

Our club activities are ramping up, and we are entering our peak season! At this meeting, we learned what we will be up to in the coming months. Starting off, Lace reminded us about Relief Share, Point in Time, Habitat Home Build, and One Bag. We also had a visit from a representative from the Crystal River Rotary who shared information on the Rise Against Hunger event being held at the Crystal River High School on February 22. This is a 6-club event that builds boxes of food that will be distributed to areas of need. Of course, volunteers are needed from all the clubs. Next up was John Murphy, who has most of the weekends in March booked for us. First weekend is the 2-day Strawberry Festival in Floral Park, and we will be building and selling strawberry shortcakes. Sign up has already started. The next weekend will bring us to Liberty Park for an Outdoor Expo in conjunction with the Bega Big Bass Fishing Tournament. We will be pouring beer. Sign up for that has already begun. And finally, it will be time for our annual fundraiser, the Highlands Brewfest. This year it will be from 3-9pm, with 2 bands, home brewers, beer wagon and food trucks. Ticket prices will be reduced to encourage higher participation. We will continue with VIP, Booze wagon, 50/50, Popcorn and Silent Auction. And with that, Karen shared the first call to action with the new format for the baskets this year. The information she shared will be followed up with a separate email to all members of the club.

Finally, we had another member spotlight. This month we learned about Ernesto "Tito" Rubio. Born in Puerto Rico, he eventually moved to Vero Beach, where he graduated from high school in 1974. He attended USF for 2 years (which he said actually took him 4) and then joined the Navy. That is where he stayed for 24 years. Tito said that he started everything late in life, and this is where it began. After retiring from the Navy, he went back to school and earned a degree in Business Administration. After that, he joined the Coast Guard, from which he also retired. Next, he decided to use his degree and got a job with a health dept as a business manager. Then, he took a job with the State Dept. as an inspector of health dept facilities. Wanting to run his own health dept, at age 51, he got a Master's degree in Public Health. And finally, he got that opportunity in 2015 when he joined the Citrus County Health Dept. Through all of this, Tito says that the thing that drove him was his need to serve his country, his state, and his community. And now with us, he can do all that and much more!

#### Other News:

- \*Jan 25 – Relief Share, 1st Presbyterian Church, 9-2pm
- \*Jan 30 – Point in Time Counting with Mid Florida Homeless Coalition
- \*Feb 1 – Habitat Home Build, Citrus Springs, 8-12pm
- \*Feb 4- One Bag, Whispering Pines Park, 11:30-1:30pm
- \*Feb 5- Blessings Pantry, 1st Presbyterian Church, 7:30am
- \*Feb 5- Feed Citrus, Citrus County Fairgrounds, 7-10am

#### "Fun"draisers:

March 1&2 – Strawberry Festival

March 7&8 – Outdoor Expo

March 22 – Highlands Brewfest

\*\*\*\*\*50/50 – \$40 to Tom Craig\*\*\*\*\*Happy/Sad- \$112