

Veteran's Club Notes 10-20-10

A social was held for all members before Commander Stiefvater opened the meeting.

New members were introduced: Phil Gragg, Mike Donoho, and Judith and David Winchell, both are veterans. Twenty Seven members attended. Distinguished veteran, Jesse Raines was applauded having reached his 90th Birthday. (A larger celebration will be held in 10 years!)

Secretary's Report. The reading of the previous meeting minutes was waived. It was requested that the minutes be sent out via Email each month prior to the next meeting. (Action Secretary and Burdick)

Treasurers' Report: John Devereaux reported that the new warming oven is now in and will cost the Vets \$500.00. We have not received a bill for our part yet. Our treasury now has \$1,778. Also, we have been approached by Villa Master neighbors who wish to purchase flags from us. There will initially be 10 flags at \$25.00 each.

By-Laws Change: The By-Laws were emailed to each member for their review. Bill Burdick reported that these By-Laws are in accordance with all communities of the Villa Masters Association. All Bella Vita Clubs have incorporated new By-Laws. All will be covered by Villa Masters umbrella insurance policy.

Commander Stiefvater briefed members on the By-Laws. One error was noted-that being the date of *September 15, 2010*. The date will be changed to October 20, 2010. Tom Green made a motion to approve the By-Laws as corrected. Burdick seconded. The vote went 100% for approval of the new By-Laws dated October 20, 2010. The Secretary will make the change.

Flags: There are now 535 residential flags versus 460 in 2009. Wayne Johnson said we put up 735 flags on Patriot's Day. Our supply is exhausted and many are showing wear. After a discussion, it was agreed that when flags are taken down after Veteran's Day, if they are looking bad, they will be left up. After the rest of the flags are put away, each team will go back and collect the bad flags and will be put separately into the Trailer. Wayne estimated up to 250 flags need replaced. A workday will be set and new flags will be installed on the poles. The old flags will be collected for further disposition. Tom Green suggested a ceremonial destruction with possibly the Boy and Girl Scouts or the Fire Department collaborating.

Further discussion concerning flags was on the grass plates. Tom Paterno suggested that new residents get the grass plate at the time we install their receivers. Also that an email goes out suggesting residents put their own plate down and if a collar extender is needed, we could individually install that. Wayne said we have an inventory of 400 plates now.

Wayne Johnson reported we have 80% resident participation in the flag program and the 2011 Renewal Program begins soon. James Moore was applauded for getting 100 percent participation on his street (Alamani). Scott Vaughn recommended instead of mailing out the renewal brochure that the block chairpersons deliver them, saving us postage costs. All agreed this is a very good recommendation.

Flags (Continued)

Wayne suggested we use special handling when removing and carrying flags from the trailer. They should be held vertical, so as not to hit another person and injuring them.

Team Leaders. Henry Reiss volunteered to be a new team leader. Some of the workload from existing teams will be spread out. We still have 60-80 new homes to be built or are in progress.

Next Flag Raising: Flags will go up Wednesday November 10 and will be taken down Saturday November 13.

Nominating Committee: Frenchy reported we will be voting on new officers next month. We had three volunteers, Henry Reis, Walt Pasciak(who had mentioned he would volunteer), and new member, David Winchell. Because of the By-Laws requirements that only members who have attended 6 of the last 12 months can be elected, Winchell would not be eligible. Denny Mulcahy read Article IX of the By-Laws which allows officers to appoint a member to fill a vacancy(s). Denny suggested the alternative of leaving unfilled position when voting, and after the election, the new officers can make appointments as needed.

Dead Tree Removal: One of the memorial trees has died. David Winchell, who has a Horticulture Degree, volunteered to inspect the othe 29 trees for signs of their health. (Asked how much the trees cost, Arlen reported we bought 29 in a distress sale for \$4,000.)

Clubhouse Flag Poles: The lanyards on the clubhouse flagpoles are wearing out. The flag supplier said they need replaced every three years. These are 4-5 year old. The flag supplier can do this for us. The price is to be determined. Amotion was made to authorize the payment of \$500.00 to have the lanyards replaced. The motion was seconded and voted on. The motion to spend up to \$500.00 for replacing the lanyards was passed.

November Flag Volunteers. Gene Riddell once again volunteered to care for the flags in November.

Houston National Memorial Cemetery : Bob Stockinger reported on the National Wreath Program and how impressive this is. Wreaths would be laid early in December and would be well worth the trip up to view the country's largest cemetery.

Next Meeting: Henry Reiss, (retired from VA) was asked to give a 15 minute educational presentation to the organization in November's meeting on Veteran Benefits.

A drawing for \$25.00 for attendance bonus was made. The winner was not in attendance. \$5.00 will be added next month.

The meeting was adjourned 7:56pm. Members were asked to bring a friend. The social resumed.

Minutes taken by Denny Mulcahy acting for Secretary David Southard