

## **THE VILLAGE BIRDERS ANNUAL MEETING** **MARCH 24, 2012**

President Lyn Comans called the Annual Meeting of the Village Birders to order at 9:04 AM, Saturday, March 24, 2012, at the Paradise Recreation Center. She introduced the current officers and chairs of the Executive Board and thanked them for their service during the past year. Each officer and chair was asked to briefly explain their duties as they presented their reports. President Comans encouraged attendees to seriously consider volunteering for one of the positions in future explaining the importance of making the club work.

**Secretary's Report:** Patsy Nistico read the minutes of last year's Annual Meeting. The minutes were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Norton reported an ending balance of \$1,246.07 for the calendar year of 2011. He discussed the major financial transactions for the year and added that, although the books have never been audited, they are open for anyone's investigation. Finally, he asked for the help of volunteers with auditing experience.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Program and Education:** Elaine Kersey summarized the past year's programs and reported that next October's program would be entitled, "Birds from the Bible."

**Membership:** Kathy Porter reported that the current paid-up membership is about 219 and welcomed 5 new members at today's meeting.

**Newsletter:** President Comans presented this report for Editor Charlie Martin who was absent. His special thanks were given to those who have contributed to the newsletter. He then reported that a Yahoo email group has been set up for use by members of the club. This site will facilitate communication within our club; replace the current email system; and allow any member to post bird sightings, photos and other interesting bird news. He proposed that this site take the place of "Cheep Talk" and that he is stepping down from the editorship.

President Comans pointed out that the publication of the newsletter depended on a volunteer for the editorship. This matter will be discussed further at the next Executive Board meeting.

**Bird Walks and Special Events:** Gert Schaeffer gave the following report for Barb Gay who was absent. The club led sixteen walks, held two special events, and participated in two Christmas Bird Counts this past year. Walk leaders and members of the Bird Walk Committee received special thanks for their contributions.

**Web Site:** Webmaster, Barb Athanasiou, was absent and there was no report.

### **Old Business:**

1. Charlie Finkbiner reported that the club's picnic table in Live Oaks Park now has its plaque with our name and motto. The need for clear signage keeping out pets and cars was discussed.
2. Peg Condon reported that her new Bluebird box in her yard– part of our club's Villages trail – has a nesting Bluebird. Paul and Patsy Nistico discussed the necessity of keeping these boxes free of nesting House Sparrows.
3. Alice Horst announced our fifth Annual Picnic to be held on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at Lake Panasoffkee Recreation Area.
4. President Comans reported that shirts with the club's logo could soon be available.
5. Steve Norton explained that he keeps yearly summary lists of bird species seen on our walks and will, on request, email members this year's listings. Additionally, John Affleck maintains a separate list of species seen within The Villages.

### **New Business:**

Biennial Election of Officers: Gert Schaeffer, a member of the Nominating Committee, presented the nominees for the following offices:

- President                      Lyn Comans
- Vice-President                Peg Condon
- Secretary                      Marcy Klepinger
- Treasurer                      Steve Norton

There were no nominations from the floor. The candidates were unanimously elected.

**Adjournment:** The business meeting was adjourned at 10:08. Refreshments were offered along with “hands-on” demonstrations of birding websites.