

**Rotary Club of Swarthmore**  
**Board Minutes**  
**October 16, 2024**  
**4:30 p.m. via Zoom**

**Present:** Jane Billings, Sarah Pita, Joe Lesniak, George Whitfield, Brian Casey, Rosemary Fox, Hillard Pouncy, Marc Bernesky, Carr Everbach

**Excused:** Ken Wright, Lisa O'Mahony, Lori Markusfeld, Maria Zissimos, Elizabeth Church, Josh Twersky

**Secretary's Report:** September minutes were approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Joe reported that the balance in the club account is \$26,161.56. Report was approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Club Programs:** Hillard asked the group how they felt about post-election political content, envisioning some kind of expert debrief and analysis. There was lukewarm enthusiasm from some for strictly nonpartisan discussion (such as Veterans for All Voters, which works for primary reform), while President Jane felt strongly that no amount of politics at Rotary was the right amount of politics. Hillard promised to tread very carefully.

He further reports that speakers are booked through the end of November.

For December, the club will have one breakfast meeting and two regular meetings. Hillard requested help getting the Silvertones to come perform at one; Rosemary will coordinate. The other meeting will be at CADES and George will help arrange that one.

**Membership:** announced a fireside chat for potential new member Betsy Crane on October 17, and for Dan Snyder the following week. He confirmed that Swarthmore Rotary would continue with the new member induction process devised in the summer. To recap, the process involves him sharing a bio of candidates with the board for approval (or lack of disapproval), followed by sharing with the full club via email for any objections, followed by approval and induction into the club.

He further shared that he is currently in the process of reaching out to nonprofits who participated in the Fun Fair to get their feedback but has not gotten it yet.

**Rotary Arts Conversations:** In Ken's absence, Rosemary shared that Rinal Parikh would be presenting the next RAC.

**Rotary Foundation:** no report

**Service Projects:** no report

**Youth/Interact:** Marc shared with the club that Kathryn Jones presented to Interact about Project Cure, which Interact has selected as their international project. Interact has decided to hold a couple fundraisers for their Kits for Kids initiative, which they will assemble at school. They also plan to volunteer at the warehouse in early spring.

**Public Image:** Rosemary reports a couple of new followers on FB and Instagram.

**New Business:**

Illuminations Swarthmore SDC is offering assistance in labor and cash allocation, and promising a better location, for a lights display in downtown Swarthmore this year. Carr created a cool display that integrated sound and light last year but is not able to do it again this year. Interact has declined firmly. Is there anybody who might be willing to take this on on behalf of Swarthmore Rotary?

**Board vote on two new grant requests:**

\$3600 for **12 RYLA scholarships** for this year. Last year the Club sent six students from Strath Haven High School and six from The Garage Community and Youth Center in West Chester. **Approved.**

**Loaves and Fishes** submitted a request for \$1500, to pay for fresh milk and eggs for three weeks. As listed on the Club website, \$1500 is the upper limit for grant requests to Swarthmore Rotary. George proposed that the board authorize matching the \$1500 grant with \$1500 from club funds, to come out of the unrestricted fund balance. After a discussion of whether it is appropriate to give more than an applicant asks for, and clarification of where exactly in club funds the match would come from, a majority **approved.**

George further moved that board should authorize a donation of **\$1K for Hurricanes Helene and Milton recovery** to districts 33 and 34, from unrestricted funds. There is currently a district match which will double this donation. The board **approved.**

Jane asked the Board if **moving meetings to 5 pm** would be preferable given that several members must attend on work time (including the secretary, who was in a meeting with her Executive Director at 4:30 and was late to the meeting as a result.) The Board **approved.**

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Pita, Secretary