

Muskegon Rotary Re-Wine Notes

March 9, 2017

ReWine Members in Attendance: Kevin Ricco, Papa N'Jai, Asaline Scott, John Slocum

Lunch Members in Attendance: Jules Terry, Bill Loxterman, David Manley, John Noling

Guests: Kaytie Ely (Baker Rotaract),

Attendance: John Noling, Susan Crain, Orville Crain, Jules Terry, Corey Watson, Papa N'Jai, Kevin Ricco, Esther Ricco, Howard Hardesty, Asaline Scott

Guests: Kaytie Ely (Baker Rotaract), Braxton Gerdes (MCC Rotaract)

Meeting started at approximately 5:20pm

Introductions were made. Of note: David Manley with CORE Realty Partners, a new Rotary member, was on hand to attend his first ReWine meeting. We also got an interesting perspective from Braxton, who is a farm hand on an alpaca farm. Who knew??

Following introductions was a recap of the lunch meeting and program. David, John, Bill, and Jules filled the rest of us in on the details. Committee reports included an update on the World Peace conference. The Muskegon club was able to cover their pledged contribution of \$2,500 and the Whitehall club also contributed \$1,000. This is helping to allow 15 youth from Muskegon County to attend the conference. There was also a report from a student that just returned from the trip to Honduras. The gist of her report was that it was a great experience and she can't wait to go back!

The presenter at the lunch meeting was Muskegon Rotary member Jerry Weirsma, owner of West Michigan Power Cleaning Equipment. He discussed his entrepreneurial efforts and gave information on the multiple businesses he is involved with. At the ReWine meeting this spurred a discussion around the structure of the noon meetings and how it impacts recruitment and retention. Kevin mentioned that he sits on the Retention Committee and would be interested in hearing thoughts from the evening meeting's attendees on ways the overall structure of noon meetings could be improved. Some of the items discussed were:

- Could one noon meeting a month be dedicated to a current Rotarian to give a presentation about their vocation/business? This might be a way for members to get to know their fellow Rotarians a bit better.
- Could the program/presentation be put at the front of the meeting and save the business items for the end? This way the presenter would not necessarily have to sit through all of the business items of the club and if members had to leave early they could still be there for the program.
- Could the programs be recorded so that members that are unable to attend be able listen to them at a later time? Could this count as meeting attendance?

- Could meeting attendance be virtual? Could members get a live Web feed of the meeting so that they could still participate on some level without having to actually be there?
- Can meetings be shorter? With travel time taken into consideration, the typical lunch meeting can take up to two hours every Thursday. This makes it difficult to recruit new members, especially younger members.
- Is attendance and engagement critical? Some members simply don't have the time to attend as many meetings or be involved in as many committees as others. Basically, they do what they can. It seems that the club puts a premium on meeting attendance, but is that necessary?

Kevin stated he would share these thoughts with the Retention Committee. David Manley expressed an interest in also being on the Retention Committee. Kevin said he would reach out to Brianna Scott, the chair of that committee, about making him a member.

Other roundtable items:

John Noling stated that Randy Linquist, chair of the Interact clubs, would like to schedule a time to come to an evening meeting to pitch an idea for an event he has been working on.

John N. and John S. also mentioned that there is going to be a new Earlyact Club in North Muskegon. Could the ReWine club play a role?

Braxton reported that the MCC Rotaract Club will be doing a End Polio Now fundraiser event on April 15th. It will be at the Lakeshore Fitness Center and it will be a volleyball competition between the Rotaract clubs, Interact clubs, and Rotary. Specifics are still being finalized but he expects to have the details next week.

ALSO: The ReWine meeting on 3/16 will not be at the Third Street Grill. The Crain's will be hosting a New Member Get Together at their house that evening.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Submitted by:
Kevin Ricco