Minutes

Merced Sunrise Rotary

Board Meeting of August 10, 2015

Meeting convened at 5:35 PM

Members Present: Cathy Paskin, Theresa Cesar, Tim O’Neill, Galen Chastain, Dortha Chu, Rich Miller, Betsy Donovan

Members Absent: Mark Lutz, Bob Casey

Guests Present: Kyle Hoffman, Nancy Edmiston, Bud Gantney, Sheena Truong

Approval of Agenda: M/S/C Rich, Betsy

Approval of Minutes of 7/21 M/S/C Theresa, Tim

**Leadership Reports**

**President:** Cathy reported on recent club assembly at which she asked for members to sign up for service with each Director but said that sign ups lagging and a few members have not signed up for anything. She asked that each Director report to her the members who have signed for their particular avenue of service. There was a brief discussion about Terry Rosson. He will likely return but wants to take a break. Frank has agreed to be the Sgt. at Arms for this year. With regard to budget, there is no allocation for the wildflower project. Estimated cost is $1,500 and if we properly prepare the soil with mulch, it could run close to $2,000. The window of opportunity is November. Cathy reported that we have a $50,000 surplus, $30,000 of which is earmarked for Field of Honor, leaving only $20,000 for reserves. She then moved the agenda to oversight committee. Rich had comments various aspects of the budget focusing on a few items that are not in it. There was a discussion about the Giants game and the fact that it did not break even. Tim explained why it’s not possible to predict profit/loss on these trips. The discussion evolved to the issue of how much reserve we should have to withstand an unexpected and/or unplanned event. Lots of discussion about budgeted amounts and the allocations to which they are directed. Cathy suggested that the oversight committee come to the board with recommendations for how money should be spent. The discussion evolved to by laws and it was announced that the next bylaws committee meeting will be Aug. 26th at Rich Miller’s home. Tim and Mike Cuchna are on this committee. The committee plans to review the bylaws on line, study them and make certain changes, after which they will be brought to the Board for review and adoption. Once the board acts on the committee’s recommendation the proposed changes will be presented to the club membership for approval. Cathy discussed the District Governor’s visit that is scheduled for October 8th and 9th. It was suggested that we survey the interest of the membership before we make any elaborate plans for her visit.

**Vice President:** Betsy announced that all programs currently known to her have been posted to the club calendar with the exception of the Governor’s visit.

**President-Elect: absent**

**Treasurer:** Rich announced that the finance committee will soon be given a report about dues and the potential need to increase them. Original calculation were done when Rich was the President and it was based on the assumption that 40 meetings per year would be conducted, hence the $185 for club, district and national and the remainder ($240 or $6/meal) for breakfasts brings the total to $425 if member pays annually rather than quarterly. The $425 we are collecting now causes the operating budget to be out of balance. Breakfast at $10 instead of $6 would be reasonable. That would increase annual dues to $585. If we continue to operate at $425/year, there will be no reserve in 3 years. Tim asked about charging charities an administration fee. Rich opined there is no drain from charities to operations. Rich also announce that the $5,000 we spend out of the Charities account for one person to attend the international convention is not legal. Rich shared all of the director’s budgets in the operations account with the board and announced that there are expenses from last year that we are paying this year which creates an anomaly. Rich then reviewed the balance sheet for each of the accounts per the printed budgets.

**Secretary:** no report

**Activity Reports (Charities)**

**Community:** Dortha reviewed the club’s participation at the homeless shelter and encouraged us to continue with that endeavor. She commented that the function that Tim previously arranged was, in her opinion, a very worthwhile project in which both the club and the theater were beneficiaries. She is considering a similar function this year. Dortha also tossed out the concept of planning community service projects jointly with the other two clubs in Merced thereby increasing the benefit to the community.

Theresa announced that Pope looking for another community service project. Considerable discussion ensued related to the expectation that program speakers oftentimes have for financial contributions from the club toward whatever cause they are representing. It was generally agreed that we should not create such expectations unless money has already been allocated for that cause. A given cause should be budgeted in the current year to be spent in the current year. It was pointed out that we should take care to avoid having the same charities come each year with their hand out, e.g. they might say, “You did it last year, why not this year?”. Teresa also announced that the Rescue Mission dinner will be held September 25.

**Vocational:** the first Thirsty Thursday of the fall will be held on September 3rd at 5:30 PM at the Branding Iron. It will be sponsored by Merced Rotary. Tim announced plans to have two Vocational tours, one on September 25th and one on October 16th. Tim is working with Sam Traina to arrange for something at UC Merced in December.

**International:** Theresa reminded the board of the Kids Against Hunger event coming up on September 12th, 10AM-12PM at the Belleview Elementary School in Atwater. She opined that we already have enough personnel to help. She also told the board that she would like us to become involved with KIVA.

**Club Service:** absent

**Youth:**absent

Meeting adjourned at 7:35PM M/S/C Rich, Nancy

Respectively Submitted,

Galen Chastain

Secretary