



BETTER LIVING FOR SENIORS MONTHLY MEETING

November 19, 2014

Board Members Present:

Cindy Clouse

Liz Craven

Britni Hall

Cari Herrington

Kim Hooten

Larry Powell

Tamara Rowland

Dorene Royal

Greg West

MEETING LOCATION:

- The November 19, 2014 meeting location was Highlands Park Church of the Nazarene on 4777 Lakeland Highlands Road, Lakeland, Florida. Pastor Dave Smith, Pastor of Senior Ministries at Highlands Park Church welcomed the BLFS members, and thanked them for being a great resource.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Cindy Clouse, President at 9:12 a.m.
- Veterans were introduced and honored.
- A thank you was given to ASAP Printing for re-printing the BLFS event signs at no cost (the original signs were taken from the September meeting location).
- A sign-up sheet for board nominations was passed around for those interested in serving.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A motion was made that the minutes from the October 2014 Meeting, now posted on the website at www.blfspolk.com, be approved. The motion was seconded, a vote taken and the minutes were approved unanimously with no changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- October income was \$556.36.
- October expenses were \$269.92.
- The bank balance was \$15,792.25 as of October 31, 2014.
- BLFS Gives Back was explained and will take place during the next meeting in December.
- A motion was made that the treasurer's report be approved. The motion was seconded, a vote taken and the report was approved unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Kim Hooten reported that BLFS has 202 current active members. Members were encouraged to check the BLFS website to make certain their membership has not elapsed and that their information is updated and accurate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Better Season for Seniors:** Tamara Rowland, chairperson, explained that this is a program that provides gifts for seniors in our community who have no family and would receive no Christmas gift. A list is collected from caregivers so the seniors receive what they need. Tamara Rowland thanked those who have volunteered. We have had 441 gift requests. A special thank you was given to Elizabeth White of Great Impressions in Winter Haven for printing for the ornaments at no cost to BLFS.

SPEAKERS AND LOCATIONS:

- The Estates at Carpenters will host the Christmas Social on December 17, 2014; the program will be BLFS Gives Back. Members will bring a gift for the gift exchange and the gift bag will be recycled for Better Season for Seniors gifts.

GUESTS AND MEMBER INTRODUCTION

- Members and guests introduced themselves and gave a short explanation of their services, agencies, businesses and upcoming events.

HOST

- Today's meeting was sponsored by Comfort Keepers and Good Shepherd Hospice. Margaret Welsh introduced the mission of Good Shepherd Hospice, provided literature to explain the services and qualifications for Hospice and announced that November is national Hospice month. Kim Hooten introduced the guest speaker, Retired Colonel Gary Clark, and explained the non-medical, in-home care and companion services of Comfort Keepers. Thank you for providing a delicious breakfast!

GUEST SPEAKER

- Retired Colonel Gary Clark, a retired 30 year Air Force Veteran, was the speaker for today's program. He explained that the Veteran's Council was formed to bring awareness of the needs of veterans in Polk County. He explained some of the unsung/untold historical significance of veterans in Polk County, such as the Flying Tigers. Colonel Clark outlined the Honor Flight program that transports WWII Veterans to Washington, D.C. and shared stories of veterans who have been changed by this program. He announced that Sunday, December 7, 2014, at 7:30 a.m., the WWII Memorial will be unveiled in Veteran's Park in Lakeland (where the Law Enforcement Memorial and Fire Fighter Memorial is located). There is also a plan to form a 501c3 for the Honor Flight program in Polk County. The I-4 Corridor from St. Petersburg to Daytona has the largest concentration of veterans in the nation. Colonel Clark talked about Veteran's Benefits and observed that the VA was originally set up to handle combat/service connected injured and destitute veterans.

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made; it was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Dorene Royal, Secretary, on November 19, 2014.