

Rotary Club of New Jersey

February 23, 2023

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Vice President Van Stine.

Present:

- Michael Van Stine-Vice President
- Manuel Nunez-Treasurer
- David Winter-Secretary
- Kathleen Van Stine
- Dave Still
- Eston Spain
- Brianna Tiernan

VP Michael led the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised that he was filling in for Pres Jay.

VP Michael thanked Dave W for his \$500 donation to the Dave Z dental mission. He said Dave Z is the director for the dental portion of the trip to Africa. They did not get the funding they expected for this year and they can use all the extra funding they can get for overhead costs and supplies. Everyone then thanked Dave W for making the contribution!

VP Michael said an initiative has been started to offer transportation services to veterans and seniors with our foundation. The foundation through the help of "Transportation Adventures" recently obtained a small bus, which is being painted and decaled and will be used for all kinds of trips for shopping, medical appointments, equine, photography and model rocket therapy excursions and field trips. The foundation was also finding some success in procuring used vehicles at a reasonable price for veterans. He said he would like to see the club be more involved with this initiative over time.

VP Michael said the van donated to the SCF will be called 'Sweet Lucy'. Dan is pricing insurance for the vehicle. Eston is working on a fund raiser to pay the insurance premium which may be as much as \$2500. VP Michael also said the bus is having tires and brakes replaced. He said he hopes to resolve the insurance issue.

Motion by VP Michael second by Dave W to support one student participant for both the RYLA and Torch Leadership Academy programs. Motion approved. Since RCNJ does not represent a specific area, it might be possible to support alternates from other areas in the future. He said he wanted to also support the Torch Leadership Academy outside of the Rotary RYLA slot due to the quality of the program.

VP Michael said the RYLA fee was \$399. Dave W said the Torch fee was \$417, and that he would provide information to Manny regarding payment. We will work with the Runnemedede club to send one of their alternates who otherwise would not be able to attend, and Dave W will select a student from Raritan High School for the Torch slot.

VP Michael said RCNJ continues to support the Spectra Care Foundation. Mike is hoping to come up with fund raisers for next year in an attempt to support up to six students for the leadership programs in the future, maybe even more if we could raise even more.

VP Michael asked Kathleen to give an update on the Foundation. Kathleen said a new art class at the Veterans Center is scheduled for April 1. The gardening program will resume on March 23. She said the Equine Program will have sessions on April 14, 21, and 28. Kathleen said the Dinner for Veterans was a huge success. She said there will be a lunch and birthday celebration on May 11. And she said this year's foundation GALA will be held on September 15. She said it was Carlton Rouh's birthday, and that Captain Rouh received the Medal of Honor as a soldier that fell on a grenade to save his squad. He is the namesake of the veterans' center. He will be honored at the Gala.

Kathleen said she took in a pumpkin cat stray that may go to Eston. She thanked Eston for his work on obtaining sponsors for the GALA.

VP Michael displayed a picture and sample of a rocket that will be built from a kit in the therapy class. He said it was very basic, but if the simple rocket is a success the group can upgrade to more complex rockets in the future. Launches of the rockets after they are all built will also be planned.

Manny provided the Treasurer's Report. Motion by Manny second by Dave W to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion approved. Manny also said he closed the excess bank account and is tracking all receipts and disbursements separately. He is also still trying to collect past dues.

VP Michael thanked Manny for keeping good records for us of our bank account.

VP Michael then asked Brianna to knit a "Rotary Wheel". Brianna said she would investigate it.

Manny said his current bowling average is 195 but is trying to get it back over 200.

VP Michael said in the past there has been a 9-hole golf fund raiser but maybe a bowling activity might be possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 P.M.