

Rotary Club of New Jersey  
September 26, 2024

Present: Michael Van Stine, President  
Manuel Nunez, Treasurer  
Dan Tangi  
Clarence Cummings  
Bonnie Kilichowki  
Kruthy Takkala  
Shibin Yan  
Dave Winter

Michael opened the meeting at 7:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone. He advised that Brianna was ill and cannot attend, so he would be taking minutes for the evening. He asked that the minutes from our August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved, and they were.

Michael then provided an update on correspondence which had been shared with all club members between he and DG Steven regarding a new club the district was sponsoring to be comprised of only veterans. He explained to the DG why he thought it was not a good or fair thing to do that the district would create such a club composed of a particular demographic that was inherently competitive with existing clubs for the same demographic, and with our club already having its focus on veteran membership and service for almost a decade. He said the district thinks such a club is not competitive with existing clubs as it was created only to solicit new members. But Michael further expressed that since all clubs need new members it was indeed inherently competitive with other clubs and specifically our club, and that it would be a misleading offering to new veteran members as it would be connecting them directly to all we now do for veterans as well as it would charge them thirty per cent more in dues. Also, he felt a "cause club" would be one more about what cause a club was supporting in service as opposed to its composition and that it was a shortcoming that the district had not polled existing district clubs to even learn about what other clubs were already doing to serve veterans as their existing cause focus -- in particular our club running its own veterans' center for many years serving hundreds of veterans annually, He said that the DG continues to think of us as only the "e-club" even though we have not been such for a few years. He said he did not see the district will be changing its position or entertaining any further discussion on the topic. He was hopeful that the DG will gain a better understanding and appreciation for our club when he comes for his annual visit with us next month. If this new veterans' club gets chartered, Michael said we would just work to convert its members to our club offering better kinship and service opportunities attached to a much lower dues structure.

Michael then advised of an upcoming recruitment and information tabling event on Rutgers campus for our Rotaract club on October 8<sup>th</sup>. and Rotaract's participation with North Camden Community Gardens Harvest Fest on October 26<sup>th</sup>. He wants to offer the use of our bus for the day to transport students to and from the campus and the event.

Kathleen then gave a report on foundation operations. She reported on the "Run for the Fallen" to Sea Isle and Shy's cooking class both of which were earlier in the day, and Justin's Healing Arts class on September 19<sup>th</sup>. She then reported on upcoming events in October as follows: a Genealogy class with Shelly Klink on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Gloucester Township medal ceremony on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the annual Total Turf Senior Expo on the 9<sup>th</sup>, a Culinary Arts class with Shy on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a Knights of Columbus event and our hosting of Garden State Rotary's weekly lunch meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>, a Health Care Symposium at Live casino w/the Rothkoff Group on the 16<sup>th</sup>, a Healing Photography class with Tom on the 17<sup>th</sup>, a Creative Painting event ('Sip n' Paint') on the 18<sup>th</sup> at AL Post 281, a Seeds for Change gardening class w/Trevor on the 24<sup>th</sup>, a Veterans' Family Fall Festival hosted jointly by KOVA, the Philadelphia VA and SCF at the center on the 26<sup>th</sup>, a Veterans Housing Symposium at Stockton University on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and finally a Healing Arts class w/Adrianna on the 31<sup>st</sup>. It will be a busy month.

Michael then mentioned that Hurricane Helene was expected to make landfall later in the evening and that the Hurricane was expected to not just wreak havoc in Florida, but also through a number of southern states. He said he was going to reach out the David Kline at Indian Rocks to get an idea of how we might be able to help. David W. said we should do all we can do to help.

Dave W. then briefly discussed some Torch events and encouraged Kruthy and any other Rotaractors to get involved with upcoming counselor training events. He will share more detailed information about them going forward. All spoke highly of the work that Torch does and also how much Dave has done to support the program over many years.

Michael then called on Manuel to give a treasurer's report which he did. His report was unanimously approved.

After some lively group social discussion, Michael motioned to adjourn, Manuel seconded. The meeting was adjourned promptly at 8:00 pm.