

Rotary Club of Swarthmore
Board Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2024
5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: George Whitfield, Sarah Pita, Hillard Pouncy, Jane Billings, Rosemary Fox, Joe Lesniak, Elizabeth Church, Carr Everbach, Brian Casey, Ken Wright, Marc Berneski, Lisa O'Mahony, Lori Markusfeld

Excused: Maria Zissimos, Josh Twersky

Opening Remarks. Jane reviewed grants paid out of Club (rather than Foundation) funds this year: \$1,500 to Loaves and Fishes, \$500 to support Mary Laxton's medical mission trip, and \$1,004 for Hurricane Helene relief. She noted that these grants were not budgeted but the Club has a large surplus to support the expense (see Treasurer's Report).

October and November minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Joe reported that the club is carrying a cash balance of \$22,283. Jane pointed out that the budget was balanced at the time that she and Joe planned it, and that if there should be a shortfall (including from the awarding of grants) it can easily be covered by the high balance in the club account.

Carr asked where the club was at on Happy Dollars compared to past years. Joe reported that the club was on track and the board was reminded that we needed to get to \$3500 in contributions in order to secure \$3500 in matching funds.

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Committee Reports

- Club Programs – Hillard reported that the program calendar is full through January, and he is working on February and March.
- Membership/Fun Fair – On *membership*, Carr reported that in the past month we welcomed Dan Snyder to Swarthmore Rotary. Jeff Haviland has verbally expressed the intention to join but has not turned in a written application yet. On *Fun Fair*, which is an important fundraiser for the Club, Jane reported that she is working on finding some help for Carr for this year. The Village Vine, which had suggested and agreed to lead a mac and cheese cookoff for the Fun Fair, is up for sale—so the mac and cheese cookoff could potentially be in jeopardy. Stay tuned.
- Rotary Arts Conversation – Ken reported that there have been 14 total, with a total of 400 guests, and an average of 30 per show. The shows have been exceptional. Through donations, RAC have made \$1K-- \$1.5K in donations, minus \$500 spent running the events. The PAC has made \$2,400. The next speaker is photographer Ron Tarver.
- Rotary Foundation – Elizabeth reported on her efforts to get the club to give to the Rotary Foundation at the end of the year instead of at the end of the fiscal year. She's sending emails to

members and trying to get them to give online through Rotary Direct instead of through paper checks. She suspects some people may be really reluctant to give online using their credit cards—or they may just be confused. Editorial note from the secretary: is it possible that some of this reluctance could be from people who already do a lot of giving at year-end (virtually all nonprofits do their biggest fundraisers in November/December)?

- Service Projects – Lisa O’Mahony talked to Sarah Mahoney at Headstrong about an upcoming club volunteer opportunity, to take place at the January 16 club meeting at the Inn. Lisa will be providing detailed instructions to club members about items to bring to include in the kits, including \$10 gift cards from Target (each member to bring one). Decided to use Sign-Up Genius in order to make sure there is not too much redundancy in donated items.
- Youth/Interact – Marc Berneski reported there has been 1 sign-up for RYLA. The Interact Club held a used sports equipment collection event last month. They are seeking more participants for RYLA. Marc emphasized the importance of Interact being student-led, even if that meant letting students make mistakes and learn to manage things through trial and error.
- Public Image – Rosemary reports that it has been a busy time at work for her, and she has also been sick, so this has been a slow time for club social media. Jane urges the board to “look at our FB page,” CADES did a nice post about the visit.

Old Business:

Funds were made available for Rotary Peace Fellow Mohammed Zahry and his family for housing. His family may be arriving in the US soon, pending receiving visas. Joy has been trying to work with Peter Mardinly to work through the Rotary Foundation to launch fundraising to support Mohammed and his family in the US.

New Business:

- The club received a grant request from CADES for \$2,500 to purchase AEDs. Grants committee had already approved, board approves.

Adjournment at

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Pita, Secretary

**Next Meeting:
January 15, 2025 via Zoom**