

**Our Charlotte Elder Affairs Network (OCEAN)
General Meeting**

April 27, 2011

South Port Square, Port Charlotte

The meeting was called to order at 8:15AM by President, Karen Amador. Barb Patton read the OCEAN Mission statement which was followed by all standing to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Karen asked that those who wish to receive copies of the meeting minutes give the secretary a business card with his/her e mail address so it may be added to the distribution list.

Marge Davis made a motion to accept the minutes of last month's minutes as submitted. Seconded by Melissa Vanderbilt.

***The new Resource Directories** are complete and available for distribution. Karen has some in her office and Melissa has some in her vehicle. Those who are willing to distribute to key locations in designated Charlotte County were asked to volunteer and pick up the directories after the meeting. Karen recognized **Melissa Vanderbilt and her committee** for an outstanding job bringing this project to completion. Melissa donated 400 hours of her personal time in developing the Directory. Melissa recognized her committee for their combined efforts in making this a success and presented each with a gift of her appreciation.*

***Treasurer's Report- Marge Davis:** The treasury balance is approximately \$16,000. All credit card charges have not been processed so an exact amount is not available for this meeting. There is sufficient money to pay for the Resource Directory, however, fund raisers are needed to help rebuild the treasury.*

***Legislative report - Sharon Weatherhead:** Both the Florida House and Senate are deadlocked over cutting \$4 billion out of the budget that will impact suits against nursing homes limiting the maximum amount to \$250k for wrongful death cases. There is a controversy regarding the interpretation of the term "wisely used" as it relates to some funds, A new "face-to-face" requiring doctors to see patients before certifying in writing that services are to be paid for home health care is a major concern to physicians. These are a few of the items shared by Sharon that are of concern to those involved in providing health care.*

***New Members/Guests:** Thirteen new people introduced themselves and the companies that they represent.*

Karen voiced her appreciation for those who gave such compassionate care to her late sister at Hospice and Sterling House.

***Old Business: Sunflower Luncheon- Lisa Vogel:** Invitations are being mailed out today. VIP invitations have already been hand delivered. Tickets are \$30. Members are asked to*

donate gift baskets with a minimum value of \$50. Only OCEAN members may offer gift baskets. The deadline for submitting tickets is May 15th. There will be no tickets available at the door. The limit is 300 tickets. Credit cards may be used to purchase tickets.

Marge Davis asked for a volunteer to review the OCEAN address lists and bring them up to date. Barb Patton offered to assist.

Karen asked for new people to become involved in the activities of OCEAN so that the same people are not always shouldering the responsibilities. One fund raising event is currently planned that will require each member to bring an additional \$5 to the November meeting, however, a chair person is needed to head a new Fund Raising Committee to replenish the treasury. **Kim Spencer** volunteered to accept this position.

Karen announced that Dan Cormier officially resigned the position of Vice President for personal reasons. The next person in line, Dale Phillips, was asked to assume this position and she has accepted.

Business Card Speaker-Dale Moore representing XOCAI Chocolate shared the benefits of natural chocolate and introduced a few people who have had positive health results using these products.

Wayne Saladay - Guest Speaker did not appear.

Pam Keller - Expressions of a Beautiful Mind- Art Auction, reminded everyone that Bella Luna will be catering the affair on Saturday night to be held at the Palms-Chrysler building. Both live and silent auctions will be available. Ticket price \$100 of which \$50 is tax deductible and purchases will be considered donations.

Gail West- contact her for an invitation to the Rainmakers event.

Bill Bambrick-announced that he will be “incarcerated” tomorrow. His bail will be \$3200 which will be paid by donations made to Bright Star’s Kid Care. Anyone interested in freeing him and helping to raise money for this charity may give him a business card and he will send the link to the Web page.

Marilyn Gregory- Area on Aging - Reminded everyone that June 15th is Wellness Awareness Day. Financial exploitation of the elderly is a serious problem. Banks will be invited to learn about this problem. OCEAN members who may wish to attend the 11:30AM-1:30PM session should RSVP Marilyn however, seating will be limited.

OCEAN members are invited to attend Home Instead Senior Care’s celebration of their move to a new location, 520 East Olympia Avenue, Punta Gorda. Call RSVP to (941) 889-7135 for this May 19th 5:30 PM event.

50/50 prize of \$26 was won by Cinda Ezzi who donated it to OCEAN. Cinda also won the Business Card Speaker spot at the June meeting.

There will be no general meeting in May. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 22, 2011 8:00 AM at South Port Square.

The meeting was dismissed at 9:20 AM by Karen Amador.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Patton, Secretary