

Rotary



**Rotary Club of Merced Sunrise &
Merced Sunrise Rotary Club Charity**
Zone 26, District 5220, Area 8, Club 22798
PO Box 3262 Merced, California 95344
www.mercedsunriserotary.org

Date: September 12, 2019
Time: 6:00PM
Location: Doncaster Court, Merced
Roll Call:

Officer	Title/Charge	Present	Absent
Pope Lawrence	President	X	
Doug Forte	President Elect	X	
Eric Moore	Vice President	X	
Mike Cuchna	Past President	X	
Eric Moore	Secretary	X	
Cristian Lopez	Treasurer	X	
Director			
Robert Garcia	Community	X	
Steve Hobbs	Vocational	X	
Sam Traina	Club	X	
Regina Cherf	International		X
Butch Hughes	Youth	X	
Chair			
Karla Seijas	Membership		X
Donald Barclay	Foundation	X	
Sara Fleszar	Field of Honor		X
Michael Pavlović	Field of Honor		X

Guests:

Reference: Monthly Board Meeting

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Pope.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** M/S/C, Eric/Mike C/Aye.
- 3. Approval of August 8, 2019 Board Minutes:** M/S/C, Sam/Mike C/Aye.

4. Leadership Reports.

A. President.

1. **Yosemite Veterans Leadership Seminar.** Pope provided an update on the successful conclusion of this project. Long in the making and co-sponsored by a variety of corporate, government and education institutions under the supervision of UC Merced Academic Coordinator Steve Shackleton, the Club can take some pride and credit in supporting the beginning of an important regional and sustainable Veteran project.
2. **Secretary Vacancy.** Pope formally noticed the Board that Holley stepped-down as Secretary. Holley never formally assumed her role in July with the new fiscal year while she was away for work. Eric will continue as Acting Secretary in addition to his Vice President and RCC duties until a suitable replacement is found. Hank will assist in the coming months as necessary.
3. **Foundation Dinner.** Pope announced the District Foundation Dinner on November 16 and will make efforts to secure one or more tables for interested members in addition to securing auction items. Mike C wanted to invite Rotaract as well.
4. **District Governor Visit.** DG Pierce will visit the Board October 10 at Ravello's Restaurant and attend the morning meeting on October 11. Mike C will also invite two Rotaract students.
5. **Foundation Giving Goal.** Pope quizzed the Board about an appropriate Giving Goal for his year to post in RI Club Central. \$6,000, or \$187.50 per active member was agreed to by motion. M/S/C, Sam/Steve/Aye.
6. **Engagement Summary.** Pope and Doug discussed the ongoing use of the DACdb Engagement system to track Club volunteerism. The Club seems to be dominating the District reporting by being one of the few clubs to participate. The Club is using Merced Field of Honor and other smaller projects as a test. Eric estimated the Club is only capturing half the reportable hours. Members are to report weekly Engagement hours and the Secretary enter them with weekly Attendance. Members may also report their hours directly. There is an emerging metric across the Volunteer/Non-profit Industry attempting to measure and report the “economic value” of volunteerism. Here, the Club reports over \$2,544 for 106 recorded hours (estimated \$24/hr) through DACdb. It is unknown to what purpose or end this reporting serves.

B. President Elect.

1. **Shrimp Feed.** Doug will begin pre-planning upon his return from business.
2. **Merced Rotary Club.** Doug had some contact with the other Merced club regarding how certain Club documents were organized and presented. The Club attempts to deploy all documents publicly on the Club website.

C. Secretary.

1. **New Member Nomination.** Eric nominated a new member for orientation. The Board discussed and approved. M/S/C, Eric/Mike C/Aye.

D. Vice President.

1. **Merced Police MFOH Grant – Revisited.** Eric brought forward new information about the previously declined \$10,000 request. The Board discussed and Sam thought it important that the Board rely upon a procedure with a dedicated committee separate from the Board to review and recommend MFOH granting. While policy was set the first year of MFOH, which included non-Club member participation, it has not been formally used over the last three years and hence the need to revisit best practices. Sam thought more structure was needed for all requests. Butch wanted the grantee to give a presentation. There is a tension and recognition between supporting first responder activities, but not subsidizing government budgets with Club monies. It could take two to three years to formalize matters. No action was taken pending an updated grant policy and procedure.

E. Immediate Past President.

1. **President's Discretionary Budget Increase.** Sam reopened the tabled motion to increase the President's Discretionary Budget by \$10,000 in additional monies from the Charity accounts for a total annual budget of \$12,000. The purpose of the increase in funds is to address certain un-budgeted grant requests received by the Club/Charity throughout the year. The matter was approved by the Board for a final Club vote. M/S/C, Mike C/Sam/Aye.
2. **Foundation & Membership Chairs as Voting Board Members.** Mike C brought forward a motion to make the subject Chairs voting members on the Board. Mike C relayed how important these Chairs are to the vitality of the Club and hence their voting participation. RI requires Giving and Membership growth to obtain the Annual Citation. The Board agreed and directed Mike C and Eric to review all aspects of the current bylaws and suggest amendments thereto for the Club final approval. M/S/C, Mike C/Sam/Aye.
3. **Report on Rotaract.** Mike C has been mentoring Rotaract. The first general meeting had 25 members and has an active board and is tabling on campus for more members. The group is looking to formalize their meetings like the Club, including speakers. The Club shall endeavor to supply speakers and otherwise help to revive this student effort. The group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings. The group wishes to attend the DG visit as well.
4. **Merced College Plaza Project.** Mike C noticed the Board on its \$2,500 donation toward the Merced College improvement project on October 17 or after. More to come.

F. **Treasurer.** Cristian handed-out reimbursement forms pending increased expenses related to MFOH. The forms can also be found on the Club website.

G. **Club Service.**

1. **Gifts and Granting.** Pope appointed Sam to express some thoughts based upon his deep experience with government grants and higher education. Sam posited a series of questions to the Board wanting to frame future policy on responses. The idea of a “competitive” grant process begs a deadline and ranking of set criteria to evaluate completeness and value against other submissions. The developing grant policy need not be competitive. A separate committee may be necessary to review and make recommendations for a larger Board vote. Sam thought the existing Rotary District process provided structure and transparency. The frequency of review remains an open question. A community disclosure of the amount of money available during each review window has value. Pope stated the traditional way the Club gave money was simply by hearing an impassioned plea from a guest speaker. The amount of money and competing values challenges this traditional *ad hoc* approach to supporting any community. Don made the observation that many of these improvements are needed exactly because the Club has been too successful in raising money. Eric wanted the Club to adopt the same grant criteria used by RI for its Global Grants in that gaining such underwriting experience could position the Club to write its own grants to bring funding to Merced County. Sam thought a five member grant committee would be enough. Sam will produce a draft policy for Board discussion expecting several revisions. The final policy and bylaw amendments will be subject to a Club vote.

2. **Pending Grant Requests.** Sam submitted four requests to the Board for review.

- a. **American Legion Color Guard.** \$500 for travel expenses contingent on \$500 in matching funds. M/S/C, Sam/Doug/Aye.
- b. **Atwater Rotary Mexico Classroom Project.** \$1,000. M/S/C, Steve/Doug/Aye.
- c. **RCC - Livingston Young Men's Conference.** \$1,000. M/S/C, Steve/Doug/Aye.
- d. **Merced Youth Connect.** \$1,000. M/S/C, Steve/Doug/Aye.

H. **Community Service.** Robert has a Peace Pole project scheduled for Boys & Girls Club in addition to other community service projects in concert with RCC, the Merced County District Attorney Office, Merced Police Department and Valley Crisis Center. MFOH volunteer sign-up is beginning soon at Signup.com. MFOH needs over 500 volunteer hours. Robert and RCC will be working with area youth sports teams too.

I. **Youth Service.** Butch had a question about a \$500 Bob Hobbs Flag Football grant. Steve and Butch will solve this matter.

J. **Vocational Services.** Steve noticed the Club for the El Capitan HS visit tomorrow. Steve wanted to access his budget for high school CTE scholarships and not just Merced College.

K. **Foundation.** No report.

L. **Membership.** Robert reported on behalf of Karla that she is the only person to sign-up for MFOH volunteer duty so far.

M. **International Service.** No Report.

5. **Next Meeting Date:** October 10, 2019, 6PM, Ravello's Restaurant, Merced

6. **Pope adjourned the Meeting:** 7:48 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

/Eric A. Moore/
Secretary (Acting)
October 6, 2019