Club met at Darlene Breland’s for 5:30 meeting on Wednesday, August 9, 2023; refreshments provided by Cindy Miguez and Virginia Hawkins and Darlene.  Virginia blessed the food.  While we ate, Vicky Fannaly sold Raffle tickets for prize supplied by Rose Doles.  Debbie Lobell won.  Carmen Thompson, our Treasurer, counted $42 received from Raffle.

Maude Rizzuto called the roll.  There were 10 members present and guests: Carolyn Todd and Donna Moran.  Members present were Darlene Breland, Rose Doles, Sandy Grimm, Vicky Fannaly, Virginia Hawkins, Debbie Lobell, Cindy Miguez, Maude Rizzuto, Carmen Thompson and Charlotte Shaw.  The 5 members absent were: Rebecca Eisenman, John Grimm, Peggy Hoover, Tanya Pearson, and Rosemary Tobey.

Debbie Lobell, Parliamentarian, rang the bell and called the meeting to order.   Sandy Grimm, Club President, welcomed all.  She asked Maude Rizzuto to read the Club’s Prayer and Conservation Pledge. Our Recording Secretary, Tanya Pearson, was absent so Maude Rizzuto volunteered to take notes of the meeting.  Vicky Fannaly made a motion that the past minutes be dispensed with and Virginia Hawkins second this motion. Motion passed. Sandy reminded everyone that the minutes are e-mailed each month.  Carmen Thompson gave the short Treasurer’s Report.

Committee Reports:  Cindy Miguez, Yearbook Chairman, has been busy fine-tuning information for the yearbook.   It should be ready by our September meeting.

Tanya Pearson: Invitations-District VI meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.  Facebook? Tanya was absent.  Vicky said it is on LGCF website.  Maude Rizzuto, Corresponding Secretary, said all of Belle Oaks Garden Club members had been sent their Invitation plus the Registration Form.  The Registration Form and $40 check should be sent to Carmen Thompson.

Cindy Miguez brought of the issue of “what is the name of Belle Oaks Raffle? Is it Fifty-fifty?” It was decided that it is now called Raffle.  Darlene Breland made the motion and Virginia seconded. Raffle it is.  Rose Doles and Vicky Fannaly are in charge of Raffle.

Sandy passed out Registration Forms to members who wanted them.

Donna Moran, District VI Director, Thanked the members of the Belle Oaks Garden Club for doing the work of preparing for the District VI business meeting.  It has been settled that the meeting will take place at the Holiday Inn in Hammond; it is easy for most people to find, and they are also cooking for us. This is an event for all members of all of District VI clubs.  There are 16 clubs and every member of every one of these clubs is invited to be a part of this business meeting in October.  Charlotte Shaw asked about how many centerpieces would be needed and how much decorations?  Answer: each table, head table and the Speaker’s Podium.   Sandy later reminded members of Vicky’s suggestion that all members buy a potted chrysanthemum plant (the size and color of our choosing).  These would be placed and scattered throughout the rooms.  And because each Belle Oaks member bought the plant of their choosing, that member can then take that plant home after this event. We members thought this was a good way to help decorate in addition to the centerpieces.

Carolyn Todd, Ways and Means, then spoke to members about the Silent Auction for the District VI meeting.  Each club is asked to donate an item to be auctioned off.  The way this auction works is there is a sheet of paper in front of each item placed to be bidded on. There is a minimum bid recommended on that sheet.  A person can sign for the minimum bid or raise the bid and then more people can come and sign continually raising the bid.   The person willing to pay the highest for the item, wins that item.  People coming to The Silent Auction can bid on as many items as they are willing to pay should their bid be the highest. Carolyn says The Silent Auction is cash or check only—no credit cards. **Carolyn says she DOES NEED and want a Belle Oaks member to help her.  Carolyn needs one of you to help her, especially as the items are tallied and given to the highest bidders.** The Silent Auction will end probably before our speaker, Anna Timmerman, talks on Edible Flowers. Maybe you can let Sandy know if you can help Carolyn…

Donna Moran shared that each club pays the District VI $10 and that gives District VI an income of $150.  The Silent Auction is the District VI’s fundraiser. One of the best parts of this meeting is meeting other people and getting all excited about fall and the closeness of Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.  Donna also mentioned that Belle Oaks is an impressive club and has a good reputation in the state as a club that does things right and in a timely fashion.

Sandy spoke about the convention in Lake Charles and a bit about the different women who help to make the garden clubs great.  She also spoke about the different tours coming up and the friendships that are formed on those tours. (Please, refer to the email from Sandy and Donna about these tours-dated August 8th)

Sandy gave this agenda for the fall meeting:

INVOCATION: to be read by Jennifer Allen, Hammond GC

CONSERVATION PLEDGE: Snoann Willett, Covington GC

PLEDGE: Charlotte Shaw, Belle Oaks GC to introduce ROTC and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

CREDENTIALS REPORT:  Carmen R. Thompson, Belle Oaks GC

BLESSING OF FOOD: Merrie Bennett, Stem and Stamen GC

BENEDICTION: Jamie Trisler, Gonzales GC

Virginia Hawkins and her daughter, Cindy Whitaker, designed and had a beautiful Welcome Sign made to be used at the October meeting.  Maybe we need an easel to set it on??

Sandy reminded us that Carmen Thompson will handle the receiving of all the registration forms and Vicky Fannaly will take care of tabulating the meal portion of the forms for the Holiday Inn Chef and kitchen staff.

Debbie Lobell has the bags and sunflower seeds to be given as favors.  She and Charlotte Shaw will fill each bag and stamp with Belle Oaks Garden Club stamp.

Carmen Thompson mentioned that she will get Halloween candies and scattered them on the table.  She will personally donate these.

Charlotte Shaw is in charge of getting us an American Flag…maybe ROTC or Boy Scouts…maybe even an honor guard.

Sandy told us once again that any hay bales used at and in Holiday Inn are required to be given to representative of Holiday Inn a couple of days before our meeting.  These hay bales must be sprayed for bugs.  The question then come up…will the bales then be able to be given back for animal feed?  Debbie Lobell said she would look into it.  If needed, Belle Oaks Garden Club will purchase hay bales.

The centerpieces brought to this meeting were lovely.  Donna reminded us that each centerpiece must be real…no fake plants or fruit—no plastics.  Also the height of the centerpiece must be about 12 inches-She said, “Put your elbow on table; make a fist and at that height the centerpiece should be just about right.

There were about 8 centerpieces at the meeting.  Most will be used at the District VI meeting…with maybe a tweak or two.  Depending upon how many tables will be needed, we probably can make up the difference quickly and at last minute.

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING ON AUGUST 22ND AT REBECCA EISENMAN’S.  THE CENTERPIECES THAT WE WOULD HAVE MADE AT BECKY’S WERE ALREADY MADE FOR THIS AUGUST 9TH MEETING.   NO NEED FOR ANOTHER MEETING TO MAKE CENTERPIECES.

NEW BUSINESS:

Remember your yearly dues $30 are NOW DUE; Please, fill out and send your Registration Form for District VI Fall Meeting.  Also, we will be collecting food at the September meeting for Food Pantry at SLU; bring your food to the meeting.

OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH AT 5:30 PM. HOSTESS REBECCA EISENMAN, CO-HOSTESSES ARE ROSE DOLES AND MAUDE RIZZUTO.  PROGRAM: NICK PIAZZA WILL SPEAK ON PLUMERIAS. AND SANDY WILL PROBABLY GIVE   MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICT VI OCTOBER MEETING. REMEMBER TO BRING HORTICULTURE AND TO HELP PARTICIPATE IN OUR RAFFLE WITH YOUR $$$.

AUGUST MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.