

**Sun City PRIDES  
Membership Meeting  
March 4, 2017**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Vice-President, Molly Soblewski.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

New members: There are no new members this month.

**Minutes:**

- The March 4, 2017 minutes were read. A motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Ronn Enzweiler and seconded by Mike Cullen. The motion carried.
- Dorothy Vollmer made a motion that Members receive a draft of the minutes and an agenda at least seven (7) days prior to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Vern Haney. Emails would need to be sent out early, since we are limited to the number of emails we can send per day. Rosie Swain will look into the cost of upgrading our service to accommodate larger quantities. The vote was called, and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- February income: \$737.43
- February expenses: \$5,601.52
- Speaking in round numbers, our year-to-date income of \$700 includes donations of \$200 from PRIDES member Gladys Schroeder and \$500 from Laura Ross, granddaughter of Joe McIntyre. Our year-to-date expenses of \$22,000 include \$15,000 to Sun City Resident Assistance Program (SCRAP), \$5,000 for Appreciation Luncheon, \$750 for a new computer and \$500 for equipment.
- Fry's Reward Program Ritchie encouraged everyone to join this program. Dorothy Vollmer suggested that we might shop at Fry's for the continental breakfast served at the monthly Membership meeting.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Jerry Kavanagh and seconded by Jay Wood. The motion carried.

**Audit Committee:**

The audit has been completed, and the committee found everything to be in order. Ritchie pointed out that these records were kept by Mike Will, last year's Treasurer.

**Investment Committee:**

Ritchie explained that the Investment Committee was formed to improve the return on our assets. Currently we have approximately \$589,000 in "liquid" assets. One percent (1%) of that amount is nearly \$6,000. Our existing accounts pay 0.05%; our current CDs pay on average 0.79%. We spend approximately \$20,000 to maintain the PRIDES on an annual basis. This morning the Board approved establishing an Edward Jones account in the amount of \$200,000 as an alternative to CDs as a form of investment. There was discussion of concerns that, unlike CDs, an investment account is not guaranteed and there would be the potential for a substantial loss. Some felt that donations have been given to the PRIDES for the betterment of Sun City and should not be put at risk. Others pointed out that the PRIDES is a non-profit organization. Ritchie explained that we currently have approximately \$39,000 in a

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diversified account at Morgan Stanley that has earned an average of 2.9% over a number of years. That same account would have earned an average of 8% over the same time at Edward Jones.

Tony Dircks made a motion that the PRIDES Executive Board, the Board of Directors and the Beautification Committee cannot spend more than \$1,000 without approval by the Membership in attendance at a monthly meeting. Bob Geier seconded the motion. The motion was defeated.

**Reyes Lara, MCDOT, shared updates:**

Currently the County has only one sprayer working in Sun City. Maricopa County covers more than 9,000 square miles, and MCDOT has been exceptionally busy due to flooding and other issues. Reyes explained the process for approval of site plans for tree planting. Once the plan is submitted to MCDOT, John Counts approves the line of site, then Oscar checks that the stakes are not in the water lines, and Blue Stick comes out to check on any utility wires in the area. Once that has all been completed, Reyes' supervisor must give final approval. Reyes asked that all communication from the PRIDES to MCDOT come from the PRIDES President. Asked about the process for removing orange trees, Reyes said that the issue is always scheduling.

**Beautification Committee:**

Mike Will was not present to give his report. Referring to a concern voiced last month, Molly explained that firestick cactus toxicity is the same as other desert plants and that firestick cactus will once again be included in planting designs. Bell Road has been staked out in preparation for planting desert plants.

**Old Business**

**Luncheon Results:**

168 members and guests attended the Appreciation Luncheon on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The total cost for the event was \$4,727.02, which was within the budgeted \$5,000.

**MCDOT/PRIDES Contract:**

An updated draft of the contract was sent to Ken on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and was discussed by the Board this morning. The reference to insurance coverage for our sprayers is still vague. The MCDOT agreement does not cover the insurance on our licensed sprayers. We have been informed by the County's attorney that the County Trust will cover the insurance on our licensed sprayers. We are waiting for written confirmation on that information. The Board recommended that acceptance of this contract be put on hold pending review by our attorney.

**RRRB Request:**

Karen Millan from the Recreational Recorded Reading for the Blind will interview Molly on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm.

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**Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation Review Committee:**

Molly (Chair), Mike Cullen and Joan Fenske will meet this coming week.

**Upcoming Events:**

Dorothy will have tables set up at the New Residents Event on March 15<sup>th</sup> at Palmbrook and at the Home and Garden Expo on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Sundial.

**Arbor Day, Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>:**

Last fall the PRIDES received a donation of \$132,545 from the Leta J. Murphy Trust. Although Ms. Murphy was not a member of the PRIDES, it was suggested at the October Membership meeting that a tree be planted in her memory at the next Arbor Day planting. Jay Woods made a motion to plant a tree in honor of Ms. Murphy. Mike Cullen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Donation from the Wisconsin Club:**

The Wisconsin Club has donated \$200 to the PRIDES.

**Service Pins:**

Francine Jennings has stepped down as coordinator for service pins given out at the annual Appreciation Luncheon. Arthur Haab volunteered to assume the position.

**Other Items:**

Dorothy Vollmer made a motion that the Membership vote on the transfer of \$200,000 into an Edward Jones account. Carol Geier seconded the motion. In further discussion Ritchie clarified that \$39,000 of the proposed \$200,000 is the amount currently in the Morgan Stanley investment account. He further explained that money in an investment fund can be obtained at a moment's notice without penalty, unlike money tied up in CDs. Dorothy withdrew her motion, then made another motion that money currently in the Morgan Stanley investment account be transferred to an Edward Jones account. Mike Cullen seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Mike Cullen then made a motion that an Edward Jones representative give a presentation at the next Membership meeting. Vern Haney seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The money jar was won by Lloyd Maple.

The next meeting will be held on April 1, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosie Swain