

Rotary Club of New Jersey

January 12, 2023

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Young.

Present:

Jay Young-President

Michael Van Stine-Vice President

Manuel Nunez-Treasurer

David Winter-Secretary

Dan Tangi

Kathleen Van Stine

Brianna Tiernan

Eston Spain

Victor Krapevin

Armen Bucci

David Still

Pres Jay led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by VP Michael, second by Manny to approve the minutes of November 10, 2022. Motion approved.

Pres Jay said he was glad 2022 was over and welcomed in 2023. He said the "Big Game" raffle ticket sales set a new record. The club raised \$1,600. For the Foundation Account. Jay said a special thank you to Kathleen and Manny for their hard work in coordinating the selling of raffle tickets.

Kathleen said the club sold 800 tickets.

VP Michael said this was the first year the club sold all tickets received and even got an extra 200 tickets that were also sold.

VP Michael then reminded all that the DG would be attending the meeting on January 26 and asked everyone to attend.

Pres Jay said he would represent the club at a DG-sponsored event on January 25th.

Pres Jay then thanked VP Michael, our Rotaract Club Advisor Michael D'Italia, and Kathleen for attending a Camden Community Garden Event. He also thanked Mark Everly for attending a Paws for Heroes event that raised 5K to train one service animal for a veteran.

VP Michael said the district supports Canine Warriors for service dog training, but that organization charges \$50K per animal while Paws for Heroes only charges an average of \$5K. Mark Everly said he returned from Iraq in need of a service animal so he started Paws for Heroes. He said that RCNJ has committed to raising a total of \$25K toward training service animals this year. Hopefully, this will allow up to five service dogs to be trained and placed. Mike said service dog "Batman" has retired. He was the recipient of last year's SCF Medal of Honor Award.

Pres Jay said he expects the next Foundation GALA to be even better than last year.

Kathleen reminded all that there will be a Love for Veterans Dinner on February 16 at the SCF building.

VP Michael said that KOVA (Keep Our Veterans Alive) is a Spectra Care Foundation partner. Mike said that on Saturday, January 21, there will be a "Mini" Conference at the Veterans Center that will highlight the work with families that are stressed or a victim of an actual veteran suicide.

VP Michael said that the club received a District Grant for a gardening program to develop gardening therapy with the Heroic Heroes Garden Project. The grant proceeds will be used to buy a greenhouse to be located on one side of the Veterans Center. He said that Horticulture Therapy will be part of the curriculum. Mike said he is also working to secure a Green Acres Grant from the State and County to create a park at the site. He said that help will be needed to assemble the greenhouse and that he is thankful for the comprehensive supplemental assistance provided by Home Depot.

VP Michael said he is trying to obtain a van to be used to take veterans to events as well as other appointments. He said he is trying to figure out if a CDL license is required. Mike also said that operating expenses can be high but that the County Vocational School may be able to do car repairs.

VP Michael said he, Kathleen and Manny would attend the funeral of long-time Rotarian and club member Jerry Clark on January 14. Jerry put substantial resources into Gift of Life and the Rotary Foundation during his lifetime, received many RI and District and club awards, and was instrumental in starting the D7500 e-Club. He said he spoke to Jerry's wife and told her that RCNJ will establish a Memorial Fund in his name. Jerry supported RI programs with over 100K in contributions. The Gift of Life program was special to Jerry.

VP Michael said that Dave Z. was not available for this meeting but that Dave and a future Rotary Director who is an ophthalmologist will be going to Zambia to provide dental and eye care. Mike said he hoped to raise \$500 to help the mission. Dave W said he would send the needed \$500 from his Family Trust. Pres Jay thanked Dave for his donation.

VP Michael said that the Rotaract Club at Rutgers New Brunswick wants to partner in an international project.

Manny gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion by Manny seconded by Dave W to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion approved.

VP Michael said he was sad that Amy had to leave the club due to personal reasons. Mike nominated Dave S. second by Pres Jay to make Dave S. our new President-Elect for 2023-2034. Motion approved.

VP Michael said that the President-Elect shadows the President because the spirit of Rotary is to rotate the position. It involves Pre-PETS and PETS training. Kathleen said she has known Dave S. for five years and he is a real manager and leader!

VP Michael said a new Gift of Life Foundation Chair will be needed due to the passing of Jerry.

Manny said his current bowling average is 195. He also said that the club did not sell a winning raffle ticket.

Dave W said his best recent golf score was 80.

VP Michal sighed in continued disbelief at the scores of Manny and Dave W. He said he can't hit a golf ball and is not that much better with a bowling ball.

Pres Jay welcomed Victor to the group. Victor said he has attended past meetings of the club and met VPVS at Rutgers but that now he is a graduate student at Stanford studying physics.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 P.M.