

## Opening

Madam DouZie, Julia Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Treasurer Ginny Neff led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by Chaplain Billie Young. There were 69 members present at the meeting.

Madam Julia introduced Elsie Sterns from the Beacon of Hope who asked to speak to the group. Elsie thanked the Hookers for their continuing support of the programs offered at the Beacon of Hope. Elsie updated the Hookers on the various programs. The Beacon of Hope has taken over the SAS youth program from the Methodist Church. The new meals on wheels program will be expanded and is now called the Beacon Bites. The Beacon is also developing Veteran's programs and continue their efforts on expanding education and senior outreach programs.

## Board Reports

Madam "DouZie" - Julia Simpson

- A. 50/50 raffle. There have been 2 suggestions this month: The Manatee Cape Connection and the Randall Research center. Maija Gadiant provided an update to the membership about the Sirenia Vista Park and the Manatee Conservation efforts supported by this organization. DJ Ruscik gave an update on the Randall Research Center. DJ Ruscik then made a motion the 50/50 raffle be donated to the Sirenia Vista Park. Motion passed.
- B. New Business. Membership criteria. Madam Douzie presented the idea of changing the age to become a hooker from 21 to 18. After discussion Dee Hanks suggested we establish an ad hoc committee to examine the pros and cons of changing the bylaws. Madam Julia will coordinate the establishment of the Ad Hoc committee and report at the next meeting.
- C. Twitter Account. The Hookers have a twitter account @matlachahookers. Everyone is encouraged to "follow" the Hookers.
- D. New Informational Brochure. Madam Julia completed development of a new information brochure. This will be used at all the events to introduce the organization and provide additional contact information. 500 Brochures were printed and a web-site friendly version is on the web site. Webmistress Joanie Clay explained where the brochure can be found on the web site. Madam Julia thanked the previous madams and the current Board for their suggestions and help in finalizing the document.
- E. Bobby Holloway Memorial Fund. The Hookers are donating an "island-themed" basket for the Bobby Holloway gift basket.

Vice Madam - Helen Andrews

- A. Membership. Vice Madam Helen introduced new members who will be lei'd next month after their applications are processed. Helen also reminded everyone about the membership year that runs from October 1 through September 30<sup>th</sup>. Helen thanked the Call Girls Dawn and DJ and asked for volunteers for the next meeting. Peggy and Meija will be the Call girls for April. March birthdays were recognized and everyone sang happy birthday.
- B. Hookers Night Out. The Hooker Appreciation event will be held on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Olde Fish House Marina beginning at 5:30. The theme is "Tropical Wildlife" and everyone is encouraged to wear their wildest tropical wear. Elida Byard will be running the crab races. As a reminder, no crabs will be consumed or hurt in any way.

Secretary – Jeanene Whittaker

Review and Approval of February 2017 Minutes. Jeanene explained ongoing difficulties getting the database uploaded to the new laptop and apologized for the delay in distributing the minutes and financial reports. These

issues should be resolved shortly. Motion made by Linda Bohacek to approve the minutes from the February general meeting. Motion passed.

#### Treasury Report – Ginny Neff

Review and Approval of February 2017 Financials. Treasurer Ginny Neff presented the Profit & Loss Statements and Balance Sheets. Due to an error on the financials at the last meeting, the treasurer's report was deferred for approval until the March meeting. Treasurer Ginny presented a "comparison" report that rolls the financials into the current report. Dee Hanks voiced objection to the manner in which the financials were prepared in addition to the delay in distribution which did not allow for a thorough review of the reports. Joanie Clay informed everyone that the January and February financial reports are posted on the website. Motion made by Jeanie to defer the vote on the January and February financials until April. Motion passed.

#### Chaplain – Billie Young

- A. Card Showers. There were two card showers in February.
- B. Outreach Report. There was one outreach request in February. Hooker Note Cards are on sale at various locations in Matlacha and Pine Island. They were designed by the students at the Pine Island Elementary and all proceeds go to the scholarship fund. Inspiration cards designed by Patty Downs are also available. The next Adopt-a-road event will be April 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 at the Olde Fish House Marina. A Hooker Herald will go out with further details.

#### Events & Activities

##### 1: Fundraisers

###### A. Dedicated

- 1) Beacon of Hope – Veni, Vidi, Vino. Madam Julia provided an update on the event held on February 19. There were 180 tickets sold. Nancy Chandler recognized the committee members who helped with the event. The total donation for the Beacon of Hope will be announced at the next meeting.
- 2) Scholarships. Lois Lemke provided an update on the scholarships. Enough was raised during Art Fest for 2 scholarships. One personal donation in the amount of \$2,500 was received. Madam Julia read a thank you card received from one of the scholarship recipients.
- 3) PIE Derby. D.J. Ruscik reported on a date change for this event to October 1 will take advantage of more favorable tides. Co-Chairs DJ Rusik and Toni Trivelli are looking for a third person to co-chair. Next planning meeting will be on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

###### B: General

- 1) Hooker Booth -
  - A: Business Expo. Helen Andrews provided an update. She and Ginny Neff staffed this booth and made \$80 for the 4-hour shift. Attendance for the event was light.
- 2) Friday Art Night events in Matlacha. Madam Julia informed the group that Cyndee from Traders Hitching Post has agreed to allow the Hookers to set up the Merchandise booth next to her store on Friday afternoons during season to take advantage of the tourist attendance in the area. Cyndee recommended an 11:00 – 3:00 time slot even though Art Night is no longer being held. Billie Young offered to coordinate volunteers.
- 3) Hooker Art Night. Madam Julia presented her idea to have a Wine and Paint event for the Hookers. Mel Meo has offered to teach the class. There was favorable response from the membership and Madam Julia will pursue this event further.

- 4) Mullet Toss March 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. Toni Trivelli reported on the event. Sales of beer can cozies, tips, and merchandise should raise about a scholarship and a half. The final total will be provided at the next meeting.
- 5) Merchandise – Beth Nelson and Lori Tidwell asked for committee members to help with merchandise. Volunteers would be asked to give input on new items and assist with merchandise sales at various events.
- 6) Art Fest. Lorie Tidwell reported that in addition to the money raised in tips, Art Fest made an additional donation of \$1,600 to the Pine Island Elementary School.
- 7) Bag N Tag. D.J. Ruscik provided an update on the bag n tag event to be held this Saturday. The hours will be 8:00 – 2:00 at the Cambio Dermatology office on Pine Island Road.

## **Community Support**

### A. Donations

1. Pine Island Food Pantry. \$68 was raised this evening. Peg Cruckshank reported that the Post Office's food drive will be May 13th. Anyone interested in helping sort the food collected by the Postal Workers at the Catholic Church can contact Peg for more information.

### B. Assistance

1. Blood Drive February 11<sup>th</sup> – DJ Rusick reported the next blood drive will be in May.
2. From Our Hearts Walk. Lorie Tidwell thanked the Hookers who walked. Dee Hanks reported the event raised over \$30,000.

## **Other**

Joanie Clay reported that the laptop she uses to do the worksite work was recently donated to the Hookers by the previous webmistress, Sandy Brunner.

Madam Julie introduced the Hooker Mascot, Miss Matty. D.J. Ruscik provided a history of Miss Matty.

The 50/50 raffle \$309. \$155 was won by Eleanor and Jeannie with the other half of the proceeds going to the Sirenia Vista Park.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by D.J. Ruscik. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

*Next Board Meeting – April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Little Lilly's deli*

*Next General Meeting – April 10<sup>th</sup> – Sandy Hook Restaurant*

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanene Whittaker

2017 Hooker Secretary