

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

March 23, 2011

South Port, Port Charlotte

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 AM by Karen Amador with the reading of the OCEAN Mission Statement followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

New attendees were recognized:

Jennifer Castriotta, Territory Account Executive All Uniform Wear, Fort Myers.

Pastor Peter Burnett, Port Charlotte International Church

Joanne Tompkins, Infinity Home Care Case Manager

Minutes of last meeting were not available on the Web for review, so no changes were recommended. Barb Patton will confirm that they are received by Bill for this month.

Treasurer's Report - Marge Davis reported that there is a current balance \$6,593 that does not include any money for the Resource Directory.

Old Business:

Area Report on Aging by Marilyn Gregory The Senate has released a budget reduction of 10% in funding, however, it probably can be covered by attrition. When the formal bill is released, advocacy is requested to have the funding restored. There are some funds available to help seniors pay for electric bills.

Marilyn also reported that the Area Agency on Aging will be partnering with the police on June 15th addressing the subject of elder abuse.

Resource Directory: Melissa Vanderbilt advised the group that the Guide is ready to go to press. Copies of a mock book was circulated so members could check specific advertisements and listings for omissions and errors. This is the last day changes (no additions) may be made. All corrections are to be to Melissa or Lisa Vogel by the end of the day.

There is a fund raiser scheduled to help offset the cost of the Resource Directory It is a Mystery Comedy to be held March 29th from 5-7PM at the Village Place Assisted Living. Limited to 60 tickets.

Sunflower Luncheon: Dan Comier recognized this year's Honoree, Barb Carley, who

was present at the meeting. The luncheon will be held at Visani's at 11:30 AM on May 25th. Gid Pool has been hired again this year to entertain. The menu will offer four selections and a limit of 180 attendees has been set. Door prizes are needed (to be provided only by OCEAN members) that are valued at least \$50. Lisa Vogel has designed a special VIP invitation that was shared with the group. **Sponsor(s) are still needed to pay the \$500 cost of producing the invitations and RSVP.s.** Interested members are asked to contact Dan.

Marge Davis said that there will be no tickets sold at the door. The cost of \$30 may be paid directly to her. Credit Card payments may be made by downloading the form from the OCEAN web page and mailed to Marge. **Sales are cut off Friday May 21st.** Since tickets will be required for admittance, Marge asks that people check with her to ensure she has received payment if they do not receive tickets after paying. Checks may be dropped off at the Consulate Health Care office.

Volunteers will be needed, however, the request will be made as the date gets closer.

Dale Phillips reported that the luncheon held at Carraba's Restaurant raised almost \$4000.

Pam Keller informed the group that the list of Honorees for the Expressions from a Beautiful Mind Art Auction has grown to include not only Senator Bill Nelson, but other federal and state representatives at the \$100 per person black tie dinner to be held April 30th. Art will be on display at the Murdock Administration Building and at Palm Auto Mall Chrysler Building beginning April 1st.

Business Card Speaker: Melissa Vanderbilt, Brookdale Senior Living (Sterling House of Port Charlotte) brought the group up on what her organization is doing.

Speaker: Barb Patton, National Cremation Society, focused on the need to prearrange early and save our loved ones the stress and burden of making final arrangements.

New Business:

-There will be a program honoring Veterans to be held at the Lexington Manor.

-Kelly Carr announced that she is leaving Tidewell Hospice to become the Director of Volunteer Services at Englewood Community Hospital on April 4th.

-Bill Bambrick invited all to participate by attending or donating to the Celebrity Waiter Event at Sarasota's Lakewood Ranch on April 5th at the Polo Grill to benefit the relay for life (cancer victims).

-Karen Amador announced that the OCEAN steering committee would like ideas for fund raisers and extended an invitation for anyone who would like to present an idea to attend the monthly 1st Wednesday Steering Committee meeting at Chili's Restaurant at 4:30 pm.

-Phyllis Crews reminded everyone that this is National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day, suggesting they may consider XOCAI chocolate as a covering.

-Infusion Services are looking for a Sales representative in Lee & Collier Counties.

-The April Business Speaker will be Dale Moore, Xocai Healthy Chocolate; the main speaker will be Wayne Saladay, EOC

-Bill Bambrick asked that any announcements of activities be sent to him for inclusion on the OCEAN web page.

-The 50/50 paid \$22.

-The next meeting will be April 27th at South Port.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Barb Patton, Secretary