

**Chino Hills 55+ Club
General Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2019
At
Chino Hills Community Center**

Officers Present: President Susanne Baxter-Anderson, Vice President: Jane DeFrank, Treasurer Maria Galvan-Gonzalez, Secretary Judi Klecansky and Webmaster/Information Officer Sharon Stuewe.

Officers Absent: none

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Susanne Baxter-Anderson, President, at 10:10 a.m. Our meeting program this month is Frankenstein Friday. There is a costume contest today as well.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ron Sinsabaugh

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes:

The minutes were approved as written and as posted on the website.

Presidents Report: Susanne noted that she and her husband had just returned for their extended honeymoon and shared some places and experiences. They went to Great Britain, Scotland, and Iceland. They were there the day of the Autumn Equinox. Susanne's husband Glen was able to visit his family and explore his heritage in Scotland. They saw many beautiful sights which Susanne shared with the group.

Susanne then took a survey of who had gotten their flu shots. She emphasized the importance of the flu shot and mentioned that there was a new high dose shot available as well. For our next General Meeting we will be having Thanksgiving pot luck and a sign-up sheet is going around today.

She then solicited interest, in the current holiday charity events pending and provided key contacts:

- Caring for the Hills Contact: Donna and Ron Forbes
- Adopt A Family Contact: Frances Downs
- Make a Child Smile Contact: Susanne Baxter-Anderson

Since the subject for this meeting is Frankenstein Friday and all things Halloween, Susanne presented an overview of the History of Halloween. Some of the first Halloween celebrations are attributed to the ancient Celtic pagan spiritual holiday of Samhain (A Gaelic word pronounced "Sow-win") this holiday

was to welcome in the “Dark half of the year”. Celebrants believed that the barriers between the physical world and the spirit world broke down between the humans and denizens of the Otherworld. Samhain was viewed as the most significant of the four quarterly fire festivals, taking place at the midpoint between the fall equinox and the winter solstice. During this time, hearth fires in family homes were left to burn out while the harvest was gathered. Upon the completion of harvest, celebrants joined with Druid priests to light a community fire using a wheel that would cause friction and then spark flames. The wheel represented the sun and cattle were sacrificed. The participants then took the flames back to their homes to relight their fireplaces. The Celts believed that the barrier between worlds was breach able during Samhain and therefore prepared offerings that were left outside villages. Since it was expected for crossings to occur, the Celts would dress as animals and monsters so the fairies were not tempted to kidnap them.

As the middle ages progressed, the celebration of fire festivals became a tradition, purportedly to protect families from fairies and witches. Carved turnips named “Jack O Lanterns” began to appear which were later replaced by pumpkins. The tradition of “dumb supper” was created in which adults would invite their otherworldly “ancestors” to dinner for a chance to interact with them. Children would play games to entertain the dead, while the older family members would update the spirits of the past year.

As Christianity gained a foothold in pagan communities, Pope Boniface in the 5th century attempted to reframe Samhain as a Christian celebration. First, an attempt was made to move the celebration to May 13 and specified as a day to celebrate saints and martyrs. This ploy did not end the fire festivals. Second, in the 9th Century, Pope Gregory moved the celebration back to the time of the fire festivals, but declared it “All Saints Day”. Neither one worked to alleviate the pagan aspect of the holiday.

As large numbers of Irish immigrants came to America during the potato famine of 1840 they brought the holiday tradition with them. Although, no one knows when the phrase “trick or treat” came into use, the custom of kids walking neighborhoods to collect candy began in America in the 1920’s. As the tradition expanded, excessive pranks and vandalism became a problem. This led to widespread community based safe trick-or –treating until the start of sugar rations during World War II. The tradition was re-established after the war.

The Peanuts cartoon strip permanently embedded the phrase “trick or treat” into American Halloween pop culture in 1951. Disney further embedded this tradition in 1952 with Donald Duck and his nephews starring in the cartoon feature “Trick

or Treat”. This history has made Halloween the current holiday tradition we now enjoy today.

Treasurer’s Report: Maria Galvan-Gonzalez presented the Board Member report/club financials for September 2019:

Previous bank balance as of August 31, 2019:	\$15,220.26
Additions/Deposits added:	+ \$1,346.69
Checks cleared (deducted):	\$ -0-
Ending bank balance as of August 30, 2019:	\$16,566.95
Checks outstanding (deducted):	- \$3,502.00
Subtraction -Veterans Monument checks outstanding	\$9,245.34
Adjusted club balance August 30, 2019:	\$3,819.61

Mixer/Activity: As Renée Sylvia was not at this meeting, George De Frank chaired our mixer. The activity was based on famous horror movies and their key characters. We were grouped into tables and provided a list of movies and characters which we had to match up. This was a difficult one for some of us who were not accustomed to watching scary movies, but we persevered. The winning table, Table 8, was able to match over 15 and won a prize of assorted Halloween gift items.

Vice President’s Report: Jane begun by announcing that we will be having a costume contest later and we will vote. This day is Frankenstein Friday which is based on a book created 1997 and invented the first electrical brain creature with an admirable murderer’s brain.

- In 1931, the original Boris Karloff movie “Frankenstein” was born
- In 1935, “Frankenstein Bride” followed
- In 1939 came the “Son of Frankenstein”
- In 1942 came the “Ghost of Frankenstein”
- In 1943, Bella Lagosi starred in “Frankenstein meets Wolf man”
- Finally, came “Young Frankenstein”, and later, “The Munster’s”.

Jane welcomed our three new members. One of them is a returning member, Susan Aldaco and our new members are Karol and Karen Anderson, and Wayne Skaggs.

Jane indicated that a trip to the Mission Inn in Riverside was being planned. The Board has selected December 4th at 6:00 p.m. There is a signup sheet in the back for this event.

We have also planned a visit to the Nixon Library to see the Apollo 11 exhibit celebrating 50 years for the moon landing on Wednesday November 6th. We will be leaving the Community Center at 9:30 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the back. Volunteers to drive for both of these trips are needed.

The Salute Service Breakfast for our Veterans' is Friday, November 8th. Though open to everyone, it is limited to 200 people. This is a free event, but you need to register at the front desk, if interested.

The annual Fireman's Christmas luncheon for seniors is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and will be available starting November 6th.

The 55 + Club Craft group will once again be doing the centerpieces. Those interested will be getting together on November 19th from 9:00 to 12:00 noon to complete them. If you have a glue gun, please bring it! All supplies including the hot glue sticks will be supplied by the Community Center staff.

The Chino Hills Boat Parade is on December 13th, 2019

Next month's theme will be our annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck and Mickey Mouse's 91st Birthday. Please check with Frances Down's and/or sign up for the list for your contribution.

Lastly, Jane addressed our upcoming Costume Contest today for those who dressed up. There are ballots on each table, so please cast your votes for your favorites. The ballot box is on the 50/50 table.

City/Community Report Susanne requested interest from our members as to what Program Events and speakers are desired. If you have ideas, please see Susanne.

She reached out to extend our thoughts and prayers for those Californians who were experiencing the ongoing fires and power shutdowns.

Community/Activity Groups

Bingo: George DeFrank announced that they were always looking for volunteers and if interested, please see him. Attendance has dropped off somewhat during this season, and George encouraged the club members to

participate. He mentioned that we have instructors available to help learn the game. Come on down and have fun during this holiday season!

Veterans Group: The Veterans Monument dedication has been moved and is currently scheduled for January 18th. George advised that we may re-open brick sales shortly and to check with him if interested.

Due to the Apollo 11 trip, there will not be a Veteran's meeting in November. The Veterans breakfast will still go on.

Genealogy Group: Kathy announced that the group will be meeting this month at the Chino Hills library on Monday, October 28 between 10 a.m. – 12p.m.

Book Club: Donna Forbes announced there will be no December meeting but they will be having a party instead.

Sunshine Club: Loretta announced our monthly anniversaries and birthdays for the month.

Anniversaries were:

Sylvia and Salvador Avila (10/10/1981)

Mary Menkus and David Elston (10/17/1998)

Alwen and Bill Jones (10/17/1959)

There were ten (10) October birthdays as well. Those who were present were presented a gift and a picture was taken to commemorate.

Loretta announced that there was a dog park event planned for this Saturday at the Vila Borba Dog Park. This event starts at 1:00 p.m. and is a dog costume contest.

Halloween Costume Contest

The costumed contestants were lined up and introduced themselves and their costumes. Members were instructed to vote for their favorites by category. The categories listed were: 1) Prettiest, Scariest, Funniest, and best Overall.

The winners were: Candy Rendell for the prettiest costume; Frances Downs for the scariest costume; Fran and J.D. Martinez for the funniest costumes; and Jane and George DeFrank for the best overall costumes. Each winner received a \$25 gift card.

50/50 Drawing:

The Club sold tickets totaling \$101. The winners of the drawings were Judi

Klecansky, Yolanda Davidson, and Loretta Szudy. Each winner received \$16. The Club earned \$48

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The luncheon followed at the Luna Grille in Chino Hills, CA.

Next General Meeting:

Friday, November 22, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Judi Klecansky, Secretary