



Weekly Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 1, 2017

Overall Comments:

- Reflection and original poem on age by Jim Nelson (who is OLD!!).
- Opening song by Scott Benson (“Oh, What a Beautiful Morning”) – and it was!
- Kevin Johnson was a guest of Gayle Noakes

Meeting Details:

- Tom Bird made a 5 minute presentation. He is our COLRC Global Grant Scholarship recipient and will be going to Budapest and Barcelona as a winner of the \$30,000 grant. He will be hosted by clubs in each of those two cities and will be studying diplomacy and public policy in the pursuit of promoting international peace. Watch for periodic reports from Tom as he continues his studies abroad.

President’s Comments and General Meeting Announcements:

- President Bill Klein reminds us to make sure to sign in at the registration desk each week so that we will receive credit for attending the meeting.
- He also announced that the club is looking for a volunteer to serve as social media director this year. If you’re interested, contact Bill.
- The annual summer picnic will be held on Saturday, August 26 at 11:30 at George Broostin’s home in South Minneapolis. Bring a dish to share.

Vocational/Happy Bucks:

- None

Program/Speaker:

- Russ Michaletz served as day chair. In keeping with tradition, he disclosed something that he was pretty sure none of us knew about him - - that whenever he goes to someone’s house where there is a dog and/or a toddler, both immediately gravitate to him, much to the chagrin of his wife. He has no explanation for this, but says it’s always been that way. Hmmm . . .

Our speaker today was Mike Tewksbury. The subject of the presentation was the collapse of the 35W bridge in Minneapolis which occurred 10 years ago yesterday. Mike was one of three attorneys who served as an administrator of the Minnesota

funds which had been set aside by the Legislature to compensate the victims of the collapse. Within months after the collapse, the Legislature addressed the need to increase the funds available from the State, and Mike and his colleagues labored for 22 months to ensure that each victim was able to receive a fair level of compensation within the limits established by the State. In all there were 13 deaths and 166 injuries, and all of the victims and their families were represented by attorneys who worked pro bono to assist them through the process. Following the distribution of the State funds, the victims and their attorneys were then able to seek compensation from the construction firm for the bridge, as well as the engineering firm, and thus, along with the funds from the State, were fairly compensated for their losses. Court filing fees were waived on their behalf, and the insurance companies involved even waived their subrogation rights.

Thank you, Mike, for all your hard work on behalf of the victims and for an excellent presentation today!

Next Week's Program:

Kim Lorenz

Rotary Collaborations-creating high impact sustainable results by Leveraging the Feet on the Ground

The meeting was adjourned with a ring of the bell by President Bill at 8:30am

Reporter: Gary Mosiman