

The first organizational meeting for GLEE (Gem Lakes- Engaging Everyone) was held on Thursday, March 12, 2015, at 6:00 pm in the Gym at South Aiken Presbyterian Church. There were 22 residents present.

Vicki Thomas and Joyce Stanley, co-leaders of GLEE, welcomed the attendees which included long-time residents, former GLOW members, and new residents to Gem Lakes. Acknowledgement was given to the GLOW organization for the many services that they provided in the past. They spoke about the vision for GLEE which would include not only projects and activities that would be beneficial to the Gem Lakes neighborhood but also some outreach into the greater Aiken community.

GLEE will work in cooperation with our Gem Lakes Recreation Association. Gary Marozas, President of GLRA, and Carol Lepp, Board Member, were in attendance and in support of the new GLEE organization.

There was a short presentation of GLEE needs. Since the organization is just being formed, there is a need for by-laws, guidelines, communication methods, street captains, committee persons, etc.

The two primary projects for GLEE this calendar year will be (1)the collection of data, printing, and distributing a new Gem Lakes Directory and (2)coordinating a community-wide luminary night in December.

The attendees brainstormed ideas of projects that would be appropriate for GLEE involvement. The ideas are as follows:

Entrance beautification, yard assistance for neighborhood, care groups to assist or check on people, meal train for residents with illness, craft groups, sides for the pavilion to allow use in inclement weather, progressive dinners, community garden, programs with speakers such as Master Gardeners, community-wide yard sale, community picnic for Christ Central families, welcome baskets for new residents, baby-sitting list, continuation of Spooky to be Hungry, card groups, special interest groups, etc.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at 6:00 pm at the Pavilion in the recreation area.