



ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

Presented by:

Aislinn Maldonado
President

Executive Summary

This report is compiled as required by the Bylaws of our organization. It serves as a summary of the events, initiatives, and progress made within the organization over the past year. The Board met monthly through 2024. General Meetings were voted to discontinue when the new bylaws were adopted, which occurred in April 2024. Each heading to follow represents a summary of events that occurred throughout the year.

The Board of Directors consists of the following members:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Aislinn Maldonado | President |
| Brad Sutton | Vice President |
| Jeff Raible | Treasurer |
| Dina Ribaudó | Secretary |
| Cheryl Kasdorf | Public Relations Chair |
| Dan Streichan | Maintenance Chair |
| Daniel Maldonado | Highway Clean-up Chair |
| Dennis Kuhn | Nature Preserve Chair |
| Gwendolyn Kielblock | Pool Chair |
| Robert Kielblock | Membership Chair |
| Sylvia Yost | Pond Chair |
| Wendy McCants | Social Activities Chair |
| Cathy Foley | Board Member |
| David Hoover | Board Member |
| Jessa Wolczak | Board Member |
| Jill Whitener | Board Member |
| Tia Martinez | Board Member |

Connections and Volunteers

In March of 2023, we started with a Board consisting of 12 members. We are now a board consisting of 17. This is an election year, and that number may change but for the most part our Board of Directors will remain the same. This past year we have established more than 1,500 connections. These connections consist of Volunteers, Pool Monitors, New Members, Event Attendees, Meeting Attendees, Facility Rentals and Distributed Membership Bags.

Community Events

This past year we took a different approach to our Community Events. We learned from the previous year that people may still not be ready to gather together. We still held our most successful events from the previous year, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Luau, and the Trunk or Treat. Our Talent show had a new spin on it and was called the Variety Show. We also had our first Chili Cook-Off and did our first Parade. We're looking forward to holding those events again this upcoming year.

Financial Summary

As of March 7, 2024, the total count of active memberships was 274. Currently we have only 72 Active Memberships. Our database has 448 records of expired memberships. There are two main causes for this. One, is we did not have a Membership Chair for the majority of 2024. The other is because our strategic focus has been on developing alternative revenue streams and building business to business partnerships rather than relying on the community for support while we were making so many changes. This was intentional as we need members to support who we are becoming and be an integral part of the community.

2024 presented a few financial challenges. Our biggest being our Liability Insurance. This had to be renewed at a much greater cost than in previous years due to our previous insurance carrier discontinuing our coverage. We received a letter stating the main cause was because we made too many claims. Our current insurance came to us at a cost of about \$14,000. Previously our liability coverage cost was \$6,000. This had a definite effect on our overall budget. While we were seeking our best option for Liability Insurance, we paused event rentals thus not generating income while we were waiting for the result. We did not have a lapse in coverage, and we are committed to ensuring that we have the proper coverage to conduct the operations of the organization.

In an effort to invest in our main property, referred to as the Community Hall, we have been pursuing a business loan or line of credit. After engaging with more than a dozen financial institutions, we have met a wall. Our lending status is unfavorable because we do not show sufficient revenue and are not designated as a favorable type of non-profit.

Strategic Planning Efforts

Our strategic focus shifted last year to identifying ways to connect, support and provide value to the community members. This is still very much in progress for the year to come. In 2024, we sought out education and connections with other local non-profit organizations. In September of 2024, the Board President attended the ASU Loadstar Nonprofit Board Governance Training. This has led to making several connections and has brought a new level of insight into what this Board of Directors could become.

We also began exploring the possibility of changing our Nonprofit status. There are over 25 different designations of an organization's nonprofit status. We are

currently a 501(c)(4). This type of nonprofit status is not tax deductible. And thus, it is less favorable for donations. After conducting research, we are inclined to pursue making a change to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. This will take some time to accomplish but it will allow us to make a monumental and impactful shift towards our service to the community.

As we continue to grow, our vision is to create a community-driven space where people connect, share experiences, and support one another. Plans for the coming year include:

- Further investment in facilities and infrastructure.
- Strengthening community partnerships.
- Expanding community programs and connections.

A cornerstone of our strategic plan is to focus on connecting with other local nonprofits and Yavapai County Agencies to see what partnerships and programs can be developed. We're happy with the progress and look forward to developing those relationships. Those relationships include:

- Friends of the Verde River is considering utilizing our facilities under a long-term lease for their vision of a River Center.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yavapai County is looking to work together for our Variety Show in June. We could see their team ups of Bigs and Little perform acts together. We're also looking for their support with launching a program centered around a nonprofits program to help educate and protect our community youth from Fentanyl and other substances.
- Yavapai County Adult Probation Community Restitution is working to assist their probationers connect with our organization to serve their community by assisting with the necessary maintenance and projects for our properties. We

are also working to develop a program where they can make plastic mats for homeless individuals.

- Yavapai County Sheriff's Neighborhood Watch is working with us to support the creation of local Neighborhood Watch groups in each of the 8 units that make up the Verde Village.

VVCC Properties

Community Hall – In 2024 we hosted several events, and the community has rented this facility over 50 times. This facility is also home to the local Hula group and a Homeschool Group and Hale's Roofing also uses this facility regularly. In 2024, the flooring began to show significant signs of wear. This has motivated the board to approve the investment of \$15,000 to the dramatic renovation of this space. The work is to be completed during the month of March this year.

Del Rio Pond – In January 2024, several Board Members attended the Cottonwood Ditch Association's Annual Board Meeting and made a presentation regarding the future of this property. As a result, there was an extension of three years approved for their Association to continue supplying our pond with water. Thus, making the need for a new water source to be established by 2028. This property needs a significant investment to sustain. So far, the estimates have been between \$60,000 and \$80,000. This property has its challenges, and we are working through them.

Nature Preserve – After meeting with and discussing a future for this property with every state, county and even local level of government we are still seeking a responsible steward of this property. We are currently in

discussion with Friends of the Verde River regarding them assuming this property because we feel they will best maintain this property.

Conclusion

This year has been one of growth, transition, and resilience. Our collective efforts continue to shape a strong, connected, and sustainable organization. We invite all members of the community to engage, participate, and help build a space where life happens together. We have come together and are still here because we care. We see value in what we're doing and we have enriched our lives in doing so.

“No one cares what you know until they know that you care.” – Theodore Roosevelt