

CALOOSA WINNIES

Local Chapter

The spirit of Christmas filled the clubhouse for the December 4—7, 2014 meeting of the Caloosa Winnies of SW Florida! All the decorations were hung in time for Happy Hour on Thursday at 4:00pm. The co-hosts for the weekend were busy at work, Sue & Bill Fuss, Belinda & Walter Feldgoise, Nick & Ginny Sanborn and everything was ready on time.



At Happy Hour 3 new members joined us—Charlie & Karen Autry, Dick & Kathy Behrens, Jorge & Orte Gil! They were given a WARM welcome and introduced to the group. After Happy Hour it was time to serve dinner, Chicken in soup gravy and side dishes donated by the members!



Soon it was time for the Ice Cream Social which is a Caloosa tradition! Our “Scoopers” were busy dishing up the treats! Soon after dinner it was time to invite the park residents to join us for some bingo games! The members who won games are Orte Gil, David Nobert, Barb Wilkie, Charlie Autry, and Pete Maceri split a pot with one of the residents! Congratulations to you all!

Friday morning a Potluck Breakfast was on the agenda with LOTS of GREAT food brought in the clubhouse! The rest of the morning was devoted to a craft project! Carolyn & Ed Thomas brought this idea to us—making a lighted bottle! Members were told to bring an empty wine or other beverage bottle and some glass stones or beads to use for filling. Carolyn ordered the LED lights so the supplies were complete! Ed & David Nobert spent their time drilling a hole in the bottles for the string of lights to be put inside then the members job was to fill it with stones to hide the wires! The challenge was on to do it! You’ll see by the picture here the goal was accomplished and what a beautiful display when they were all lighted at once! THANKS to Carolyn & Ed for the idea!



Friday afternoon the group held an informational session concerning our responsibilities for the March Rally. The duties are new to most of us this year and it was all explained and more details will be announced at the January meeting.

Friday Happy Hour commenced early at 3:30 for the group to leave early for a dinner reservation at Village Fish House in Fisherman’s Village in Punta Gorda. The restaurant did a great job of seating us and serving food and it was delicious! The evening event was a boat ride to see Christmas lights in the canals in Punta Gorda. It was a nice night—full moon—and the neighborhoods did a nice job of setting up light displays.



Saturday morning breakfast was prepared by Doug & LuAnne Taylor! They made crepes with fruit inside, bacon, sausage, eggs, just a GREAT treat for us!! This was delicious and everyone enjoyed it all!! THANKS to Doug & LuAnne for getting up early and feeding us!

The business meeting began at 10:00am presided over by Presidents David Nobert, Janice Cummings and the rest of the officer team. On the agenda was the election of new officers for 2015. Director Corinne Wightman presented the slate of candidates and called for nominations from the floor. Since none were offered, Corinne called for a vote by asking the Secretary to cast one ballot to make the voting official. Nancy Miller installed the new officers and there was a loud round of applause welcoming the new officer team! L to R: Presidents David Nobert & Janice Cummings, 1st VP's Ed & Carolyn Thomas, 2nd VP's Bud & Sue Swift, Treasurer Jerry Miller, Secretary Barb & Dave Wilkie. We know you'll do a terrific job and our THANKS for volunteering!!



Saturday afternoon was free time for shopping, napping, visiting, etc. We were happy to see Ed Tyndall, one of our members, drop by to say hello and pay his chapter dues for 2015! Also coming to visit were Doris & Bill Palmer who recently sold their coach. Happy Hour began again at 4:00pm with a presentation to Jim & Sally Rayburn by Nancy Miller for their 4 years of service as chapter Secretaries. THANKS to the Rayburns for doing a great job! Dinner was served at 5:30 with Ham being the main dish and various side dishes prepared by all the members. As always, we have the best cooks and there weren't many leftovers!



Soon it was time for our evening entertainment—our annual charity auction. This year the members were invited to bring a package with some kind of Christmas decoration, wrapped in Christmas paper. David Nobert was our chief auctioneer with his helpers Bud Swift and Dave Wilkie. Jerry Miller did the tally sheet keeping track of the bids! The “auction signs” were raised so many times—and the laughter was everywhere in the room! The proceeds from the auction will be donated to our charity Joshua House. This charity takes care of young abused children. Our auction raised \$2,141.00 and one of our most generous members doubled the donation PLUS an additional donation! It was a wonderful evening filled with laughs and friendship!



Sunday morning was our usual coffee, donuts and bagels breakfast before departing until the next meeting January 20, 2015. This will be overlapped with the Winnie Gators State Meeting so we hope to see YOU! Check our schedule at www.winniegators.org and WIT Club Who's inviting Travelers! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers!