Chairman’s Corner

Updates on Important ORC Topics

Ongoing communications with all of our members is one of my most important objectives. It's not easy! Town Hall meetings usually address only about 400 of our 4,000 members. So this regular newspaper column will try to update you on current topics of interest. So far, it's been a very active month.

Haitian Relief Efforts
Executive Director of Human Resources Mark Kirkendall, Chief Steward Max Sanon, Accounting Associate Patrick Jean-Claude and the Anglers Club's Bertrand Toussaint flew to Haiti this Wednesday, with transportation donated by Avianor. They will hopefully witness the arrival of the first container delivered by the Great Commission Alliance, targeted for the families of our Associates. Again, thank you for your continued support, it's meaningful and very much appreciated.

New Golf Course Superintendent

I'm pleased to announce that our extended search for a new golf course superintendent is complete. Juan Gutierrez from El Camaleon Golf Club in Riviera Maya, Mexico, and formerly from Kapalua Golf & Spa in Maui, Hawaii, has joined the Ocean Reef team.

Juan has an excellent resume combined with regional golf course experience. We believe Juan shares the same vision as your Board and Club management for the standards of excellence we expect. Juan will be on property by April 5. We are planning a very active summer maintenance program to assure we have the required base on which to build.

Club Census

The census is in the final stages of completion and will be announced & distributed in late February or early March. This very important fact finding, trends and forecasting tool will be the basis of future planning for your Board, so please complete when published and nudge your fellow members to do the same.

Strategic Planning

Round two of your Board’s review will be held March 24. Issues for discussion include consolidation opportunities that may be warranted, future capital planning and our present members’ requirements.

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Auction Weekend Starting

All Charities Fundraiser
Wine Tasting, Live Auction

At 4 p.m. this afternoon, the All Charities Auction Weekend will kick-off two days of celebratory fundraising events with a Wine Tasting, Live Auction & Preview Party in Heron Hall.

Now in its third year, the All Charities Auction Weekend was created to concentrate fundraising efforts for a host of outstanding local charities, including The Academy Art League, Medical Center, Cultural Center Rod & Gun Club and the beneficiaries of the Ocean Reef Foundation Community Grants Fund, which includes causes both on and
ORC Aid Reaches Families of Haitian Associates

By Kristen Burnie
Director of Communications

Throughout the past week, a team of Ocean Reef and Anglers Club Associates successfully delivered 150 food packages to Haitian family members of the two clubs’ employees.

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, Ocean Reef Executive Director of Human Resources Mark Kirkendall, Chief Steward Max Sanon, Accounting Associate Patrick Jean-Claude and Anglers Club’s Groundskeeper Bertrand Toussaint flew from Ocean Reef Club to Tamiami Airport, where they awaited departure for their pre-scheduled 3 a.m. landing time in Port Au Prince. Transportation was donated by Avantair.

Once in Haiti, the Ocean Reef team used Sanon’s home as the base for distributing the food packs, which had been purchased and transported using member donations, with the help of the non-profit organization the Great Commission Alliance. With assistance from Sanon’s brother and friends, the group split up each morning, delivering the food packs to Associate family members in different neighborhoods, and returning to Sanon’s home before dark.

“They had huge smiles,” Kirkendall said of those receiving the food. “I received six or eight phone calls thanking me and thanking the Club, just over those few days.”

Kirkendall returned to the US on Saturday, Feb. 13, while Sanon and the others stayed in Haiti to distribute the remaining food packs. By the time they departed on Tuesday, they had distributed 150 packages of food containing rice, beans, cornmeal, canned meats, canned fruits and oil.

Club management met on Thursday afternoon to determine whether a second relief trip would occur next week. Strategies for providing additional relief are also in the works.

To date, member donations for aiding Haitian Associates total more than $300,000, thanks in part to a single, generous donation made last week. Those who wish to donate through the Foundation can do so through their Donor Advised Accounts or by writing a check to the

Ocean Reef Foundation, with “Haiti Relief” in the memo. Donations can be dropped off at the Cultural Center Office or mailed to 200 Anchor Drive, Key Largo, FL 33037. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Yurianna Mikolay at 367-4707.