**BELLE OAKS GARDEN CLUB MINUTES-SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

**Tanya Pearson, Recording Secretary, was absent.  Maude Rizzuto took these notes.**

**The members of the Belle Oaks Garden Club met on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at the home of Rebecca Eisenman in Hammond, La.  Her co-hostesses were Rose Doles and Maude Rizzuto.  Even before our official meeting began, Cindy Miguez was busy giving out Belle Oaks Garden Club Yearbooks to members present.**

**Debbie Lobell, Parliamentarian, rang the highly polished Parliamentarian Bell, recently shined by Charlotte Shaw.  Debbie then called the meeting to order.  Sandy Grimm, Club President welcomed all.**

**Before members ate, Maude Rizzuto told all present that she and Rose Doles wanted to honor some of our members who had served Belle Oaks Garden Club.  This was done by using some recipes that these ladies had prepared when they were co-hostesses.**

**One recipe, Chicken Almond Salad, was from Darlene Breland. Darlene was Belle Oaks Garden Club President from 2011 to 2022.  Eleven years President!**

**We also served Ruth Dugas’ recipe of Dill Shrimp Salad.  Ruth gave of herself to Belle Oaks in various ways from the years before I became a member in 1999. She was a member until her vision became a problem.  The last year Ruth was a member was 2017.**

**Carole Smith became a member in 2012. Carole had been an active member of Belle Oaks’ and was our Vice President until October 30, 2022, when she went into Glory-her forever!   We served her recipe for Starbucks Lemon Loaf. These foods are from recipes that are a part of the refreshments that these three ladies brought to members over the years. These recipes were gotten from a file of recipes members had requested from Darlene, Ruth, and Carole…because these foods were so enjoyed by the members of Belle Oaks.**

**Virginia Hawkins prayed over our food. We then enjoyed!**

**Sandy then had members stand for the Pledge of Allegiance; then Rose Doles read Club’s Prayer and The Conservation Pledge.**

**Minutes of the meetings are e-mailed to members and accepted as read. (See any mistakes? Please inform the Recording Secretary to be amended)**

**Maude Rizzuto, Corresponding Secretary, did Roll Call. Eleven of our 15 members were present. The members who were present, were Darlene Breland, Rose Doles, Rebecca Eisenman, Vicky Fannaly, Sandy Grimm, Virginia Hawkins, Debra Lobell, Cindy Miguez, Maude Rizzuto, Charlotte Shaw and Carmen Thompson.  The members, who were absent, were John Grim, Peggy Hoover, Tanya Pearson, and Rosemary Tobey (we missed ya’ll).**

**Sandy then asked Carmen Thompson, Treasurer, to give Treasurer’s Report.  Carmen is also preparing a Big List from her Excel file Spreadsheet called Workbook.  This is a list of garden club members from all the District VI garden clubs, as they registered to attend the District VI Fall Meeting**

**And Luncheon on October 25th.  Carmen plan is to prepare for Belle Oaks Garden Club a separate sheet for each of the different garden clubs represented as each member pays for their registration and lunch.  From that, Cindy Miguez will prepare and make the Name Tags.**

**Cindy Miguez, our Club Vice President, has done a super terrific job of making our Yearbook for 2023-2024.  Cindy wanted us to know that the Yearbook is not perfect.  Members are very pleased with all the work Cindy has done on the Yearbook. It makes it easier for each of us to be good garden club members.**

**Raffle Ticket was pulled.   Carmen Thompson won the prize which Rose Doles had brought for the club raffle prize.**

**Sandy asked that all members buy and bring to the District VI meeting a Chrysanthemum plant and a pumpkin to be used as decorations.   Each member buys the size of the plant and pumpkin that they want for themselves as it will be theirs to take home and keep.**

**Sandy went on to talk about the required $50 Gift for the District VI meeting.  John Grimm will donate a “Stephanie Heavenly Star” Camellia and at least one other plant. Peggy and Ed Hoover have agreed to donate a bird house.  Thank you to all who have worked so hard to make for a very successful District VI meeting.**

**Sandy has contacted the mayor’s office to finally verify that Mayor Pete Panepinto will attend.   Mayor Panepinto will not eat with us, however, he will sit at the Head Table. Sandy told Darlene Breland that the Centerpiece that Darlene made will probably be put on the Head Table.   Cindy and Sandy working on the agenda to bring to the Printer.   Carmen reported that she has been getting Registration responses.  Rose Doles has agreed to take the food brought by members tonight to SLU.  Sandy then spoke about her thoughts about decorating the rooms for the District VI meeting.  Debbie Lobell and Rose Doles have agreed to both help Carolyn Todd with the Silent Auction.**

**The meeting was then turned over to our Guest Speaker, Nick Piazza, who was prepared to speak about Plumeria.  He brought two of his Plumeria.  Mr. Piazza said that they do grow all over the world.  They can grow tall and are easy to take care of. And by Thanksgiving, he takes all the leaves off of those he has which are in pots.  He said that he has a large investment in Plumeria.  Most stand 8 feet tall and, after the leaves are taken off, Mr. Nick puts them in the garage to winter. Hibernate-no water on them.   Come April, he waters and fertilizes them and then they are ready to grow.  Plumeria will then begin to make a stalk which will then flower (all different sizes and colors).  The flowers of Plumeria are used to make leis. Plumeria in Florida are planted in the ground and then grow into large trees very similar to our fig trees.  They need to be fertilized at least three times a year with the last time being in August. Flowers cut will have a stem of about two inches. Place that cut stem in water and the flower will last 2-3 days.  A ticket was drawn for an extra prize and Carmen Thompson won the Plumeria Sprout plant Mr. Nick has donated.  Sandy thanked Mr. Nick for his great presentation and gave him a gift.**

**Sandy told members that each member may need to bring two centerpieces to the District VI meeting.  This is dependent on how many tables are needed based upon the responses Carmen receives.**

**Sandy asked members if they knew where Belle Oaks Garden Club got its name?   Sandy said from Belle Wood and Oak Ridge subdivisions.**

**A stand has been bought for the Welcome Sign which Virginia Hawkins and her daughter, Cindy Whitaker, designed and had made for the District IV October 25th meeting. Sandy went on to elaborate more on some of her thoughts for decorating the Holiday Inn rooms.**

**Charlotte Shaw oversees ROTC and getting the flag.  Members need to make sure there is room for those coming in with the flag to pass between tables.**

**The question was asked, may we go the day before? Answer- “Yes, if nothing else is scheduled.”  Will know more as we get closer to that October 25th date.    Vicky Fannaly oversees providing Holiday Inn with the number of people who want fish or chicken as their choice of food from the Registration Forms.  Also, Cindy Miguez will handle Guest Name Seating Place Cards are needed for those at the Head Table.**

**Sandy wants some cornstalks for decorations.  Priced at $19.99 a bunch.  Maude Rizzuto is providing Gorilla Cart which also will need to be decorated and placed near the inside entrance.  Sandy asked for a volunteer for someone to make the announcement that the centerpiece at each table would be the door prize for each table.   Did someone volunteer to do this? Not sure if a volunteer is still needed or not.**

**Sandy was the only member to bring Horticulture.   Sandy brought a beautiful Limelight Hydrangea.  It needs full sun, acidic, moist soil.**

**Sandy adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M., mentioning that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 5:30 PM Hostess Vicky Fannaly with co-hostess Carmen Thompson and Darlene Breland.  Parliamentarian, Debbie Lobell, rang the shiny Parliamentarian Bell for adjournment.**