

We Won! Our Club won the Lamp post decorating contest this year. Yeah! Thank you, Chris Dudley, for your creative efforts. Our club is very proud to receive this award, and so very grateful to you. And along with that, a member of the Kings Bay Rotary Club came to visit and brought us a check for almost a thousand dollars for our volunteer hours at the Stone Crab Jam. This money will go toward scholarships.

Because we will be off for two weeks with the holidays, this meeting was considered our Assembly meeting. As such, there was a lot of sharing of information. Barbara Wheeler, retired from the Mid-Florida Homeless Coalition, spoke of special events that will occur during these last two weeks. Each year there is an event that honors the homeless that have passed away that year. One such event will be held at the Nature Coast Church on December 22. In addition, on the last Tuesday of the month there will be a "counting" of the homeless; a process known as a Point in Time. She said it is usually done on this day, because it has the shortest day and the longest night. It is a reminder to all of what they experience, to be sure.

Lace also had the opportunity to update the club on the progress of Bryant Park. Currently, Barb Wheeler is looking for and applying for grants that may be available. John Murphy has plans to meet with big donors like Duke Energy and others in January. And, Stuart and Karen Aultman, have just made a donation of \$50,000! We are almost halfway to our goal of \$500,000. Lace also mentioned that she had recently met with the city who are still working on plans and writing for grants to make their commitment. She said that the hope is to possibly break ground by this summer.

Greg Hamilton shared that Holli and Jill have moved through the process of becoming members, and will be presented to the board for approval.

So, for all that was shared, the best part was toward the end of our meeting. Byron suggested that our Happy/Sad dollars could be spent sharing our fondest memory of Christmas. Once again, the stories rolled. There were memories of a baby sister being born or being shared at Candlelight service; there were kids playing in piles of wrapping paper; a memory of a bazooka gun that shot orange bullets (along with full GI Joe clothing and gear); or receiving keys to the family car after being told that would never happen. And, Eloy told the story of the night he arrested three Santas! Yet, mostly, it came down to the joy of now being a parent watching Christmas through the eyes of the children. Whew! These meetings are really having their moments.

Other News:

No Club Meeting Dec 24 or 31

January 2 – Meet and Greet with Abby Blocker at Cattle Dogs 10-12 noon

January 7- Abby Blocker will Update the Club....In Person

January 8 – Blessings Delivery @7:30 1st Presbyterian Church

50/50 - \$38 to Vera

Happy/sad - \$151

Wishing each of you a happy, healthy, and safe holiday. See you next year!