**Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Board Meeting**

**February 14, 2023**

**8:10 am at St. Croix Event Center**

President Rick Heidick called a special meeting at the end of our weekly club meeting for the purpose of formalizing an email proposal and vote on donations for efforts to support the recovery of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Rick sent a proposal via email to donate $2,000 to Shelter Box, and $1,000 to the support efforts of District 2430 located in Turkey. Some discussion was held via email, and some with those in person. A formal motion was made repeating the proposal of sending $2,000 to Shelter Box and sending $1,000 to District 2430. The motion passed unanimously either in person, or via proxy.

**Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Board Meeting**

**February 23, 2023**

**7:00 am via Zoom**

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

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

* **Approval of Agenda –** Agenda as provided by Rick moved forward.
* **December Board Meeting Minutes -** 
  1. A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from the January 2023 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved.

* **Finance Report – Paula** 
  1. Financial Review– Paula stated overall we are good financial position.
  2. No major expenses happened in January, so the month ended as per budget.
  3. Year-to-Date vs. Actual was presented. Paula noted that our Bike Rally crosses our fiscal year which explains the proportion of expenses to income.
  4. Paula will be reaching out to Margie for an update on El Corozo monies to be paid as we are coming to the end of this grant program.
  5. Paula confirmed that $2,000 was sent to Shelter Box from our St. Croix Valley Foundation account and approximately $960 was sent to District 2430 from club funds using our debt card as it was the most efficient way to send this money internationally. The $40 gap is due to the exchange rate on the actual day the money transferred.
* **Old Business -** 
  1. **Club Brand/Image –** Lonny will provide an update in April.
  2. **Alight Call to Action –** Dave presented the findings of his investigation into the opportunity to sponsor a Ukrainian family who would come to the US to stay for up to 2 years, then return to Ukraine. Alight, formerly known as American Refugee Committee, is working with people/organizations who are potential sponsors. Dave and Rick spoke with Alight recently and Dave summarized those findings in SBAR format. After some discussion, it was clear we need more information overall, and we will need a committee of 3-7 people who are willing to take the lead as sponsors on behalf of SSR, or we can join another Rotary club who will take the lead and we can contribute funds and volunteerism. Next steps are:
     1. reach out to Stillwater Noon and Lake Elmo for possible partnership. It was suggested Scott Mercer, ADG and a member of Noon, could be of help coordinating.
     2. Have Alight present this opportunity to our club, maybe include Noon and Lake Elmo Rotarians who have interest.
     3. Don Schuld suggested we connect with Orv Johnson, who has notable experience in sponsoring and re-settling refugees. Barbara said she knows Orv well as he is her neighbor and a Stillwater Noon Rotarian. She will connect Orv to Dave and to Don.
     4. Dave will take the lead in pursuing these directions and with support from others.
  3. **District Governor Installation Committee –** A committee has been formed to plan this event. Members are: Ed, Kris, Nancy Lyner, Bethany Cox, Lenny Snellman, and Lonny (this will be in Lonny’s budget year). Great team for an event worth celebrating!
  4. **Status of Bob Rupp and Dave Spencer’s Memorials –**
     1. Barbara reported she worked with a small committee and because Bob spent his military service (WWII) supporting the defense of countries who had been invaded (including logistics for Battle of the Bulge which Bob spoke of at our meetings on more than one occasion), it was decided to direct his memorial donation to the Cambridge-Isanti Rotary project of sending humanitarian medical supplies to Ukraine. This donation is in addition to the $2,000 previously approved from club funds for this project.
     2. Rick stated that Tim Trooien is leading the direction of how best to honor Dave Spencer.
* **New Business**
  1. **City of Stillwater – Lowe’s Grant –** Earlier, Rick informed us via email that Lowe’s is looking for a non-profit partner to re-make the roof of the City Gazebo. Lowe’s is contributing $200,000 to this project and wants a non-profit as a partner. We are unsure if we will qualify for this, or if will Lowe’s require 501(c)3 status, so this is still an open question. Rick is continuing to work with the City of Stillwater on this possibility.
  2. **Club Awards –** Rick received the packet for Rotary District Awards and he will be sending out the various sections to the appropriate leaders for their input.
* **Upcoming Events**
  1. **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. Registration is $45. A motion was made for SSR to reimburse the cost of registration for any first-time attendee of a District event. Discussion was held, including the question of what we did for November’s Foundation Dinner. Barbara was tasked with reviewing the minutes for what was approved in the past. This motion was tabled until we have that information.  
     *(Barbara emailed later that day with the information stating we had approved reimbursing the registration of any member attending a District event for the first time.)*
* **Director Updates** 
  1. **Public Image –** Mark sent in advance his report of the club input from our last meeting.
  2. **Foundation –** Lonny discussed the lives impacted through our donations and volunteer efforts. Suggestions of projects brought up were:
     1. World Bike Relief
     2. Bike stations in Stillwater
     3. Additional pollinator gardens
     4. Fairy Falls maintenance adoption
     5. Stillwater’s “The Big Idea” is a grant opportunity for $10,000. A meeting on this topic is March 7th at Water Street Inn. This grant might be available to us for something like the above suggestions.

Also discussed were “Rotarian at Work” shirts. Lonny ordered a sample shirt and will put together a proposal for such shirts. We currently have orange Stillwater Sunrise logoed shirts from the year Craig was installed as DG as he requested them; and we have purple logoed shirts that have been our standard shirt since 2014. Neither of these state “Working Rotarian” on the back.

* 1. **Membership –** Sara provided a membership update stating Jennifer Giovinazzo has resigned from SSR and is transferring to West St. Paul/Mendota Heights Rotary as she moved to that area 2 years ago. Also, Sara expects a new member application soon from a community member who has visited our club recently.
  2. **Service –** Greg updated Local Grants:
     1. $500 for Rutherford School Campaign toward a new playground
     2. $500 for ArtReach St. Croix for adding art to a utility box by the Freight House.
     3. He also stated they had denied a request from American Cancer Society Walk for Life due to our guideline of not supporting fundraising for a fundraiser.
* **Committee/Projects Update**
  1. **Literacy & Youth Development–** Dave stated VESL is now up and running in Brookview Elementary.
  2. **Bridge the Valley Bike Rally –** Rick provided an update stating the ads are out and we are expecting Registration to open mid-March. A new website for the event is being built by a volunteer who creates websites.
  3. Climate & Environment – Don spoke of the success of our compost collection and has been investigating other recycle collection opportunities such as: wine corks, electronics, plastic bags, lithium batteries.
     1. Don is working on a club tour of Washington County Recycle Center
     2. Roadside Clean-up will be either 5/6 or 5/13
     3. City of Stillwater is supporting “No Mow May” and Don will promote within the club.
     4. There will be a Spring clean-up of the Pollinator Garden.
  4. **Youth Exchange/Your Development** – Kris reported both our students will be moving to new families’ weekend of 3/6. Camp RYLA needs counselors for May camp session. Let Kris know if you can volunteer. We are sponsoring 1 student for sure and possibly a second. For outbound exchange students, there is a meeting in Roseville coming up. For new inbound students, we will get our assignment in May/June. Stillwater Sunrise will need to shoulder the responsibility again this year as Stillwater Noon and Lake Elmo do not contribute effort, although they contribute some money.
  5. **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 March 23th from 7 – 8:30 am. It will be held at Family Means.**

Submitted by Barbara Tischart  
SSR Secretary