Island Annual Shred Day- May 6th. Need volunteers; Darcy to find out from the Elks how many volunteers are needed.
- b. Annual Postal Food Pantry Drive – Peg Crunkshank – May 13<sup>th</sup> – Volunteers need for pick up and sorting. Reach out to: Guy D’Alessio (917) 774-7397 or Connie D’Alessio (917) 584-8569 email: [pineislanduspsfooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:pineislanduspsfooddrive@gmail.com); need volunteers in the areas of: drivers, collecting boxes, hall set up, weigh in, sorting donations, expiration verification and hall breakdown; volunteer list went around room.

### 3. Fundraising:

- a. Travel Raffle- Darcy- Drawing extended until all 250 tickets are sold! \$25.00 each
- b. **ArtFest- Lorie/Theresa- update \$1694.34 and \$4648 for a total of \$6342.27 raised**
- c. Bag N Tag & Pancake Breakfast- DJ: Final Numbers are still in the works and will be in the next Herald, but excellent job to all who volunteered, donated and purchased. Great Job!
- d. Thank you: Eagle Scouts / Boy Scouts donations of \$200 Each and Moose for Shutting down for the day for bag and tag. Motion Made By Heidi.
- e. P.I.E Derby - Julia/Deb/Monica - May 21st at Jug Creek and Knights Landing  
PIE Derby – Meeting April 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm Knights Landing. Event Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>!!!  
Areas at the Derby: Kids Registration, Merchandise, Derby Deputies, Beverages, Kids Crafts, Hook a Basket, 50/50, Cast Net Auction, Kid’s Lunch (need to reach out to Kiwanis) – If you are interested in any of these areas please come to Thursday’s meeting! Once we have met next week, we will send out notice to the sponsors and the school and get stuff out to the parents to advise!

### 4. Hooker Business:

- a. Hurricane Rebuilding Fund- Julia

#### Hurricane Committee:

- A. Business grant criteria should be wrapped up soon. Julia has shared the grant proposal with a few of the members for input.
- B. The Hurricane committee received a financial request from the Pine Island Little League for \$1,000 to replace some equipment and for a training camp for the kids. This year due to Hurricane Ian they couldn’t start the season until very late and have had many hurdles to deal with! Hurricane Committee voted to approve the \$1,000 from our hurricane funds and Julia is requesting that since the request is specific that she would like the general membership to vote on it as well. *There are some things that will be asked of those who originally donated to see if they would be able to fix those items (score board and speaker system). However, they are looking for help to fix up the club house - which is completely up to the league to maintain. Some of our handy members if can help with cleaning or simple repairs to reach out to Julia. We will plan a date to clean out the kitchen area for refreshments.*

C: The Final Supply Giveaway was on March 28<sup>th</sup> and the price tag for that event was \$45,000. Amerigas came out to the island last week and hooked up some of the residents.

D: Thank you's for those vendors and special volunteers for our Hurricane relief are going to be sent out and some final receipts for donations made as well.

E: Hurricane Committee will meet later in the month to discuss some ideas for remaining funds. (I.E. beautification project for island and donating funds for those helping residents rebuild)

- b. Hooked on Education Scholarship- Currently accepting applications. Information on our website. Deadline is Friday and we currently have 3 applications pending per Natalie.

#### Vice Madam Julia Gaylor, Membership

1. Membership Report: Membership: 192 / 78 New
2. New member swear-in tonight: 3 New Members Sworn In
3. Call Girls this eve: Sandy Reynolds and New member Della Crews – Big Thank you to the Call Girls and next month's volunteers: Tracy Taylor & Anna Van Kirk
4. Birthday celebrations! Happy Birthday April Ladies!
5. Location for Next Month meeting suggestions: SJCA, Eagles Nest, Fine Swine, Streets & Eatz were all offered as suggestions.
6. Anyone that ordered name tags last month will be ordered after this month. I wait until I have at least 10 before placing the order (Julia has to pick up in south cape)
7. Membership is encouraged to join us for the Coastal Clean Up this Sunday at Knight's Landing! Call Lisa Perry to rent a kayak 239-333-7332 There will be music and food available for purchase afterwards! Reminded all that not just Kayakers to attend, they need boaters and those on the land to help bring in debris and to reach out to Lisa.

#### Secretary, Carolyn Ryzanych

1. Review and approval of general minutes – motion by Linda and moved to approved
2. Mail

#### Treasurer, Deb Syring

1. Review and approval of financial reports
2. Annual Budget – April- Motion from Barb Blitz and moved to approved

#### Chaplain, Tania Watkins

1. Chaplin Report – 2 Card Showers already in the works from last month
2. Outreach Report

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

### 1. Fundraisers

- **Merchandise Report- Linda Bohacek**  
**Bracelet by Joyce Boyer and request for visors was made. Merchandise has made \$3303 this past month.**
- PIE Derby - Julia, Deb and Monica- Update: Meeting April 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm Knights Landing. Event Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> Areas at the Derby: Kids Registration, Merchandise, Derby Deputies, Beverages, Kids Crafts, Hook a Basket, 50/50, Cast Net Auction, Kid's Lunch (need to reach out to Kiwanis) – If you are interested in any of these areas please come to Thursday's meeting! Once we have met next week, we will send out notice to the sponsors and the school and get stuff out to the parents to advise.
- Belk's Charity Days – Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. We sell \$5 coupons and the buyer receives \$5 off of their purchase. We keep all sales. DJ taking the lead of this endeavor.

### 2. Community Support

- Pine Island Elementary Student – Natalia Liano 5<sup>th</sup> Grader – Selected to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum – STEM in June – DJ She needs to register by April 12<sup>th</sup> Student needs \$2695. Natalie working with the Moose. Motion was passed to give student \$1000; Donna Trusik is going to reach out to the student's family directly to see how much more is needed.
- Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – STEM will be releasing rockets! All are welcome.
- Legion Riders Unity Ride – Two Riders from Post 136 – Sponsorship? This is an annual event and a Motion was passed to give \$100 per rider.
- OneBlood Quarterly Blood Drive Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, location TBA. American Legion on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>
- 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

## OTHER:

50/50 collected \$ 260

Tonight's winners: Darcy Conner & Sandy Kerr is the Volunteer of the Month

Tonight's donation to Food Pantry \$ 136

Next Board Meeting: May 1 at 6:00 p.m. @ TBD

Next General Meeting: Monday, May 8, 2023 6:30 p.m. @

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Madam DJ Ruscik

Meeting adjourned @ 7:50 pm