



Weekly Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 23, 2016

Overall Comments:

- We had a great crowd for this Rotary After Dark Meeting and a great mix of traditional Wednesday morning attendees vs. RAD attendees and a few guests.

Meeting Details:

- The meeting was held on the third floor of the Minneapolis Club
- Meg Waterman gave the reflection by sharing a quote from the Rotary founder, Paul P. Harris, in honor of it being the 111th Anniversary of Rotary
- The “Question of the Night” for introductions was “What would you do with \$1M?”

President’s Comments and General Meeting Announcements:

- There is a volunteer opportunity at the CES Food Shelf on March 5th to help pack food requests. No need to sign up, you can join and bring family/friends.
- This Saturday, February 27th is our COLRC’s 31st Anniversary Party at Bev’s Wine Bar in the North Loop. There will be beverages, snacks and a DJ starting around 8 or 8:30. Please sign up through the website if you will be attending.

Vocational/Happy Bucks:

- Vocational by Jim Nelson + Rotary District Update
- Jim talked about his “Rotary Vocation” since he is now retired from his law practice.
- Jim joined in 1999 and has since served as the City of Lakes Chapter President, as well as the District Governor last year.
- The key words emphasized are below, and Jim talked about how they relate to the people that he’s met and what he’s learned in his Rotary years
 - Fellowship
 - Networking
 - Travel
 - Leadership
 - Learning
 - Service

Program/Speaker:

- Sally Anaya-Boyer and Violette Mpagazihe of First Step Initiative with a mission of “Helping Women Entrepreneurs in One of the Poorest Countries in Africa”
- First Step Initiative provides grants to small groups of women in Lubumbashi (Southeastern Congo) and the surrounding area who will use the money to put their business dreams into action. The funding is intended to lead to sustainable livelihoods.
- Sally and Violette shared some of the success stories that have come out of the grants that they have provided, such as a bread making business that supplies all of the bread to a mining company, as well as some of the challenges with working with women halfway across the world.
- The program has three employees in Lubumbashi that help find the applicants and provide financial education for the women receiving the grants to help them succeed with their business model.

Next Meeting’s Program:

- TBD

The meeting was adjourned with the “Exit Song of the Week” picked by Meg Waterman.

Reporter: Keri Rolland