

**Rotary Club Of Decatur #180
Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2004**

Members Present: Dave Brandon, Jim Finn, Paula Finn, Steve Furrow, Martin Getty, Kim Lockart, Harold Murphy, Bill Owen, Heather Stoa, Miley Palmer, Pen Shade, Elizabeth Butler (for presentation)

President-elect Dave Brandon called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The October minutes were approved. (Palmer/JFinn)

Financial Report: Harold Murphy presented the report. Income for October was \$10,614.57 and expenses were \$3,659.45. The October Penny Fund of \$354.40 was given to the Pelican Bay Rotary Club in Naples, FL, to be matched by another south Florida Rotary Club for Hurricane Relief. The \$60 speakers' honorarium went to Decatur Christian Grade School. Cash on hand is \$35,004.37 with an additional \$10,446.89 in Money Market, and Member's Current accounts of \$28,112.90.

Steve Furrow noted that the club's Rotary International semi-annual dues payment will need to be made in December, along with the \$15,000 Rotary Park payment to the Decatur Park District.

Pen Shade noted that the club had quite a bit of money in cash (checking account) and wondered if the club ought to consider a revolving certificate of deposit. The interest income could be given away in the form of another grant, or Miley Palmer suggested the club could use the interest income to build the club's endowment at The Community Foundation of Decatur-Macon County. The board asked Pen to look into interest rates and report back in December when Stu Ellis can be present and a decision can be made at that time.

The Treasure's Report was accepted. (Palmer/Murphy)

Miley Palmer noted that a request for assistance has gone out from Durfee Magnet School for financial assistance in treating the entire school population to a viewing of "The Polar Express." He wonders if #180 would like to participate. The idea was tabled until Bill Kienzle arrived at the meeting or until the next Monday meeting.

Membership: Heather Stoa reported current membership of 141 with one new member initiated this past Monday and two white cards on the table for Debra Waks, Mortgage Services of Illinois, and Mary Ann Koucky, Vice-President at Morgan Stanley.

Committee Reports

Grants: No report

Old Business

Centennial Convention 2005/continue or quit?: Bill Owen is forging ahead with plans for a daytrip to Chicago during the convention, which is now including the general public in addition to Rotarians. He also is offering roundtrip transportation to the convention for \$50, and hopes to fill a bus. Response from members has been less than enthusiastic and a long discussion followed regarding reasons why it is so. Board members felt that if the convention offered a one-day opportunity to "get the flavor" of a convention with out having to undergo a \$2000 or more expense, that more members would favorably consider attending. The issue of taking three days out of one's workweek is also a bone of contention. Bill brought a DVD presentation for members to view on a computer, and suggested the program be shown at one of the Monday meetings.

A consensus was reached to show the program, make one more "pitch" and to communicate with our District Governor that our members are disappointed that they cannot go as "visitors" for a one-day experience instead of having to pay for the entire convention.

New Business

Thanksgiving Luncheon – the board voted unanimously to approve the Community Thanksgiving Luncheon as a qualified makeup. (Finn double team)

Recruiting/Incentives – There was concern that offering incentives for recruiting members is, essentially, “bribing members to do what they should already be doing.” It was mentioned that Rotary membership ought to be offered to community leaders or those who are being groomed for community leadership rather than the general public. One member intoned that “it used to be a privilege to be asked to join the membership of Rotary because not everyone was asked.”

Paula Finn suggested the club undertake a “prospect development” policy discussion and devise a plan for such. Consult the classification list and see where #180 has openings and brainstorm, as a board, prospective members to approach. Better new member orientation is also needed, said many, and new members ought to be made busy right away, e.g. making them a sergeant-at-arms for the quarter or a greeter for the month...give them something to do so they feel involved from the beginning. It was noted that a lot of new members who have joined in the past year have stopped coming to meetings. It was also noted that the club ought to consider more “hands-on” projects where members can feel a sense of personal service and accomplishment.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Elizabeth Butler made a brief presentation seeking to determine if Rotary #180 had interest in organizing and staffing a blood drive. It could be a one-time thing, an annual thing, or a semi-annual thing...whatever the club wished to do. The Red Cross provides the facility, medical personnel and snacks, and Rotary would provide donors and volunteers to staff the drive. It is Elizabeth’s desire to survey the membership to see if there is enough interest to attain a 30-unit donation at the least. Her request was granted unanimously by the board (Palmer/Murphy) and Elizabeth will prepare a survey for distribution at a Monday meeting.

Christmas program – Jim and Paul Finn noted that the 12/20/04 meeting will be our Christmas meeting with a special Santa Claus surprise.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm (JFinn/Getty)

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 16th at noon at the Decatur Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Brandon, President-elect