

We had a great Fireside at Kelly Lane's house on May 21. In attendance were: Kelly Lane, Ann Voves (co-hostess), Carolyn Weyrick (co-hostess), Rick Oldenburg, Don Hanson, Jim Whitacre, Michelle Roberts, Jim Merritt, George Pilant, Monique Nadeau, Tracey Peacock, and John Schneider. Originally signed up but did not participate: Maureen Fife and Julie Foley.

The group would like to thank Kelly Lane for opening her home for our event and the wonderful dinner that she and her co-hostesses provide. A great time was had by all and more importantly, everyone provided thoughtful input into our discussion of the "Fireside Question".

Our discussion started with the three past president in attendance (Don Hanson, Carolyn Weyrick and Jim Whitacre) providing the group with some perspective from their year as club president. It was noted that "raise the paddle" at our annual auction was in fact not something that has "historically" been done, but rather was a relatively new addition to our annual auction in the last 10-12 years.

After a lively discussion, it was the unanimous decision of the group that the "cause or beneficiary" of our Raise the Paddle should not be the sole decision of the standing president but should rather be a consensus of a larger group. Some of the specific comments were: the beneficiary should be in line with our Strategic Plan, the proceeds should provide community visibility for our club and have a lasting effect, involve more of our members and their talents in the decision making process, a group or committee tasked with developing a long range plan that dovetails with our Strategic Plan-possible akin to the Focus 2000 group during past president Jim Harris's year, a project or projects that are branded and public, the beneficiary (project) could be multiple year funding that is in line with our Strategic Plan, our members have many strengths and talents that we should harness in the decision making process.

All of those present felt that the topic and ensuing discussion were both timely and thought provoking.

Respectfully,

Jim Whitacre

In attendance were Rusty Hersey, Marty Lough, Mary McNally, Jacki Farrar and Mike Dunbar.

We started the conversation with some agreeing to general use, large project and internal committees. They all had possibilities. Several of the group talked about it not being at the sole discretion of the president. We had new Rotarian and seasoned Rotarian's at the table who remember doing it different in years past. The president selecting was not always the way it was done.

Committees have a process and utilize the money well. If something comes along that is worth doing, it may not be part of any committees work. We should be able to do either. Some felt we should invest in some PR to share our service and impact and how great Rotary is or even what is Rotary so we could bolster our recruitment. We do the work and we should let others know. T-shirts, hats, aprons and other items have been used in the past during volunteer activities. Maybe we could have an EZ UP, sandwich boards and other items to promote at projects. "Rotarians Serving Above Self Here Today" "Rotarians at Work" There was also conversation about specific projects and organizations that serve veterans.

The money is raised by the club members, given by the club members and so not having the president decide appealed to many, if not all. It was noted that fireside is a small representation of our membership. If we had a strategic plan, we could have a shared vision and that may help determine what a large investment in community might be or what committees may be doing or how we could use the money to partner with another Rotary or group. Some felt that the Auction Co-Chairs hold the fundraiser and should have some

input into the raise the paddle funds. It could include board members. Committees could submit ideas as could the members and something could be selected. Our committee also shared some past recipients of raise the paddle.

We had a great time. Everyone was engaged and contributing. We had a great group and we had a lot of fun. This was a great question for fireside.

Recorded by Maria Harlow

Ogle notes

Attending; Stacey Ogle, Linda Kaye Briggs, John Bailey, Sharon Jaffee, Carol Duris, Steve Smith

An endowment might be a good idea; we could take 1/3 of the Raise the Paddle (RFP) funds and begin a "growing fund" and after 3 years we could have a sustainable amount we could depend on...to give away.

I think the above idea would be a bookkeeper's nightmare.

I think we should give ALL the money away every year! The need is great!

I would like to see RTP help fund small start-ups that won't pass the stringent guidelines of the Grants Committee. There is some incredible work being done and a small bit of money could make a critical and significant difference. We need to seek out these opportunities.

The World Community Service Committee is much more challenged if our amount goes up and down...it's a good problem to have...but can sometimes make it difficult to invest in the future and leverage with other clubs.

Sometimes, it's frustrating to always fund the "usual suspects" in our community!

As a club, we have a bit of ADD.

In the old days, we had an event called "When Tacoma Danced, and it was simply a "dress-up" night where you only "raised your paddle," and it was GREAT!

Looking forward to an ad-hoc committee reviewing our fundraising options....auction is such a big animal and so intense for "just a few."

Maybe we should have an ad-hoc committee decide on RTP...not the President!

Maybe we should survey the club...project vs. increasing funds to committees.