**Grand Masters Dragon Boat General Meeting**

**December 10th. 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

The opening was done by Cheryl Moran leading the pledge to the American Flag.

Attendance: 44 members was present.

**Opening:**

Cheryl Moran opened the meeting by thanking the very strong board, and welcoming the evenings speaker, Pat Bradley and the members from Southern Heat (Now HEAT), and explaining the exiting times coming for GMDBC.

**Guests and new members:**

Pat Bradley; Randy, Cindy Dove, Deede Sanders. (Team USA world Champions)

Nancy D’Amico, Grace Sterk, Gary Sterk, De. Kasevick

**New members:** none

**Secretary Minutes:**

1 change in closing time, from 7:40pm. To 7:10pm.

Motion to approve as presented by Larry Reed, and 2nd.by Per Olesen, approved.

Elly Olesen read the thank you letter sent to the club from The Wildwood Soup Kitchen, for participating in the food drive.

Letter attached.

**Treasurer** report:

Report attached.

RaeAnn presented the financial statement.

Motion to approve as presented by John Townley, and 2nd. By Dottie Baker, approve

**Special report:**

RaeAnn informed the club that it has some extra” The Villages” logo stickers available The Village Logo is to be used on our paddles only. White for black paddles and green for wood paddles. The stickers cannot be covered, in part or completely by other materials.

Kathy Summers-Sitarski reported on the new brochures and the 5-inch circle GMDBC stickers were in the works and soon available for new members.

**President Report.**

1. GMDBC team snap website can bring much information and education to all teams.
2. Each Captain is encouraged to explore and work with the website.
3. Boat Parade. This was a beautiful and well-organized parade. Thank you to Kathy Summers-Sitarski and Alicia Thomas for participating. Rumors has it the event might be bigger next year.

4. Sumter Landing should be seeing some improvements in the future, regarding safer boat launching area. The design committee of the Villages is working on a possible shelter for our boat equipment. No date has been set yet.

5. A proposal for the April 2020 intramural club race has been made. Cheryl Moran will confer with the Rec. Dept.

6. A 2020 possibility for a paddling camp held here in The Villages is also in the works.

7. A 2021 Senior C Invitational is being prepared. This will include 8-10 Senior C teams from outside

The Villages being invited to race here.

**Team Reports:**

**This Boat Rocks**. Kathy Summers-Sitarski. The boat parade was a fun event and the team is looking forward to the parade expansion next year. The team has many events scheduled in December: gift wrapping, gift delivery by Santa, Bell ringing for Salvation Army, and a Music Bingo in January.

**Black Heart.** Working hard I the gym testing and getting ready for the next season. Possible competing in Toronto or Montreal, Canada next summer.

**Village Dragons.** Beth Bowen explained that they are a seasonal team and just getting started.

Beth Bowen initiated the food drive for the Wildwood Soup Kitchen.

**Sparta 70.** Have made travel arrangements for their Vancouver race in June 2020.

Have a full team going to the race, their team now are at 40-45 members.

**Silver Dragons.** Now at 50 members. Several new members from their Dragon Boating 101 program

Also had a busy December participating in Home Bound Angle Tree. Shop for Children’s Christmas Party.

**Paddling Patriots**. The team for Fun-Fitness-and Friendship. The team did a 22 miles bike ride.

Supported the girl Scout P.J. collection

**Leatherneck Warriors.** Working hard to be ready for races. Are doing International work outs. (15-20 minutes.)

Their Moto: “Don’t aspire to be the best on the team, aspire to be the best for the team

**Dirty Dozen**. A none race team, but Fun team, and hard working. Mostly retired race paddlers, that no longer wish to travel to race.

However, no coaching is done, members must know the strokes and be able to stay in sink.

**Evenings Speaker:**

The evenings speaker, Pat Bradley Coach and Captain of the Heat, was introduce by Cheryl Moran:

This was a presentation of the team, that took the Senior C World Championship. This team had 3 Villagers compete on the USA Senior C team.

They took 11 out of 12 gold medals.

Pat Bradley showed tapes and pictures from their races in Thailand (200m done in 47 second.)

Pat Bradley called this team the dream team and the best paddlers he had ever worked with and was so very proud of them.

A testimony was given by the three paddlers that made the team.

1. Cindy Dove felt this participation had made her a changed person. More confident, physical very strong, and treasured the togetherness with the teammates.
2. Deede Sanders , 3 years ago Deede had never touched a paddle and never been part of a team sport.

This took 100 % commitment. Try outs and general togetherness with the team. It was fun and a lot of hard work. She loved it,

1. Randy: Just wanted to repeat and reflect on being part of the USA Senior C Champions the honor and pride he felt being part of the team. He simply followed the program and worked extremely hard. Randy also had great respect for the coach Pat Bradley.

This was a dream come true for him, with friends, and truly a unique experience of a lifetime.

1. A question and answer session were held after.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted

**Elly Olesen**

Secretary of GMDBC