Minutes

Merced Sunrise Rotary

Board Meeting of December 7, 2015

Meeting convened at 5:35 PM

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

Members Absent: Mark Lutz,

Guests Present: Butch Hughes in for Mark Lutz, Alan Arnold

Approval of Agenda: M/S/A Rich, Bob

Approval of Minutes of 9/15/15: M/S/A as amended Theresa, Galen

Approval of Minutes of 10/12/15: M/S/A Tim, Theresa

Leadership Reports

**President:** A brief discussion was held regarding the ticket sales at the District Foundation Dinner. Rich explained the difference in treatment for a raffle as opposed to an auction. No resolution was reached. Another discussion ensued regarding the RI President’s luncheon on January 3, 2016 in San Jose. North Merced Rotary made overtures to share a table with Sunrise. After a brief discussion, a consensus was reached that interest was not high enough to pursue the matter.

**President-Elect:** Bob conducted a brief discussion regarding several aspects of the 2016 Shrimp and reported that plans were already underway for another successful event. There followed a lengthy discussion regarding our past practice of asking each member to be responsible for selling 15 tickets. At Cathy’s urging, the matter was differed to the Shrimp Feed committee for resolution.

**Vice President:** Betsy announced that a club assembly will be held on January 8, 2016. January is Vocational service month. Given that Mike Altomare is District Chairman for the Vocational Service Committee, she would ask him to provide some assistance in providing a program in January. Betsy announced there were two winners who were in the same classroom and that she would like to involve Kathy Hansen in making the awards. She proposed to increase the amounts of the awards that were formerly $50, $35 and $20 to $75, $50 and eliminate the $20 award. After a discussion, M/S/C Betsy, Rich to change amounts of the awards per Betsy’s suggestion.

**Treasurer:** A discussion was held regarding the Clothes for Kids event. Apparently, 13 children that were on the list did not show up. The full complement of CASA kids was also lacking. Stewart expressed some surprise that Love INC did not respond well. Lengthy discussion followed. Betsy recommended that Rotaract kids need a separate orientation. Betsy also said the parent of her kid wanted to give credit to Love INC rather than Rotary which she opined was not appropriate. Bob commented that when he was doing it, no kids were turned away. Stewart proposed that a subcommittee be formed to study this matter with the goal of making the event better, said committee to function under the auspices of the Club President and to convene at the outset of the 2016-17 Rotary year. Rich opined that it is poor management style to assign a task and then proceed to tell them how to accomplish the task. Stewart amended his motion to place the committee under the supervision of the Youth Services Director. Betsy, who had seconded the original motion, seconded the amended motion. M/S/C Stewart, Betsy as amended.

Rich opined that we need to do more for vets for a longer period of time. He proposed that we approach the City Council with the concept of dedicating a street or avenue in Merced to veterans by naming it Veterans Boulevard. A discussion followed and while there was evident support for the concept by governing board members, it was apparent that the proposal must have the full support of the club before the council is approached. It was recognized that there will be pushback to the concept from businesses and the post office. Stewart volunteered to explore the concept with appropriate personnel and report his findings to the governing board at its next meeting.

A brief discussion was held regarding the upcoming audit of the Treasurer’s books, after which Tim proposed that the scope of the audit be expanded to include the Shrimp Feed and Field of Honor for the 2014-15 Rotary years. M/S/C Tim, Theresa

**Secretary:** No report

**Activity Reports**

**Community:** After a brief discussion regarding the wild flower project with input from Alan Arnold, a consensus was reached that unknowns about weather, coupled with budget constraints are sufficient to prevent us from proceeding with this project this year. Dortha and Theresa announced that Salvation Army bell ringing is scheduled for December 19, from 11AM to 6PM at the Olive and G St. Save Mart. Theresa announced that the Homeless Shelter Dinner scheduled for Thursday, December 10th is well staffed with volunteers.

**Vocational:** Tim announced that Thirsty Thursdays will resume February and March under the auspices of the Satellite Rotary Club. A change of venue is being considered. Tim is also working on scheduling a function with a couple of local manufacturing firms, Merced Screw for one.

**International:** Theresa reported that the Merced Sunrise and North Merced clubs have received approval of the Global Grant for a project in Nicaragua. Jointly, we will need to raise $10,000 to match District 5220’s share of $10,000. To facilitate that endeavor, we are planning jointly to host an event at the Merced Theater in February, to which all District 5220 Rotarians will be invited.

Given that World Water Day is March 25, Theresa also reported that the Merced Sunrise and North Merced clubs will jointly hold a project day for Rotarians and Interact members. This project will engage in building WAPI Kits, small devices used to detect the safety of consumable liquids. Merced Sunrise will purchase 200 kits @ $500. Since we are not doing a project in Mexico this year, Theresa suggested that we use the $500 allocated for Mexico to purchase the kits. Tim made a motion to that effect. M/S/C Tim, Dortha. Cathy will ask the club to approve this action at a future meeting.

**Club:** No report

**Youth:** *No report*

**Foundation Update:** Stuart reported that within the next couple of weeks, every member will receive a statement of account regarding their current Paul Harris/Foundation contributions. This statement will show the amount needed for the member to obtain their second recognition level.

Any new member, or members who have not yet made a contribution to the Foundation will be eligible to receive 500 Paul Harris point if they sign up for Rotary Direct payment of any size.

Members who have more than $500 toward their next Paul Harris will receive an offer to match their contribution, the combination of which would take them to the next level, e.g. if a member is $250 short of reaching the next level, that member would receive 125 club points if s/he contributed $125.

Next Meeting Date: January 6, 5:30 PM at Cathy’s home.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

 Respectfully Submitted,

Galen Chastain

Secretary