**Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Board Meeting**

**January 26, 2023**

**7:00 am at Family Means**

**Attendees:**  Rick Heidick, Barbara Tischart, Sara Letourneau, Kris Bowditch, Wendy Heck, Mark Fisher, Jeanne Matlock, Ed Boeve, Greg Otsuka, Paula Williams, Lonny Stormo, Kris Bowditch, Nancy Lyner, Dave Waldschmidt, Ted Nesse, Tina Swanson.

President Rick Heidick called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

* **Approval of Agenda –** feedback was asked regarding agenda updates. Added was an approval for memorials for both Bob Rupp and Dave Spencer, long-term SSR members who in the past few years became Honorary Members.
* **December Board Meeting Minutes -** 
  1. A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from the December 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved.

* **Finance Report – Paula** 
  1. Financial Review– Paula stated overall we are good financial positions.
  2. ~$15k in checking account (Business account); ~$29.5k at First State Bank (Investment account); ~$38k in Lake Elmo Bank (El Corozo Global Grant); ~$22k in St. Croix Valley Foundation.
  3. Past due collections – Paula stated the list of past due commitments had been cleared with the exception of 1 member’s late payment and as stated in previous minutes, our process is that Rick will contact the member to determine their payment plan.
  4. Paula updated us on the electronic payment previously discussed and approved. Quick Books adds 1% ($1.70) to each transaction plus the monthly fee to Quick Books, totaling $5- $6 per person per quarter. Paula recommends we raise our dues by $10 per quarter per member for next year (July 2023) to cover these costs. Rick advises we vote on any increase in April so members are advised well in advance of July should we vote an increase.
  5. **Surplus Funds –** Our First State Investment Account (~$29,500) + St Croix Valley Foundation (~$22,000) provides over $50k. This amount of money could allow us to pursue and fund a special project. While we need to retain a buffer amount, even with a comfortable buffer, there is money available for a special project that could make a difference in doing good in the world.
* **Old Business -** 
  1. **Club Membership Input from Workshop –** Lonny presented the Workshop results showing support for “Satellite Member” or “Service Member.” Lonny proposed Service Membership who would be Rotary members, would pay appropriate dues, and would be included in all SSR events; however, this membership would not include Tuesday morning meetings which is a full membership. A Service Member could sponsor a Grant, for example. Discussion was held including input on why are we driving this effort at a time when we are just rebuilding our membership, and we have a lot of initiatives currently to support. Starting a new group would take effort away from our current efforts and introduce a new effort needing to be supported by current members. Mark stated that Rick Robbins is working to develop corporations who may have an interest in partnering with us as Corporate Members who would be Service Members instead of having full memberships. Nancy spoke about how we are already developing this kind of relationship with local Companies through our Bridge the Valley Bike sponsors. Perhaps we can utilize those sponsorships to grow memberships. Overall, there was nothing definitive on whether Service Members would be individuals who come together for a cause or project of if they would be Corporate Members with a cause or project. Lonny would like to continue to flesh out a concept and discuss at a future meeting.
  2. **Pune Global Grant –**We are partnered with Pune Rotary on a grant to support installing flush toilets and water purification for drinking for 4 schools in the Pune region. Asking for financial support from other clubs to fund our grant will soon start. An update will be given by our speaker on 2/13, who is a member of the Pune Rotary Club.
* **New Business**
  1. **District Governor Installation –** Ed proposedJune 29, 2024, a Saturday, for his installation as District Governor. Last year 150 people attended the event in St. Paul, which is typical attendance. Ed is asking for a volunteer team of 3-5 people who will work on this celebration. Nancy, Kris and Lonny volunteered for this team. Other volunteers will be called for during a club meeting if additional volunteers are needed to plan this event.
  2. **Tri-District Conference April 29th** – This large event which will include 3 Districts will be held in Brainard. 300-400 people are expected. Information has been sent from the District to all Rotarians, and if you have questions, contact Ed.
  3. **Memorials** – Dave Spencer and Bob Rupp, long term SSR members, have both passed, and we have typically provided a $1,000 donation as a memorial. Barbara moved to approve $1,000 each in memorial for Bob and for Dave with the charitable organization to be determined by a small SSR team with a preference for a Rotary project. This was seconded, some discussion was held, it was then voted and passed. Paula suggested the memorial destination qualify as a charity so the funds can be taken from the St. Croix Valley Foundation. Barbara will take the lead for Bob Rupp and Tim Trooien will take the lead for Dave Spencer in determining the use of the donation.
  4. **Shelter Box Annual Donation –** We have been donating $1,000 to Shelter Box for some years. A motion was made to donate $1,000 to Shelter Box; it had a second, a vote was taken and the motion passed.
  5. **Cambridge-Isanti Rotary Ukraine Effort –** Barbara moved to provide $2,000 from Club funds in support of shipping (~$25k) 2 shipping containers of donated medical supplies to a hospital in Ukraine as is being sponsored through the Cambridge-Isanti Rotary Club. This was seconded, and there was some discussion as to whether we should make this a matching donation if Club members would provide personal donations to be matched by the club. The original motion was voted on and approved to send $2,000 from club funds. Rick will notify Cambridge-Isanti Rotary of our support, and Paula will send this donation. All members are welcome to support this effort with additional personal donations.
  6. **Alight Ukraine Request –** Dave proposed we ask Alight to be a speaker on their mission of creating safe havens for refugees under sponsorships. Ed stated that it would be a good to share any presentation with Noon Club and Lake Elmo. Dave will be in touch with Alight to pursue a presentation.
  7. **District 4-Way Test Yard Signs** – This topic was covered at the Tuesday meeting.
* **Director Updates** 
  1. **Foundation – “**Share the Love” will be presented February 7th.
  2. **Membership –** Sara provided a membership update at the Club Meeting Tuesday.
  3. **Public Image –** Mark has prepared a Public Image strategy plan including PIE (Projects, Initiatives, & Events) metrics and will be presenting this to all club members during a workshop in February.
  4. **Service –** Greg will provide an update at a later meeting.
* **Committee/Projects Update**
  1. **Literacy & Youth Development–** Dave provided an update on the VESL program. His team recently started at Anderson Elementary with a core of 6 volunteers and it is growing. Dave is pursing Brookview Elementary for the VESL program as well. Dave’s Kiwanis talk was well received. Dave will be at the District Leadership Conference as Chair of Literacy Committee.
  2. **Youth Exchange –** Kris reported 2 inbound students + 1 outbound student + 1 STEP program which involves a student going to another country for 3 weeks in exchange for that family sending their child to the US family for 3 weeks. Rotary Youth Academy outing is coming up in Hudson. Kris needs help in getting out our message on Youth Exchange opportunities and the need for host families.
  3. **Website –** Ted stated to keep the good news coming so he can put it on our website.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Note: Next Board Meeting is February 23th from 7 – 8:30 am. It will be held at Family Means.**

Submitted by Barbara Tischart  
SSR Secretary