

Village Improvement Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by President, Theda Blackwelder

Inspiration was presented by Anne Jack. Anne read an article about a social experiment at Washington DC Metro Station where Joshua Bell, a renowned concert violist, played several Bach pieces. Mr. Bell will perform in concert on February 14th in Baltimore, Maryland.

The members recited the Collect and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The following members introduced their guests

Guests	Sponsor
Josie Cicerale	Barbara Wood & Gail Gino
Gretchen Diller	Natalie Becker and Patricia White
Dolores Bottinelli	Sandy Curson & Valiere Evans
Kay Monack	Georgeanna D'Archangelo & Cynthia Ritterhaur
Carol Stano	Majorie Lewis and Sandy Purdy
Carole Baker	Camillie Weyant and Jo Ann Reynolds
Paula Varrassi	Mary Dalrymple
Vicki Davis	Sarah Johnson and Ann Ward
Arlene Sloane	Lila Goodman-Brown
April Ireland	Patty Buchanan and Phyllis Stone
Barbara Herbert	Joyce McCoy and Beth Magnus
Catherine Purge	Pat Van Acken and Ellen Roney Hughes
Mary Jane Sparks	Mary Lou Haggerty & Mary Jane Schanno
Bayne Northern	Faith Duncan and Donna Mabry
Carol Brumley	Theda Blackwelder & Carole Suchanek

Introduction of Speaker – Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. Marge Cintavey introduced the speaker, Kim Rigby, of People’s Place. Marge reported the VIA has donated toileters, clothing, toys and first night bags for the shelters in addition to \$1000 in 2015.

Speaker: Kim Rigby, Communications and Donation Chairman for People Place spoke on the programs provided. People’s Place, established in 1973, is 90% state funded and offers 11 programs in 21 locations. Their mission is to provide a path to growth and independence. The cornerstone of People Place is their counseling center established in 1976. There are four locations Milford, Millsboro, Smyrna and Seaford. They provide services for the insured, uninsured and the underinsured. They work with the schools to provide counseling for children who need therapy but cannot get to therapy outside of school. They have homeless shelters and provide the only shelter for single father households. They have 10 townhomes on College Road in Dover where the residents can live up to 2 years with the requirement that they work, continue their education and make progress in moving forward. Case managers are available to help the residents in their efforts. Most people know People’s Place for their Domestic Violence programs. They have 3 shelters which include two English speaking shelters in Kent and Sussex Counties and one Spanish speaking shelter. The 24 hour hot line received 1500 calls in 2015. Victims which they do not have room for at the shelters are referred to 211 which helps them find temporary housing. Their shelters are run as a sanctuary model, a community working together and helping one another. The Turning Point program offers an exchange program for parent/child visitation and provided more than 700 visit and 1800 child exchanges in 2015. People’s Place has a facility for up to 8 girls who can come to the house when the foster child program does not work out. This program provides counseling and helps the child develop social skills. The residents participate in normal school activities with the staff providing transportation to school activities and weekend programs. The Residential Alternative to Detention Program serves children ages 8 to 18 who have been arrested and are waiting for detention. Schooling is provided and staff members accompany the children to their court date making recommendations to the court on behalf of the child. Independent Living works with foster children to prepare them for the transition at age 18 from the foster home to living on their own. Veterans Outreach Program takes veterans to doctor appointments at the VA in Wilmington and assists the veteran in accessing benefits at the state and federal level. A question and answer period followed.

Minutes for the December 2015 meeting were approved by the membership.

Corresponding Secretary’s Report: Nancy Mc Donnell, Corresponding Secretary, reported she has sent get well cards to Mary Lou Frost, Mary Jane Deets and Natalie Alexander. A sympathy card was sent to Colleen Hurt following the death of her husband. The VIA received a Christmas card and thank you from YMCA of Delaware for our support in 2015, a Christmas card and thank you from Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company for our donation of \$1000, a thank you note from Emma Rider for our contributions to Water Step in 2015 and a newsletter from the Cape Henlopen Food Basket. A thank you notes were received from Kim Rigby of People’s Place for our donation of \$1000.00, from Richard Grier Reynolds and Alyssa Titus of

Cape Henlopen Educational Foundation. A thank you note was received from West Side New Beginnings of our support in 2015 and especially for the donation of wrapped Christmas gifts to the children of West Rehoboth. Nancy read the note from People's Place.

Treasury Report: Phyllis Stone presented the Treasury Report for December 2015

Beginning Balance as of December 1, 2015	\$65,704.57
Total Receipts	\$ 4,075.91
Total Disbursements	\$11,728.32
Ending Balance	\$58,052.16
Delaware Community Foundation	\$60,000.00
DCF Endowment Fund	\$10,500.00
Maintenance Fund	\$12,191.81
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2015	\$140,743.97

The report is posted on the website

Presidents Report: President Blackwelder reported that the accounting of the club's work for 2015 has begun. She thanked Sherry Pie and Kathy Nave for their patience and many hours spent getting the new reporting process up and running. Theda also thanked the membership who made the effort to report their volunteer hours in the new system which was a huge success. In 2015 the membership who reported hours increased by 50% over 2014.

In 2015 the VIA donated to 46 charities for a total of \$51,100.00 an increase of \$11,000.00 over 2014 donations.

Community Service chairwomen will report on the 2015 projects and activities at today's meeting. A summary of all that the club accomplished will be prepared by President Blackwelder.

On Monday, Theda attended the reciprocity brunch provided by the Indian River Club at their waterfront location. The speaker at the event was from the University of Delaware's Cooperative Extension Program who spoke on the topic of cooking for one or two people.

Arts – Roxanne Nelson announced the GFWC Photo Contest. Entries must be mounted on cardboard with your information on the back, 8x10" in size and taken in 2015. GFWC has guidelines for the photos and a waiver must be signed before submission of the entry. Elayne Cannarozzi will deliver the entries to the meeting. The writing contest entries must be turned

in no later than the February meeting. Contact Roxanne for information on format and requirements etc. There is a youth writing contest for the following categories: grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9 – 12. Waivers must also be signed for all writing entries. On January 22 a car pool trip is planned for the Biggs Museum to see the “Illuminating The Word – The Saint John’s Bible”. Reservations are due by Monday, January 18. The admission ticket is \$6 per person for those over 60 years of age and \$8 per person for those under 60 years of age and free for Biggs Museum members. The lecture cost of \$80.00 will be prorated among those attending and added to admission ticket.

Conservation: Barbara Dorsey No report

Education: Donna Mabry thanked Sherry Pie for the summary hours provided to chairpersons. Participation in the Giant Grocery Store Rewards program provided \$2500 to the PTO of Rehoboth Elementary. The Box Top for Education program collected 1375 box tops worth \$137.00. The VIA donated 225 books to the prison library. Donna thanked Sandy Roberts for her work with HOBY and Clue program donating 31 volunteer hours. Library volunteers donated 231 hours. Mentors at Shields Elementary donated 94 hours in the reading program. The math mentoring program had 6 volunteers who worked with 16 to 20 children bringing these students math to grade level. Dr. Seuss Day volunteers and readers at Rehoboth Elementary reached over 100 children. This year Dr. Seuss Day will be March 2nd and Linda Crowe is your contact to sign up to read at Shields or Rehoboth Elementary Schools. The 11 VIA volunteers in the Read- A- Loud program donated 321 hours and read to approximately 250 children. Monetary donations in the amount of \$12,775 were made to education organizations.

EVENTS:

Holly Café: Kathy Nave presented the report for café chairwoman, Carole Suchanek. The café was a two day event with 32 volunteers working an additional 3 days to prepare. The preparations began with a shopping day on Wednesday, a cooking day on Thursday, Friday to decorate and set up on Friday. Saturday and Sunday was the café and almost two hundred lunches served. Additional lunches were served and delivered to RAL workers. Lentil and vegetable soup were on the menu. Kit McDaniels was the kitchen manager. Chris Johnson, husband of member Sarah Johnson, played the piano as entertainment. This event is more of a public relations event for the VIA than a fund raiser, however, \$683.18 was made and the public response is very positive.

Valentine Dinner: Shirley Fleegle announced the Valentine dinner will be held on Monday, February 8, 6pm at Crystals Restaurants on Rehoboth Avenue at a cost of \$25.00 per person which includes your meal with a wonderful homemade dessert by Crystal’s owner, plus a reserve raffle ticket. A cash bar is available as are additional reverse raffle tickets and a 50/50 drawing. Sign up for the dinner and/or to volunteer as a waitress for the evening. A St Patrick’s dinner will be held on March 14th with more information on this event to come later.

Fashion Show and Bricks – Carol Hall announced that the Fashion Show will be held on April 16 at the Rehoboth Beach Country Club. Reservations forms are on line and reservations will be

taken at the February meeting. Cost of the luncheon and show is \$35.00 per person. The event will include silent auction and raffle for a Basket of Cheer. Models for the show are VIA members and local stores who will provide the clothing are South Moon Under, White House Black Market, Cool Springs Cottage, Peebles and Beach Boutique.

Bricks – Engraved bricks can be purchased for \$150 per brick. The bricks are placed in the walkways at the clubhouse. The application is on line and Carole also has applications with her today. Mail applications to Carol.

Designer Show House: Carolyn Billingsley announced that the Show House is the largest fund raiser. The 2016 2015 Designer Show House will be held on May 5 through the 8, May 12 through the 15, May 19 through May 22. The house is located at 52 Rolling Road in Henlopen Acres. All designers have been assigned except for the kitchen. Ticket sales will begin the end of March. Corporate sponsors include Coastal Style Magazine which will do a full spread and Benjamin Moore Paints which is providing the paint. Volunteers are needed so please sign up to work this event.

Federation Day – Delaware State Federation of Women's Club annual fund raiser and meeting will be held on March 1, 2016. Carolyn Billingsley is taking table reservations for Federation Day and is also selling raffle tickets today and at the February meeting at a cost of \$1.00 for one or \$5.00 for 6 tickets. Carolyn is also accepting items for the auction. If you have an art item or another item which you feel will be a good auction item, please see Carolyn. This year Federation Day does not conflict with the Rehoboth Beach Chocolate Festival held on April 2nd.

Electronic Hours Calculation – Sherry Pie and Kathy Nave reported that 151 members used Quick Books to report their volunteer hours. Five additional members who do not have computers reported with assistance bringing the total members reporting volunteer hours to 156 members. Total number of hours reported on Quick Books for these 156 members were 2300 hours. These hours can be used in applications when our organization is applying for grants and give the VIA credit for the work we do. Previously the compiling of hours took days. The Quick Books system has greatly reduced this task. Changes will be introduced in 2016 to insure that the hours are properly reported. Sherry will issue members a report every month y showing their reported hours year to date. Review these reports as they come to you and try to report your hours in a timely manner. These reports will allow the committee chairs to monitor their committee members reporting. Committee chairs will be asked for their suggestions to improve reporting. Members are asked to put your name on donated items so the chairwomen can accurately report Gifts in Kind. Quick Books is experiencing problems and Sherry asked members to report problems you are experiencing to tech support.

2016-2018 Directory – Every two years in conjunction with the incoming administration a new member directory is published. Rose Marie Patin reported that the Board of Directors approved the use of Life Touch to take professional photographs of members and publish the directory. Life Touch’s professional photographer will take the pictures. In May and June members will be given 6 dates to sign up through the software program for their photo session. Members can sign up on line. Members can pick the pose for the directory and will receive a free 8x10 photo. There is no cost to the VIA. Members will have the opportunity to bring their spouse, grandchildren, children etc. for the photo shoot and purchase additional photographs. Members who join after publication of the directory will have the opportunity to have their pictures taken yearly and added to the directory. Rose Marie will notify members when sign up will begin and more information will follow. Based on the number of people who participate blank pages are provided for adding information on the club.

Nominating Committee- Eileen Polini announced that the committee will be open for nominees for the positions of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and two Directors. The Directors term is now two years in accordance with the new By-Law change. The committee will send out an email requesting that all nominees be presented to the committee no later than 31 January so the vetting process can begin. Melynda Peet questioned the request for nominees for the office of President because according to the By-Laws the First Vice President automatically becomes the nominee for President. Eileen acknowledged this was true but stated that nominations for the position are still open to membership because Rose Marie Patin was voted into the position of 1st Vice President under the old By-Laws. Melynda stated that By-Laws changes become effective when voted on which was November 2015. Eileen stated that when Rose Marie Patin was elected she was elected as 1st Vice President not as President Elect. Melynda expressed her dissatisfaction; however, Eileen said this was how the committee decided to move forward. Rose Marie Patin’s name will be put on the ballot as a nominee for President. President Blackwelder stated that when changes in the By-Laws are voted on and approved that is what we go by. The changes in the By-Laws were voted on at the November meeting. Therefore, we have a President elect so there will be no nominee for President. There will be a nominee for 1st Vice President. Gail Shaffer stated that the two year term of the First Vice President and Second Vice President is a mentoring period to prepare for the position of President. Sandy Roberts stated that we must follow Roberts Rules which opens nominations for the other offices.

New Business – Theda reminded the membership sign up to provide refreshments for the February meeting.

50/50 winning ticket #2731197 \$105.00

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.