

Chronological History of The Grand Deaf

NOTE: From 1997, the group was known as Sun City Grand (SCG) Deaf. In 2024 SCG was renamed as *The Grand*.

1997

October

1st Deaf residents from Springfield, IL: Allois and Peter Wahl

2003

Glass Arts

John Minter, Sandy Pittaro, and Kathy Tako were the first members conducted by a hearing instructor. After 2014, Diane Kilthau started the class for the deaf. Currently, Marie Cacciatore is the liaison to the Arts Board for the Deaf community. There are 16-18 members.

Golfing

Peter Wahl, Fred Bass, John Minter, and Emory Marsh were the first Deaf members.

2004

Club Members Request Grand Recognition, May 2004, NewsClipping

See at the end of this document.

First Deaf Ladies Putter Tournament

Barbara Bass, Geraldine Francini, Jeanne Marsh, Cindy Minter, Kathy Tako, Kathy Werra, and Marlene Wiener

Surprise Today Newspaper Clipping

"Club Members Request Grand Recognition, May 25, 2004

2005

Pickleball

Sandy Pittaro was the first Deaf member

2006

Woodshop

Tom Tako was the first deaf member.

2007 - 2008 Circa

ASL Club

Norbert and Dr. Lawrence (Larry) Forestal met with Mitzi, the CEO of SCG and requested a room for social activities. The Board members required that we must have 100 deaf resident before getting a space. At the time, there were about 28 Deaf residents.

Larry wrote a letter to Mitzi and the board members explaining that we paid HOA fees and felt restricted from our privileges as SCG residents. Further, it was explained that according to ADA accessibility law and regulations, SCG violated our rights for access to use the public area. Finally, the Board approved that we could have three meeting rooms per month for social activities with the understanding that we pay dues to the Language Club's new section, American Sign Language (ASL).

Larry Forestal and Geraldine Francini volunteered to teach ASL for two years. Then Walter Werra took over to teach and became a liaison between the Language Club and ASL club. Later Peter Wahl took Walter's place as liaison and Kathleen as assistant.

2024 - Susie Tighe is the liaison and vice-president of Language for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing members. Currently, Barbara Ray Holcomb and Ellen Kowalczyk are the ASL instructors.

Bocce Club

16 Deaf resident, with the help of Bocce Coordinator Pat Scully, started a Bocce group in 2007.

2024 - We have 30 full-time and 10 alternate players.

Paper, Arts, and Memories

Cindy Minter and Geraldine Francini were the first members in 2007.

2017

Board of Directors' Meeting - April 13

Roz Rosen, Bud Singleton, Sam Holcomb, with alternate members: Norbert Enos, Geraldine Francini, and Raymond Kilthau received the news that the board approved the \$10,000 allotted for ASL interpreters' expenses. We now can choose from a variety of classes.

Opportunities expanded to allow Deaf residents to participate in arts, pickleball, golfing, woodshop classes, and other The Grand (former SCG) club activities.

Deaf Access Committee (Interpreting, Captioning; and other related issues)

Budget for interpreters, captioning is \$25,000 per annum.

2004 - Current members are Alan Hurwitz, Chair; Geraldine Francini, and Dinaz Adenwalla.

Drama and Comedy Club

2024 Founded by Roz Rosen