



Merced Sunrise Rotary Club & Charity
Club# 22798, District #5220

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 12, 2016
Time: 5:35PM
Location: Richard Miller's (T) home, 5671 Carmela Court, Merced, California
Members Present: Bob Casey (P), Mike Altomare (PE), Rich Miller (T), Eric Moore (S), Douglass Forte (International Service Chair), Regina Cherf (Club Service Chair), Dortha Chu (Community Service Chair), Francis Hughes (Youth Service Chair), Donald Barclay (Vocational Service Chair)
Members Absent: Mike Cuchna (VP), Frank Reed (Rotary Foundation Chair), (VACANT - Membership Chair), Cathy Paskin (Immediate PP)
Guests: Alan Arnold, Eugene Gantry
Reference: General Monthly Board Meeting

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by President Casey.
2. **Roll Call** as listed above.
3. **Approval of Agenda (attached):** M/S/C Altomare, Forte, Aye.
4. **Approval of Board Minutes from August 24, 2016 Board Meeting:** M/S/C Altomare, Cherf, Aye.
5. **Approval of Board Minutes from September 1, 2016 Board Meeting:** No Minutes taken.
6. **Leadership Reports**
 - A. **President.**
 1. **Club Secretary.** On August 31, 2016, Secretary Galen Chastain submitted written resignation (hereto attached) of his Secretary position and requested a three month Leave of Absence (LOA) as a Club member until December 1, 2016. This unexpected notice gave the Club no effective Secretary to take minutes at the September 1st, 2016 Board meeting and impaired minor Club functions. New

Club member Eric Moore volunteered to act as Secretary going forward with the understanding that there is a learning curve for a new Rotarian acting as Club Secretary and Board member, in addition to Moore's co-chair for sponsorships in the Field of Honor (herein "FOH") project. Chastain's LOA was accepted and approved as was Moore's role as Secretary until such other date as the Board determines. The matter was discussed and approved. M/S/C Forte, Hughes, Aye.

2. **Central Valley Honor Flights.** The matter of the Club supporting future Honor Flights was discussed, as was documenting the Club's role and local beneficiaries for District purposes going forward. The Board will endeavor to support local veterans and this service activity going forward.
3. **Rotary Foundation Dinner.** Currently Altomare and Casey plan to attend the annual Rotary Foundation Dinner on November 5th. It is the Foundation's 100th anniversary. There is a conflict with large Club attendance as the Dinner coincides with the set-up of FOH and is located in Stockton 80 miles away. Additionally, the Club is responsible for providing final Club attendance by October 20 and must minimally provide one silent auction item, cash donation or gift card valued at \$150. There was discussion about gathering funds from membership to purchase auction items in exchange for credit against the annual \$150 Foundation contribution and that a typical dinner for two at the event would cost \$120. Miller suggested that Club membership might be persuaded to convert the cost of travel and Dinner to meeting their suggested annual Foundation giving. (Altomare thought this was a great idea and insisted this recognition be placed into the minutes.) District recognition of Club support of Foundation activities is important to all stakeholders in particular to help underwrite future international projects. A Foundation Dinner Auction Form was presented.

B. President-Elect.

1. **Nominating Committee.** In consideration of Immediate Past President LOA, a Nominating Committee needs to be formed with a chairperson to select a Vice President Elect and/or other Directors by December 1, 2016 so that a new Vice President Elect can be announced at the annual Christmas Dinner. Gary Hogston, John Barnhart and Alan Arnold were the suggested selection committee. Miller volunteered to act on the committee. The President will finalize the committee for further discussion and future Board approval.

2. **Shrimp Feed. Project** PE Altomare commenced Shrimp Feed Project work.
3. **Veterans' Boulevard Project.** The PE and T are visiting area Rotary Clubs raising money for the Veterans' Boulevard Project and issuing awareness of the FOH. Project reception has been well received.

C. **Vice President.**

1. **Programs.** The VP sent an email reporting that Club programs are booked through December 2016.

D. **Treasurer.**

1. **Financial Report.** The Board was presented with a fiscal year-to-date budget and actual Income Statement and Balance Sheet for both the Club and Charity. The Board and Club members are encouraged to ask questions at any time.

E. **Secretary.**

1. **Foundation Dinner.** Additional information regarding the District event was provided, including the requirement to provide an auction item or other gift valued at \$150 or more. The Club will study a local business auction solution. A sign-up sheet will be passed-out at the next Club meeting.
2. **Special Meeting – FOH.** The Board was presented with Special Meeting Minutes from an *ad hoc* Board meeting held September 23, 2106 that allowed FOH co-chair Nancy Edmiston to approve payment of related FOH expenses without being a Director. A copy of the Special Meeting Minutes is attached hereto. The Board discussed and approved. M/S/C Altomare, Cherf, Aye.
3. **Club Attendance.** The Acting Secretary commented that Club attendance was being recorded lower than average with members Norman Andrade, Bob Harmon and Michelle Allison being notably absent. Part of the attendance issue was due to the chaotic Secretary transition during September. It was suggested that absentee members were doing make-up meetings, but not informing the Secretary to amend attendance. It is the responsibility of each member to report make-up meetings and otherwise make their attendance known to the Secretary as accurate as possible. The Secretary will make an announcement at the Club

meeting and PMail to enunciate the existing policy and improve recorded attendance to the District in a timely fashion.

7. Activity Reports

A. Community Service.

1. **Chair/Director Replacement.** Dortha Chu announced that she is leaving Merced and the Club by January 2017 for employment purposes. Chu suggested Dwayne Young replace her as Community Service Chair and is responsible to organize a suitable Chair replacement in the coming months.

B. Vocational Service.

1. **Vocational Trips.** A successful vocation trip to Merced Fire Station 51 was acknowledged by all. The next vocational trip is expected to be Foster Farms followed by UC Merced facilities plant and UC Merced electron microscope. The weekly "Inspirational Rotarian" talk will continue.

C. International Service.

1. **Uganda Hand-Dug Water Well Project.** Rotarian Moses Ssebagala, Club Project Chair, Kasangati #59565, District #9211, Kampala, Uganda made a Club presentation on September 30th, 2016. Immediately following the presentation, the Club voted and approved to fund \$2,500 already budgeted to Merced Sunrise International Projects on a subject sustainable hand-dug water well constructed at or near a school under the direct supervision of the subject Kampala Club in accordance with normal and customary RI grant directives. In order to fully fund the project, the International Chair requests an additional \$1,000 from the Club President's Reserve account for \$3,500 in total project grant making. The President's Reserve account is available at the President's sole discretion and no further Club vote is believed necessary to fund the project at this time. A project prospectus is attached hereto for further review. Final approval and dispersal of funds is contingent upon final due diligence with no material changes and authorization performed by the International Chair in accordance with RI practices. The Board discussed the matter at length and approved subject funding and related terms and conditions. The Board approved use of the President's Reserve and funding the \$3,500 final and not otherwise subject to another Club vote. Approved M/S/C Altomare, Miller, Aye.

2. **Unknown Projects.** The Chair pointed out that their budget included several undocumented, unknown or stale projects. The Chair seeks more information to bring coherence and clarity to future projects.

D. Club Service/Administration.

1. **Membership Chair.** At the urging of the Club Service Chair, Alan Arnold was asked and accepted to be the Club's new Membership Chair. No further vote was necessary.

E. Youth Service.

1. **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Camp.** There is a general concern that RYLA Camp fees will double from \$50 to \$100 per applicant this fiscal year and that the current amount budgeted (\$300) is not enough to support the expected six to eight students. Just as the Ugandan Hand-Dug Water Well Project required additional monies to completely fund, there is a concern that other Club accounts may need adjustments to support this long-supported activity – including moving monies across different Service accounts and otherwise operate outside the already Club approved budget. There was discussion that an under-performing Community fund like Boys & Girls Club or the President's Reserve may need to be used to otherwise fulfill this Rotaract related activity, but to what extent can Chairs and/or the Board make changes without Club consent? This contingency brings-up a “threshold question” as to when is an intra-year budget adjustment *de minimis* or material - requiring a general Club membership vote or can the Chair and/or Board act independent. A review of Club Bylaws will be performed to clarify. However, the Board will entertain any objection or other finding from Club membership if tendered in writing seven (7) days from the public posting of these subject minutes. The President will make an announcement and outreach to otherwise inform the Club of material budget changes or a change in decision making in the spirit of the Four-Way Test.
2. **District Speech Contest.** The District Speech Contest was discussed. More information is forthcoming.

3. **Clothes for Kids.** The project, in conjunction with Love, Inc., Target, Inc, and the District was discussed. 80 to 85 children are expected with a budget of \$100 per child. A budget of \$7,500 is approved.

F. Foundation Update.

1. **No Report.**

G. FOH

1. **No Report.**

H. Additional Items.

1. **Micro-Grant for Disabled Person's Bicycle.** Alan Arnold made a request for a \$400 micro-grant made through his church, Shepard of the Valley Lutheran Church, or other lawful entity for use by a church patron to design and fashion a single specialty bicycle for a local disabled person. The Board discussed the matter and requested additional information on both the church and the wheelchair-related activity in order to satisfy minimal grant underwriting. While the Board was not adverse to making the subject grant, a normal and customary application needs to be made to satisfy a Board or Club vote. A Board vote is tabled until more information is supplied.
2. **Senior Brown Bag Program.** North Merced Rotary is raising funds for the Merced County Food Bank – specifically the Senior Brown Bag Program. The Club will explore supporting this project in the near future.

**Next Meeting Date: 5:30PM November 15, 2016 at 5671 Carmela Court, Merced, California
(Rich Miller's (T) home.)**

Meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Eric A. Moore

(Acting) Secretary

October 16, 2016

/Atts.

ATTACHMENTS

MERCED SUNRISE BOARD MEETING October 12th, 2016

- Welcome
 - a. Approval of Agenda
 - b. Approval of minutes of Aug 24th Meeting
 - c. September 1st meeting
(No Minutes Reported)

- Leadership Reports
 - a. President (Casey)
 - 1. GALEN LOA
 - 2. CVHF
 - 3. Foundation Dinner
 - b. President Elect (Altomare)³
 - c. Vice President (Cuchna)
 - 1. Programs
 - d. Treasurer's Report (Miller)

 - e. Secretary's Report (Moore)

- Directors Activity Reports
 - a. Community (Chu)
 - b. Vocational (Barclay)
 - c. International (Forte)
 - d. Club Service (Cherf)
 - e. Youth (Hughes)

- Foundation Update (Reed)
- FOH
- Additional Items- Bikes for the disabled (Alan)

 - a. Next Board Meeting November

1567 San Luis Obispo Ct.
Merced, CA 95340-2666
August 31, 2016

Merced Sunrise Rotary
P.O. Box 3262
Merced, CA 95340

Dear President Casey,

I regret to inform you that I am hereby resigning my position as Secretary of Merced Sunrise Rotary, effective this date. Please accept this resignation as without cause. I know this is unexpected, but I am happy to assist you in the replacement process to help mitigate any adverse effect on you and Merced Sunrise Rotary.

I am also hereby requesting a three month leave of absence. I am profoundly appreciative for the opportunities Merced Sunrise has afforded me to serve the widespread interests of Rotary International, but a leave of absence from the club will serve my best interests at this time.

If there is anything I can do to help make the transition easier for you please let me know. I do not intend to inconvenience you with this news, and I hope you will accept my sincere apologies in making last Friday my final day as a Secretary of Merced Sunrise Rotary. For assistance during the transition, I will be available as a non-Rotarian for phone or email inquiries on an as-needed basis.

Thanks in advance for your understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,


Galen Chastain

Merced Sunrise Rotary
Special Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 23, 2016
Time: 7:30AM
Location: Paul's Place Restaurant and Bakery, Merced, California
Members Present: Mike Altomare, Rich Miller, Mike Cuchna, Dortha Chu, Regina Cherf,
Eric Moore, Donald Barclay
Members Absent: Bob Casey, Douglass Forte, Butch Hughes
Topic: Delegation of Authority for Merced Field of Honor Disbursements.

A special meeting of a quorum of the governing board of the Merced Sunrise Rotary was held this date to delegate authority to Nancy Edmiston, co-chair of the 2016 Merced Field of Honor (herein "MFOH") project, to independently approve all final disbursements related to MFOH activities and operations.

Club Treasurer Richard Miller stated that technically all disbursements from Club accounts must be approved by a Director or above. Mr Miller proposed and Regina Cherf seconded that Dortha Chu (Community Service Director) delegate authority to Nancy Edmiston to be able to approve all disbursements for MFOH since Ms Edmiston is more knowledgeable about the project's needs and timeline. This delegation of responsibility would expedite payment processes and otherwise provide timely and proper internal controls suitable to normal and customary audit requirements. There was no other discussion or topic.

It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric A. Moore

Acting Secretary

Project: Water Well in Uganda

Presented by: Rotarian Moses Ssebagala - Club Project Director
Club Association: Kasangati #59565 District# 9211 Kampala, Uganda
Current President: Ms. Sophie N Bamwoyeraki - email address sophiekb3000@gmail.com
Phone# +2567724119696

Personal Information about Moses:

personal email: sebamoses@yahoo.co.uk

Director-Children Safe Uganda

Moses may also be contacted at: childrensafeuganda@gmail.com

Kampala, Uganda, East Africa Phone +256 772 437615

Website www.childrensafeuganda.org

Facebook Page: [childrensafeuganda](https://www.facebook.com/childrensafeuganda)

Moses is requesting we partner with his club to install water wells in his immediate area. The club has requested a total of 9 wells, but we are hoping we can partner for this first one to see how things move along. Since Moses and I are hoping this first well will be a Sunrise Club sponsored project and not a huge RI Global Grant we are asking for help to get a Shallow Well (hand dug) done first. If things go well and we move forward with trying to get the other wells dug, we will try for a RI Global Grant and be targeting the Deep Well with pumps and taps.

The following are some question Moses has answered for me and may help answer some of your questions.

Cost of a well in your area?

Response; 1. Shallow well (Hand dug) is at \$3500

2. Deep well with solar pump, taps, among others is \$19,000

Where will the first well be put?

Response: we want to construct the well at the Shared Blessings Junior school so that children concentrate on their studies rather than spending time fetching water all the time, which is in the community of Makukuba. The well will be located in a public area, not closed off by a fence, so it will be accessible for public use also.

Is there someone local who could drill the well?

Response: Yes , we have people from Kampala who can help with that and we have tried them and they do well.

Would we need to get permission from the local government to drill a well?

Response: Yes we do but it's not a very big problem. We are always ok with them and it's their joy to see us supporting their work. However, there is a little fee that we give them.

Do you see and issues from the local government with this project moving forward if funded?

RESPONSE: if the project is funded, the government will support it but they cannot fund it since they don't have money to work it.

More on back of page also

Project: Water Well in Uganda

How many people would benefit from this project?

RESPONSE: Each village has not less than 150 families to 200 families on an average number of 5 people per family. (750 to 1000 people)

Who would accept responsibility for the future maintenance and upkeep of the well?

RESPONSE: We are operating in 9 villages, we put there a system already. we have what we call Rotary community Corp or Self Help Groups which operates in the community on our behalf. The committee has 30 members who are representing other Self Help Groups from all the nine villages of which each Self help Group has about 15 members who meets on a weekly basis for community cause, but the committee meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues about their community. They have people who are responsible for most of the things in the community and they are very committed. This groups involves local leaders, religious leaders, and members from Children Safe Uganda.

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