

## **Clinton Rotary Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. We met in person at The Clinton Country Club. A meeting of the Board was held prior to the meeting.

### **Welcome Visitors or Guests:**

There were no visitors or guests.

### **Rotarians in Attendance:**

Renee Szewczyk, Andrew Marzanno, Michael Richards, Maria Varga, Tony Raucci, Tom Houpert, Andy Berliner, Dee Tully, Ted Eastwood, Angie Vincenty, Nelson Vincenty, Dick Mason and Linda Gworek.

### **Mail and Communications:**

A thank you letter was received from The Shoreline Soup Pantries and Kitchens for our efforts on their behalf in conjunction with the Gowrie group matching funds program. A greeting and good thoughts were also sent from Jack and Debbie was read.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting ( February 24, 2022) Motion to accept minutes of our previous meeting by Maria and seconded by Tony. Approved unanimously.

A card for a member who is ill was passed around the table for members to sign.

### **Rotary Minute:**

Dee read some words of wisdom from Jim Bearsdley . The topic was happiness.

### **New Business:**

Renee is in touch with our contact for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen Programs. When information is received about the reopening of the Clinton Kitchen , she will let us know.

The Board discussed the situation in Ukraine and what the District has suggested for clubs to help with humanitarian efforts. The District is asking for five clubs in our area to donate \$1,000 each to purchase Shelter Boxes . The District will then match, so a total of ten boxes will be sent. This was contingent on member approval. Motion made by Tom, seconded by Andy that we donate \$1,000 for this project. Unanimously approved.

Renee informed the club that financial assistance for an Afghanistan family that has relocated to New Haven was tabled until we have more information.

The board also discussed a \$500 request from Tony for SCORE . We had done this last year to support a series of on line seminars. Motion by Maria , seconded by Nelson that we once again become a sponsor. The motion was unanimously approved. Andrew will once again be a spokesperson for our club.

Our Mother's Day Plant Sale is in the planning stages. Maria announced the dates and times of the sale.. It will be on Friday, May 6th from 9-4 and Saturday, May 7th from 9-3 at the American Legion Hall. There will be on line orders taken and extra plants will be ordered so that in person purchases can be made as in previous years.

The prices will remain at \$25 for each hanging plant.

Dee spoke about the Soup Pantry Easter Basket project that is already underway. Sandy Voss has advertisements and collection boxes out and we have already begun to collect items. A large donation of items is expected from an Old Lyme resident who saw the flyer about the project. Sandy and Linda also picked up items that were donated to the Old Saybrook Police Department last year from Walmart. Those included over 200 Easter themed bucket, cases of grass filler and pallets of

cases of plastic eggs. Needed will be the candy fillers for the baskets along with small toys..bubbles, trinkets, pencils, chalk, etc. We also spoke about possibly of providing some baskets for the Killingworth food pantry. Dick (Joyce) has the contact information for Nancy McCormick, who we met when we when she came for dinner and accepted our donation for the pantry. Dee will follow up .

### **Follow up**

CCAT: ( Clinton Community Assistance Team) Renee added it to the agenda wondering what the status of the program is. Linda explained that once the variant of the virus hit high levels, the number of requests went way down. Clients were not willing to have people in their homes or close contact . But just this week, some requests have appeared on the website that the volunteers can be signed up for. We still need to get a publicity photo of the printer that was purchased with the Rotary donation to this program.

Student of the Month program is going well. A new plaque has been ordered beginning with the March student. Linda shared that having the presentations done at the school have been very successful. The administrators, other teachers, students can be at the little acknowledgment ceremony and can speak to the contributions of the student. Concern that many of us cannot be present since it is done during the school day hours. Linda suggested that maybe at the end of their school year we can have a small pizza party celebration with the kids. Andrew has been successful getting the last student on the month on the Town scrolling screen near old Police Department.

New T shirts have been ordered for our membership.

Discussion of acknowledgement of individuals and businesses who have been sponsors for the events and projects we have done. It was decided appreciation certificates will be ordered and frames would be purchased . It was suggested that we might visit those on the list and make a presentation in person.

## **Fundraisers**

Tony gave an update about the June concert. He had a sample of the program out and will add sponsorships as we receive them. Concert Info and tickets will be forthcoming approximately 6 weeks before the event. Tony wishes to have the concert video-graphed and he will donate the amount for that to be done.

Rehearsals with the dancers will start in May.

## **Projects/Service**

The day of Rotary service will be Saturday, April 9th. We will be cleaning and sprucing up Esposito beach. Renee had also suggested that we make a Clinton Rotary Day of Service an annual event.

## **Other**

Andy spoke about the local collection he and Nancy had done to help the Ukrainian relief efforts.

Dick gave a treasury report. He informed members if they are requesting reimbursement of expenditures, he must have a receipt or a documentation of what the purchase was for.

Dick also told us the date for the Corn hole tournament is September 25th.

Adjournment: Meeting was closed with the four way test at 7:45 pm . Following adjournment Tony showed members the preshow video for the upcoming concert.

Respectfully recorded,

Linda Gworek