

# 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](http://www.mercedsunriserotary.org)

**Date:** August 8, 2019  
**Time:** 6:16PM  
**Location:** Doncaster Court, Merced  
**Roll Call:**

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Title/Charge</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Pope Lawrence	President	X	
Doug Forte	President Elect	X	
Eric Moore	Vice President	X	
Mike Cuchna	Past President	X	
Holley Moyes	Secretary		X
Cristian Lopez	Treasurer	X	
<b>Director</b>			
Robert Garcia	Community	X	
Steve Hobbs	Vocational		X
Sam Traina	Club	X	
Regina Cherf	International		X
Butch Hughes	Youth		X
<b>Chair</b>			
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, Pope/Mike C/Aye.
- 3. Approval of July 11, 2019 Board Minutes:** M/S/C, Eric/Mike C/Aye.

#### 4. Leadership Reports.

##### A. President.

1. **Grant Proposal Process Update – Gift/Grant, Underwriting, Off-Budget Granting.** Pope framed two issues; 1) two grant funding sources – Charity covering all Services and MFOH monies kept under Community Service and 2) two funding mechanisms - a “pre-year” budget formation and approval process from the President, Board and Club at large and an off-budget online Grant Application – originally started to attract MFOH grants, but in recent years is now attracting other community projects. Sam brought up the issues between a Grant and a Gift and what the Club's expectations are going forward. A Gift requires no further response or restriction in fund use from the Giftee to the Club. A Grant should warrant the Grantee use the funds as requested and return some report or evidence of its use and value. Mike C saw importance in getting real information back from Grantees. Sam stated the Club benefits from collecting and publicizing the organizations and projects supported by Club. Doug mentioned that there is plenty of time at each meeting for Grantees to report back to the Club without being an official speaker. Karla also suggested that the Board or Club meet potential Grantees and not just “hand someone a check” to an unknown group based solely on an online application. Sam emphasized that the Club wants to show donors, the community-at-large and potential members what the Club does with its monies. Eric suggested any Grant require a clear agreement between Grantee and Club with conditions, covenants and performance time to consistently capture information/photos for public relations use. Eric also suggested that each Service Director have some agency over “their budget” and related Grant applications – Directors may have special knowledge about competing groups or missions. Robert wanted to emphasize the Club support Grants and not Gifts in that granting is an empowering exercise that elevates the professionalism of local non-profits with better business plans, missions and presentations – grants are a development tool. Sam also wanted to ensure that Grants come with a required public acknowledgment of Merced Sunrise Rotary. Sam saw a need for a “Grants Office” to coordinate all grant efforts – receiving RI/District grants, crafting/supporting International projects and dispersing Grants across the community. Mike C stated that the traditional Charity funds are largely used up, but MFOH funds remain unspent and continue to be accumulated. As a past President, Mike C thought it unfair to ask Directors to alter their existing budgets and proposed using the Charity reserves for off-budget granting. Doug also suggested that the Board consider the criteria for future grants – using the Five Avenues of Service or the Six Areas of Focus. Mike C thought there may be a need to amend bylaws and create a designated Grants Officer. Sam will form a committee to formally build all aspects of a “Grants Office” for future Board consideration. Mike C made a motion to expand the President's unallocated \$2,000 budget with an additional \$10,000 using unused Charity funds annually to enhance off-budget granting. Mike C motion was seconded by Sam. Under discussion, the issue was tabled by Pope until the next Board meeting.

B. **Treasurer.** Cristian made the observation that the Club accumulated a substantial amount of reserves. Eric requested that Cristian research a formal Treasury solution – obtaining a higher interest rate bank or investment account for reserve monies – say a \$100-200M time deposit or money market account with a online bank or local FDIC bank or NCUA credit union. The Club should be earning at least 2% on its unused monies – that's \$2,000 to \$4,000 per year in uncaptured passive income. Sam thought RI might have an investment vehicle that could meet the Club's needs.

C. **Secretary.** No report.

D. **President Elect.**

1. **Recording Rotarian/Club Volunteerism.** Doug has a number of housekeeping issues in process. Recording Volunteerism is paramount. Eric will update the weekly Roster to capture volunteerism – but reliant upon individual members or group organizers to disclose. Sara and other Officers need knowledge and access to DACdb or other processes to document Club Volunteerism. Eric had a concern that even though all members have access to DACdb, not every member will use it voluntarily (maybe 50%) – not unlike members not booking their attendance matters. DACdb “Engagement” is not a perfect system, but is the only tool commonly available. The Club is challenged to measure performance, but not be encumbered. This growing metric is consistently used by RI to measure club vitality.

E. **Vice President.**

1. **New Member Integration.** Eric stated he knew new member integration was an important charge for the VP, but that he would not be addressing the matter until his MFOH and RCC work is over and normalized. Eric is also tasked as Acting Secretary. Generally integration would start with new members having coffee, breakfast or dinner with the oldest members and then gravitate to various roles of mutual need or interest. Karla brought up the need to post a FAQ for new and prospective members as well. Doug thought the larger vision of Rotary and Service should be an important focus. Integration starts with orientation, of which Karla's insight is vital as Membership Chair.

F. **Community Service** Robert is working with Merced County Food Bank on a new project in association with UC Merced and Walmart about local food preparation and nutrition. Robert is working with RCC and Valley Crisis Center on human trafficking. Robert is prepping MFOH volunteering.

G. **Club Service.**

1. **Merced Field of Honor – Preliminary Master Schedule.** Sara suggested the following MFOH schedule.

11/08/19	Friday	Initial Field Setup 8AM
11/09/19	Saturday	Early Field Activity 9AM Field Open 12-5:30

11/10/19	Sunday	Run for Fallen 7AM to 11AM Opening Ceremony 2 - 4PM Open Field 12 – 5:30PM
11/11/19	Monday	Open Field 12 – 5:30PM
11/12/19	Tuesday	Open Field 1 – 5:30PM
11/13/19	Wednesday	Open Field 1 – 5:30PM Flag Retirement Ceremony 5:30 - 7PM
11/14/19	Thursday	Open Field 1 – 5:30PM
11/15/19	Friday	Open Field 1 – 5:30PM
11/16/19	Saturday	Open Field 12 – 5:30PM Closing Ceremony 2 -3PM
11/17/19	Sunday	Field Take-down 9AM - 11AM

Sara requested the Board review and approve for planning purposes. The Board discussed and approved the preliminary schedule. M/S/C, Mike C/Sam/Aye.

**MFOH Preparation.** Sara expressed an interest to update the process with six tablets and special service queues. Mike C will advise. Connectivity and printing is a question out on the Field. No added costs are anticipated. Flag ordering is also underway from various sources as is the Veterans Day Parade. Sara and Board clarified that the Run for the Fallen also cover First Responders and should obtain a special display near the Field.

2. **New Member.** Karla finalized orientation for a prospective member. Eric will issue a notice to the Club expecting an induction ceremony next week.

H. **Immediate Past President.** No Report.

I. **Vocational Services.** No Report.

J. **Youth Service.** No Report.

K. **International Service.** No Report.

5. **Next Meeting Date:** September 12, 2019, 6PM, Doncester Court, Merced

6. **Pope adjourned the Meeting:** 7:31 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

/Eric A. Moore  
Secretary (Acting)  
September 8, 2019