

The Chronicle



A monthly newsletter published by The Men's Club of Sun City Center for its members

July 2020

Established in 1963

Volume 28, Number 7

The GAVEL

A report from your President
David Floyd



I am very happy that our members and our community have taken the “stay at home: request seriously. This has significantly reduced risk and minimized both the spread of COVID-19 and deaths in Sun City Center. Social distancing and wearing of masks are still very important as the virus is still spreading in our area.

Community Hall will not be available to our club until January 2021. The Men's Club Board of Directors is discussing how we will then restart our membership meetings and luncheons. Going forward with a buffet service is not feasible. We have looked at several options: a plated served meal, a served line cafeteria-style buffet, and boxed lunches. The Board sought and welcomed the membership's input on this. Based on your responses a served buffet presently seems the best option. To help maintain the club's viability, we will be

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Board Extends Club Memberships Thru 2021

At a special meeting on June 24, as a Good Will gesture to the men of Sun City Center, the Men's Club Board of Directors voted to extend the membership of all current members of the club through the end of 2021 at no charge to members. The board's based its decision on a number of factors including: the current economic client facing all of us; the impact of the COVID-19 virus in limiting club activities in 2020 and the reduced operating costs the club is experiencing this year.

Thus, there will be no renewal dues collected at the end of this year, a \$20.00 benefit to each member.

We still are looking for new members. Any man who joins the club this year will automatically be extended into next year. Please encourage me to join with us and participate in our activities.

Virtual Meeting Schedule On Page 2

A Note About Our June Meeting

Retiring County Administrator Mike Merrill provided us with a 45-minute update on the COVID-19 virus in our community and touched on a number of other topics of interest to members. The program was well-received by attendees. For our first virtual meeting, we only had about 30 members in attendance. However, the meeting gave us an excellent opportunity to test out new technology and chase the gremlins from the system.

There were a few wrinkles at the start of the meeting and President David Floyd was not able to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. However, we are pretty sure we will have all those wrinkles worked out by the time of the July meeting. Members can join from the comfort of their own homes and still reap the benefits of Men's Club Membership.





**THE MEN'S CLUB
of Sun City Center**

*Serving the Sun City
Center Community Since
1963*

What's Happening in our Virtual Meeting Room?

July 15

Join us for our July 15 Monthly Virtual Meeting when we are joined by Joey Knight, veteran sports reporter for the Tampa Bay Times. Joey will talk about the current state of the sports world in our community. The Zoom meeting will start at 11 a.m.



August 19

For our August 19 Monthly Virtual Meeting we will be hosting Adam Bouchard, Director of Operations at Tampa International Airport, who will talk about airport modernization and the impact of COVID-19 on travel. The Zoom meeting will start at 11 a.m.



September 16

Our guest for our September 16 Virtual Meeting is Hillsborough County State's Attorney Andrew Warren who will answer questions about the justice system in our area. The Zoom meeting will start at 11 a.m.



- ◆ Wives, partners and other household members are invited to participate with you in these virtual meetings.
- ◆ Zoom connection information will be emailed to you in advance of the meeting.
- ◆ Reservations are preferred; please make your reservation in the usual way following the instructions on page 3.
- ◆ Need help Zooming in to meet with us? The Apple Users Group and the Computer Club will be happy to help you get ready for a ZOOM meeting. The contact person will be able to answer your questions and assist you with your sign in and usage of ZOOM on your devices.

Apple User Group, Ed Blecher sccmacclub@mac.com

Computer Club, Bob Dealmeida Help@scccomputerclub.org



How to Make Your Meeting Reservations

The Men's Club board has revised the steps to be taken to make a reservation for our regular monthly meetings. According to Mike Albanese, newly-appointed Reservation Manager, there is a new phone number to be used and an easier email address.

To make a meeting reservation use one of the three methods listed below

1. Call our NEW reservation phone number **813-394-4677** and leave a message for Mike.
2. Send a text message to **813-394-4677** being sure to include your name in the message.
3. Send an email to reservations@sccmensclub.com.

Note that our old phone number and gmail email address are no longer valid for reservations.

Email Delivery Problems Persist for Spectrum Users

Some members using tampabay.rr.com as their email domain are missing some Men's Club emails, including distribution of The Chronicle. Comcast, which runs that domain, is periodically not allowing delivery of messages from our email provider, EmailDodo.com. The problem is not unique to our club.

To be sure you receive regular club communications, we urge members to adopt a different email address for club email, such as gmail.com or yahoo.com. Let us know if you change your email address.

We are anxious to ensure that all members received news and information for the club, so please follow our advice.

The GAVEL

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scheduling some interesting ZOOM meetings and hope that many of the members will join in.

Please note there will be no formal luncheon in JULY.

The club is planning a July ZOOM Meeting for the members.

The Men's Club Board hopes to have the club up and running as soon as we are permitted to.

We are looking forward to rescheduling our events and activities for the membership and return to a semblance of normalcy. Our goal is a safe environment for our members when we restart our activities.

When we open, we will need volunteers to help with the luncheons and other special events. Please consider volunteering to help the Men's Club. Our Lifeline will most likely need some more volunteers to help with the servicing of the clients which was reduced during the extended quarantine.

I and others on the governing committee often hear that the board is a closed clique. We have members who serve year after year, but only because others do not come forward to volunteer. We really need new blood on the committee to bring in new ideas and keep our club moving ahead. We have 14 positions to consider and vote on in November of this year. All positions are open to all members.

Please consider volunteering to serve. We need your participation.

Volunteering is easy. Just contact one of the members on the Nominating Committee.

Members are: Bruce Fraser – 315-982-4013, Joe De-Felice – 813-922-6232, Larry Smith – 813-245-4128 and David Floyd – 813-334-7797. Give one of us a call; we would love to discuss a position for you.

In the meanwhile be well and be safe.



Lifeline PERS Program Resumes Full Activity

By Bob Sullivan
Vice President—Lifeline

The Men’s Club Lifeline Personal Emergency Response System Program is back in full operation. We needed to do a limited shut down in the face of Community



Sullivan

COVID-19 Closings. Our obligation to the residents of this Community is keeping them safe knowing that we are there to support the Lifeline Project that the Men’s Club delivers to the King’s Point and Sun City Center Communities. When the Sun City Center Shut down for the COVID-19 Virus issues, we slowed the installs and service activities.

We had some of our installers continue to service in situations that the Client was completely out of service. Our office manager Nellie Brock and member Mike Brock took several service activities to insure the continued service to our clients during the time that the Lifeline office was closed (Many thanks to them for their Dedication).

The Men’s Club Lifeline is always looking for Members that want to help in keeping our residents safe. The act of being a Lifeline installer doesn’t need to be a Men’s Club Member or even a man; if there are any ladies that you know that would be interested in supporting Lifeline installs then they need to contact the Lifeline office at 813-633-7091.

Health Care Support Groups Remain in Virus-Hiatus

The Men’s Club health care support groups which meet at Sun Towers are still in the COVID-19 related hiatus, according to Debbie Caneen, Towers’ director of marketing. The Parkinson’s’, Neuropathy, Low Vision and Diabetes support groups will not resume until Florida’s governor authorizes further reopening of assisted living facilities. The club’s monthly Health Choices seminar is also on hold, pending reopening of SCC Community Hall.



Two Ways to Zoom!

Many of you are familiar with the typical Zoom meeting format in which the video images of all the participants appear on the screen at the same time, either as tiled images or in thumbnails along the side. That’s the format that you typically see in television advertisements for virtual meetings and that is the format the Men’s Club uses for its board meetings.

However, if you participated in our first virtual club meeting on June 18 you may have wondered where your image went. The June 18 meeting was broadcast using the Zoom Webinar format. In a webinar, the images of the speakers and the program hots are visible to all participants (attendees) but the attendees images are not.

The webinar format is the preferred format for general club meetings because it allows the panelists to get organized before the program is broadcast to the members. *(Those who attended the June 18 may doubt the veracity of that statement, we are sorry to say; however, that is how the format is supposed to work.)*

The webinar format allows attendees to pose written questions to the panelists. As time permits, those questions will be discussed and answered during the program.



To Cruise or not to Cruise?

That is the Question of the Day!

There has been widespread concern about the safety of cruise ships but cruises have strong economic incentives to make sure their vessels are safe. Thus cruises are expected to resume in the fall.

Our travel agency, SCC Travel, has been getting a number of bookings for cruises later this year and next as SCC residents are getting antsy to begin traveling again.

The Men's Club Cruise on Celebrity Cruise Lines out of Tampa on December 2nd is still in place and the club has 45 or 50 passengers signed up. Hopefully we can sail safely again this year. Final payment on the cruise is mid August so there is plenty of time for us to monitor the situation prior to that time. Space is still available also!!

For details on the cruise, check with Travelworld or check out our website, www.sccmensclub.com.

Hearing Loss Support Group Moves to Virtual Meetings

The Sun City Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of American — one of the health care groups supported by The Men's Club — has moved to virtual meetings during the current health care crisis. Like other organizations in Sun City Center, face-to-face meetings are not practical for the group so they have taken to meeting via Zoom.

For the HLAA, virtual meetings present an additional challenge because of the hearing impairment of the group's members. Hence, they have be required to add captioning to their meetings.. They use a processed given the acronym CART for Communication Access Realtime Translation. It is a speech-to-text interpreting service for those who need communication access.

According to Eloise Schwarz, leader of the SCC chapter, the funds needs to pay for this captioning service and for the Zoom meetings are running out. She is hopefully,, however, that the group will be continuing virtual meetings for the rest of the year.

The COVID-19 virus has posed a second challenge for hearing impaired members. Lip-reading is impossible when the speakers are wearing standard face mask, as a generally required throughout the county. To solve that problem the group has been seeking funding to provide masks with clear inserts for the impaired to provide to doctors and medical professionals when they are treating the impaired patient.

At a special meeting on June 24, the Men's Club board approved a \$750 donation to the HLAA Chapter to assist in covering these COVID-19 related costs.

Are You Ready for Some football?

Tampa Bay Bucs vs Green Bay Packers.....October 18 at 1 p.m.

The club has an option on a group trip to this game to see Brady and the 2020 Bucs and Packers....if the game is played with fans and if buses are available.. With Tom Brady and The Gronk added to the lineup, this is sure to be an exciting season for the team. Save the date on your calendar and we will start taking reservations and accepting checks when there is a little more clarity about the game actually being played and about fans being in the stands.



Board Adopts Bylaw Change Clarifying Nomination Procedure

At its May Board of Directors meeting, a proposed change to the Men’s Club’s bylaws to clarify the procedure for nomination of officers. The proposed change to Article II (reproduce below) simply codifies the past practice that the immediate past president serves as chair of the Nominating Committee and confirms the timing for presentation of the committee’s report.

Because there is unlikely to be a face-to-face meeting of the club in the near future, the amendment will be presented at the July virtual meeting and then subject to a vote by virtual of poll using our EmailDodo mailing list. Members will be asked to approve the amendment by voting “yes” or to reject the change by voting “no”.

A related story regarding the Nominating Committee appears elsewhere in this issue of **The Chronicle**.

ARTICLE II - NOMINATION AND ELECTION

Section 1. The President shall appoint ~~three~~ **two** members **to serve with the Past President** as a Nominating Committee, ~~and~~ they shall present **proposed the** nominees **to the Board no later than the October Board meeting and to the members** at the regular meeting in October.

Section 2. Nominations may be made from the floor **during the October members’ meeting**, provided the consent and willingness to serve has first been obtained from the person to be nominated.

Section 3. Election of officers shall take place at the regular meeting in November. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

Nominating Committee Seeks Volunteers for Club Board

It is once again that time of year to look for members to step-up and volunteer to serve on our governing committee. We have 14 positions to consider and vote on in November of this year. All positions are open to all members.

I and others on the committee often hear that the board is a closed clique, but that is not true. We have members who serve year after year, but only because others do not come forward to volunteer. We really need new blood on the committee to bring in new ideas and keep our club moving ahead, especially in these troubling times.

Please consider volunteering to serve.

We need your participation.

A list of positions is published each month in our monthly newsletter – The Chronicle.

Volunteering is easy. Just contact one of the members on the Nominating Committee.

Members are:

Bruce Fraser – 315-982-4013,

Joe DeFelice – 813-922-6232,

David Floyd – 813-334-7797.

Give one of us a call; we would love to discuss a position for you.





Club Seeks Webmaster and Newsletter Editor for Next Year

It is said that former President Ronald Reagan was “The Great Communicator” because of his ability to get his message out to the people. The Men’s Club does not need another Ronald Reagan, but it is looking for one or more great communicators to assist in getting the club’s message out to members. Art Smith, who has been webmaster and newsletter editor for the past six years, has

expressed the wish to step aside.

Thus, the Nominating Committee is reaching out to membership looking for someone to take over the responsibility for publishing The Chronicle each month and to update the club’s website on a regular basis. Although Art has done both jobs, we are not necessarily looking for one person to take on both.

The Chronicle is our monthly newsletter (with occasional extras). It has been produced using Microsoft Publisher but could also be done in MS Word. We seek a member with computer and writing skills (perhaps a frustrated journalist) to gather and report the news each month to members.

The club’s website is currently created using a program named WebEasy, an easy- to-master website creation program. The new webmaster would be free to modify as he sees fit.

If you have the necessary skills, the time, and the interest for either of these positions, reach out to any member of the nominating committee to let them know.



How to Contact Your Men’s Club Officers and Directors

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Phone</u> | <u>E-Mail Address</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| President | David Floyd | 334-7797 | DavidFloyd2012@yahoo.com |
| President Elect | Bruce Fraser | 419-4013 | dbruce.fraser@gmail.com |
| Past President | Joe DeFelice | 922-6232 | rdr303@aol.com |
| Treasurer | Denman Gray | 633-4294 | dudex2@bellsouth.net |
| Secretary | Bill Cox | 634-3936 | bidocj@gmail.com |
| Steward | Don Murphy | 633-0527 | dmurphy5@tampabay.rr.com |
| VP-Communications | Art Smith | 634-2576 | Arthur_Smith@verizon.net |
| VP-District Operations | Larry Smith | 245-4128 | handy48x@gmail.com |
| VP-Health Care | Vicente Lopez, Jr | 727-623-1724 | SSCMensClub.vphealth@gmail.com |
| VP-Lifeline | Bob Sullivan | 215-7050 | rsscc1113@gmail.com |
| VP-Membership | Jonathan Lehr | 260-3058 | jonlehrscc@aol.com |
| VP-Programs | George Bodmer | 244-0414 | George@BaysideRealtyFlorida.com |
| VP-Special Projects | Jim Rottman | 634-8122 | jrottman@Tampabay.rr.com |