

SedonaKind General Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2021 - 10:00am – Sedona Library

Chaired by Sandy Brandvold

Meeting called to order at 10:15am

Sandy enthusiastically welcomed all and introduced one new member, Karen.

Kindness stories - Sandy, Marge, Mary, Heather, Joy, Jawn, Linda, Franny, Carol and Dottie shared wonderful kindness stories. Linda received the 'kindness story' gift.

SedonaKind Tucson group – Sandy shared that she heard from Lucy who asked for a half dozen charms as she is planning on starting a Charming group at her church. Sandy mailed them to her.

Highlights of our 1st six years – Sandy shared the origin story of SedonaKind and asked the original members that were present to stand. She then reviewed many of the successful projects and events from the last 6 years including, but not limited to, becoming our own NPO, being named Non Profit of the Year by the AZ Community Foundation, working on the Vietnam War Memorial travelling wall, Blessing Bags and brunches for the Vets, KIS, knitting thousands of hats for school children, our collaboration with Dress-A-Girl, Kindness Benches, Sun Chimes, Garden Heart Stones, Art Sale, unsung heroes, partnering with other local non-profits and so much more.

Roster – Sandy quizzed everyone on how to find contact information for members on our website. Gloria received a prize for participating.

Committee & Project Reports

Warm Up America Veteran Lap Blankets – Marge & Gerri shared how they became members of SK and how they became friends and co-chairs of this committee. They announced that 45 lapghans are on their way and will be given to the Vets at the hospital at their holiday party and to the 11 residents in the long-term care unit. Gerri announced that they have been given the go-ahead to continue this project next year.

Kindness In Schools (KIS) – Pam announced that the hat project is a wrap, the 749 hats were sorted, packed and delivered and much appreciated by West Sedona School, Oak Creek School and the Charter School. A picture of the hats set up for sorting was shared. Pam shared the statistic that greater than 80% of the students in the Sedona/Oak Creek School District are in the subsidized lunch program. There are 285 extra hats and it has been left up to the Knitting Committee to decide if they will be held for next year or distributed to various other organizations this winter.

Pam was able to get additional blankets (to add to the 50 already received) from Penzey's which will allow for the teachers/staff at both West Sedona School and Oak Creek School to get them as a holiday gift in December. Pam will try to get permission from Penzeys to put them on our website as a sponsor.

Pam will organize a meeting in January for members that have expressed an interest in joining the KIS Committee. The next KIS Committee meeting is Jan. 5th.

KIS is hoping, that while we are still unsure if we will be going into the classrooms, that we will have the ladybug program for them again in the spring.

The school supplies program was a success and all materials collected have been delivered. SK also donated 50 headsets to WSS, and Sedona Woman did the same for the Oak Creek School.

Knitting Committee – Katie thanked all the knitters for all their efforts and KIS for their coordination of the distribution of the hats. We will be continuing this project next year and she has yarn if anyone needs any.

It was suggested that we approach knitters/crocheters in the retirement communities to participate. It is anticipated that this will be discussed at the January planning meeting as someone would be needed to coordinate it.

Dress-A-Girl – Lin shared pictures of actual recipients of the dresses and stated that Haiti is being vetted as a possible location for distribution of the dresses.

January 28th is the next sewing session get-together for Dress-A-Girl. A big thank you to Linda Berthelson for donating supplies for the sewing sessions so Lin doesn't have to disassemble her sewing room for each sewing get-together. Thank you also goes out to Susan Kenney who has helped Lin with sorting and sewing.

They are looking for foreign contractors to help with distribution to appropriate towns and is in need of money for shipping. If anyone is going somewhere that

Dress-A-Girl is sending dresses to and can take an extra suitcase full of dresses, please let Lin know.

Lin would love to have a co-leader to help with brainstorming, sorting, organizing, etc. This will be brought up at the January meeting to see if anyone is interested.

Gratitude Trees – Sandy thanked Cheri for all she has done for SedonaKind and our community and informed the membership that Cheri will be moving and we will all miss her. Sandy gave Cheri a frame as a gift.

Cheri announced that the Gratitude Trees and/or decorations for them, have been delivered. There are trees at the West Sedona School, Oak Creek School, VOC library, West Sedona Library (2) and Alma de Sedona (2). Christine will retrieve those that we get back, after the 1st of the year, and we will look for a new committee chair at the January meeting.

Cheri spoke about the Sedona Food Bank, their back-pack program, homebound program and green bag program. She also shared that they still have families that need to be adopted for the holidays and if anyone is interested in sponsoring or co-sponsoring a family they can call Kathleen at the Food Bank.

Charming – Sandy shared the history of the Charming project and stated that there have been 8,000 charms shared here and around the world.

Laurie spoke about the charms being distributed all over town during Kindness Week, including such places as the Medical Center and the library. She also shared that she placed one on the Great Wall in China and witnessed it being picked up. Thanks to all the charmers that made the 'blanket the town' project successful.

Blessing Bags – Heather reported that the Blessing Bags were completed and delivered. She thanked Joy for all her efforts in obtaining the items needed, Gail for supplying the gloves and all the bag stuffers. The bags will be distributed to Vets in need as the need arises throughout the coming year.

Heather suggested that perhaps someone knowledgeable in setting up a Go Fund Me page could work with the Vets to create a page. They really need more funds. Dottie offered to help and will get the contact information from Heather.

Mission Joy – Finding Happiness in Troubled Times – Joy announced that the movie fundraiser was a big success, bringing in \$5500. The seats were sold out (at half capacity), the donation jar money was matched by an anonymous donor and Jawn & John covered the production cost, all making it the success it was. Thanks also goes to SIFF for the use of the theater, listing on the web page, etc.

Jawn was the speaker prior to each movie making it a very enjoyable event. Jawn thanked everyone for their donations and asked that everyone keep an eye out for a good movie for next year.

Additional Topics/Comments:

Lin Ennis made a formal request for a means to print out the newsletter for distribution to friends and potential members. Gail advised that Lin could view it in the browser from our website and potentially print it from there.

Pam recommended that we consider utilizing the talents of folks in the retirement communities to put things like toiletry kits together for the Blessing Bags. This is something that can be considered for the January planning meeting since we will need someone to coordinate it.

Joy requested that everyone consider making SedonaKind their Amazon.com choice for charitable donations which are accumulated each time you purchase something from their site.

Joy announced that the Sunchimes are now on sale: \$35 for one, \$75 for two, \$100 for three.

Joy gave an update on the delivery of the Bombas socks – they are on a boat and there is no time frame for delivery available at this time. If you know of anyone in need of socks, please let Joy know.

January Planning Meeting – Sandy asked the membership to submit ideas for projects for next year. These will be reviewed by the Board and those that are appropriate to our mission will be presented at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 and everyone was invited to join the holiday painted rock session that followed.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Schneider