

PNW Passport Rotary Club Minutes for 3/3/18

Club Meeting & Charter Night Celebration

March 3, 2018

5:00 PM, Northwood Hall, Bellingham, WA

Attending:

Sean Hogan, President

Tim Villhauer, Pres. Elect.

Charlotte Hart, Secretary

Jim Smart, Treasurer

Julie Johansen, Service Comm. Chair

Pati Villhauer, Engagement Comm. Chair

Lindagene Coyle, DG + Charter Member

General Membership present - 30+

Sean called the meeting to order at 5:00, with Opening Remarks and a hearty welcome to all present. He then called on DG, Lindagene Coyle to add a few words. Sean then went on to introduce the Head Table for the evening:

Special Guests – (PDG) Glenn & Elise Fong, RI Vice-President Dean Rohrs and her husband Rhino, (PDG) Bill Robson, District Governor Lindagene Coyle, and Sean's wife, Carole Hogan.

Sean then asked that each person in attendance take a moment to introduce themselves and their guests. It was interesting to note that about 1/3 of the room were current Rotarians, 1/3 were brand new to Rotary and the remaining 1/3 were past Rotarians now returning to Rotary.

President's Report: Sean shared the Mission of the Passport Rotary Club – To encourage members to be engaged in service in ways that fit individual time, talent, and finances – to fit within family, work and life commitments. To encourage members to visit other local Rotary Clubs and take part in their service projects and fundraisers as well as be a Rotary Ambassador to other community groups as we work together to support the good works of others.

Sean also shared that the initial membership count for the PNW Passport Club began at 28 and immediately grew to 38 – and counting. The energy in the room and surrounding this new club approach was contagious, as evidenced by the positive comments heard throughout the night.

Julie Johansen, Chair of the Services Committee – explained that this committee coordinates the service outreach for the club and she encouraged members to sign up as soon as possible so planning can begin. She introduced committee member Marietta Ostberg who is in the process of developing an App for Service Projects - this could be used between clubs as a way to share what events, fundraisers, and service projects are being held in the region at any given time, making it easier to join in efforts across communities, and across borders.

Pati Villhauer, Chair of the Engagement Committee – this committee coordinates internal engagement among club members, to determine event calendars, club meeting locations, social gatherings, and other topics impacting the interactions of the club and its members. Pati also encouraged members to sign-up so planning could begin.

Jim Smart, Treasurer - gave the Finance Report; club and district dues have been paid and processed for incoming members. The club operating accounts have been set up for both US and Canadian funds.

DG Lindagene Coyle continued words of Welcome and highlighted the excitement of seeing Rotarians returning to Rotary and how each passport club is unique, and has the power to create their own way.

PDG Glenn Fong – along with friend and fellow California Rotarian, created the concept of the Passport Club over four years ago. He shared both words of praise and encouragement to the PNW Passport Club. He had the members chant Number 9 – indicating that we were in fact the 9th Passport Club launched! Glenn and Elise were later made Honorary Members of the PNW Passport Rotary Club.

Sean then took questions/comments from the floor:

- Individual Club By-laws may in fact need to be adjusted / amended to allow for members to be a part of more than one club.
- Can Passport members come from outside District 5050? Yes.
- Club meeting frequency and locations still need to be finalized. What was agreed to at this meeting: Day - Saturday. Time - later afternoon (4:00 pm or 5:00 pm). Meetings would take place once a month, at an every other location of US and Canada.
- It was suggested, and then confirmed, that we would hold the next Club Meeting after the District Assembly in Surrey, B.C. on Saturday, April 7. Exact time and location TBD.
- Sean again reminded members to share their Club Meeting location suggestions with Engagement Chair, Pati V.
- Clifford Grant, a new Charter Member, gave a special presentation of colored socks (of which he is famous for) to both Sean and Lindagene – which were accepted enthusiastically.
- Carol with RLI (Rotary Leadership Institute) put a plug in for registering for various opportunities to grow in our knowledge of Rotary. The next training (1st in a 3 part series) begins this coming Saturday, March 10 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm in Surrey.

At this point, Sean brought the meeting portion of the evening to a close, the bar was opened, and the Charter Night Celebration began in earnest!

Minutes submitted by
Charlotte Hart, Secretary