

Clinton Rotary Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm. We met on line with Zoom.

Welcome Visitors or Guests:

There were no visitors or guests.

Rotary Attendance:

Renee Szewczyk, Andrew Marzanno, Michael Richards, Dick Mason, Maria Varga, Nelson Vincenty, Angie Vincenty Tony Raucci, Tom Houpert and Linda Gworek.

Mail and Communications:

We received a thank you note from Helping Hands Food Pantry in Killingworth.

Over 50 families received food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also received a check from the Lupone family in memory of Rich Onofrio. We have received number of donations in his name in the last few weeks. Dick had also received some mail requesting financial support. He will discuss later in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (November 18 , 2021)

Motion to accept minutes of our previous meeting by Renee and seconded by Maria.
Approved unanimously.

Rotary Minute:

Renee shared a thought for our meeting.

New Business:

Renee asked our members if we wished to provide financial assistance to the victims of the tornado damage in the Midwest. We do not have any specific fund in mind and it was thought that instead of adding funds to a large campaign, we might find an effort being done by a Rotary club in the area or focus our efforts for a school or find a child centered need.

Support for Afghan refugees was discussed. Dick's feeling was that substantial monies have been raised, but now the need is transportation for the families who are relocating to the area. We chose not to donate to the larger organization which has a base in Westport. Request for a speaker or more info from them has not been answered.

Linda had sent out an email describing a new project working with Sandy Voss in her role at the Middlesex Shoreline Clinic. As previously shared, Sandy and other employees have been providing small toys and activities that pediatric patients can choose from under the all year around tree in the clinic. She has asked if we wish to assume the project since the number of patients in this age group have significantly increased. There will be a year long tree that will be decorated with the monthly themes that the Interact at Morgan will adopt. After discussion it was agreed that our Rotary club and or members will help keep the supply of items stocked. There was a motion that seconded and approved to give Interact some start up funds for this project in the amount of \$500 to be held in the Morgan activities fund for their use for this project. Linda will speak to Sandy about how much we might budget for our part in purchasing the gifts.

The 2022 Scholarship program was discussed. We will give our usual(2)\$1,000 scholarships and offer the Lupone Scholarship once again since we have an active Interact Club. We will use the same application , but will need to change the dates. Andrew will make the adjustments in the forms when Linda checks the dates for this year.

Renee brought up the suggestion by Andrew that we find a way to acknowledge the businesses that have supported our efforts the last few years . We brainstormed about what that could look like...from a framed certificate to a reception. More ideas

included having some sort of open house or reception that also could include a membership drive . Conversation about this whole topic will continue as members think about points brought up.

Student of the month : Has been going very well and we have a name for January.

We will need a new plaque very soon and Linda has been in touch with Tom, the engraver who she has been working with. The plaque, with each new name added remains at the school. Students receive a “hoodie sweatshirt” that has the Clinton Rotary emblem on the front and “Morgan Student of the Month” is embroidered on the sleeve. Linda (happily) has been personally paying for these items, but it was felt that the club should assume the cost which is approximately \$50 per month.

Linda will submit expenses to Dick for reimbursement from this point going on.

Fundraisers:

Tony reported about the June concert. Sponsor forms are ready. Tony played a segment for us that will be used to open the show and set the scene. There will be a second one to open the other half of the show. He did not find any students for the dance number , but does have that covered with other individuals. He will speak to the efforts of Rotary and that this show is a fundraiser for our club. He has worked with Ray Smith from Morgan and other details are being worked out, ie tickets, etc. He will be having a zoom meeting with the committee in February. Reminder this event is on June 18th.

Dick will work with Clinton PD to discuss traffic coverage if needed.

Projects/Service:

Dick reported that the District managed grant for the Peters Complex benches in memory of Harry Swaun is almost approved.

At this time , Dick spoke about our club treasury and our income and expenditures. Our donations this past year exceeded our income, but we are still in sound financial footing. We spoke about including some items in our budget ie : Interact, Student of

the Month, etc. Dick also wanted to make known the bill for the storage unit has been paid for the year, taking advantage of a discount offered if paid that way.

He brought up some other requests he had received asking our club for financial support. They included Dances with Wood, the Estuary, and Literacy Volunteers.

We have supported all these organizations before these recent requests. Will discuss again at one of our upcoming meetings.

Dick also spoke about an audit of our accounts. Old Saybrook Rotary is in the process of having their books done and if they are pleased, we might consider their vendor.

Adjournment

Meeting was closed at 8:00pm with the four way test.

Respectfully recorded, Linda Gworek