

Rotary Board Meeting
Thursday, February 19, 2004

Board Members Present: Miley Palmer, Kit Paulin, Stu Ellis, Wayne Allen, Jim Finn, Heather Stoa, Steve Furrow, Robin Crowe, Marsha Fleming

The February 19, 2004 meeting of the board of directors of the Rotary Club of Decatur was called to order at 12:10 pm at the Decatur Club. President Miley Palmer officiated.

The minutes of the January Board meeting were approved as distributed. (Fleming/Stoa)

Treasurer Heather Stoa provided a financial summary which indicated \$25,878.82 in the checking account, \$10,360.56 in a money market account with a two payment obligation left on Rotary Park totaling \$30,000.

Stoa also reported that members in financial arrears were making significant progress in bringing delinquent accounts up to date as a result of the new policy that any account 90 days past due would jeopardize membership in the Club. She reported that two members who were more than one year in arrears were dropped after they failed to respond to her requests for payment. Stoa also reported the finance committee is meeting in March to clean up delinquencies.

Discussion was held on the request to fund improvements at the orphanage at Merida, Mexico, including the application of an RI grant. Miley reported the paperwork can be overwhelming for a matching grant.

Discussion was held about a policy of contributing to overseas charities such as Merida, and the project of Dr. Sinha for an eye clinic in India. A motion was approved to ensure there is local involvement by Rotary Clubs before we invest in similar ventures. (Allen/Ellis) Miley noted that such projects could be eligible for matching grants of \$1,000 from the district and \$1,000 from RI.

Miley reported that he had received a message from Assistant Governor Liz Skinner offering a simplified grant program from the district, which could be available to help with either local projects or in a foreign country. This may enable Rotary to participate in the Million Flower fund, which is being created for beautification in Decatur. Miley will talk to Grants Committee Chair Bill Kinzle to see if an application can be made prior to Skinner's March 1 deadline. A motion was approved to apply for the grant. (Stoa/Crowe).

Miley reported that District grants committee chair Lucy Murphy reported on local giving for specific Rotary projects. The RI policy is for \$100 per member per year over a three year period, and additionally, RI also wants a \$90 contribution per member per year to the Foundation. The Board agreed upon the necessity for

an educational program on the RI Foundation, and Jim Finn reported that program had been set for March 29.

There upon, the scribal duties were yielded to Kit.

NEWSLETTER WEBSITE

Tom Brinkoetter, website designer, has requested feedback from the board and from members regarding the design of our new website. He also wishes to be scheduled to do a program to introduce the membership to our new site, helping them understand the purpose of the website and how to use it. Jim Finn, program chair, agreed to schedule this program.

The board is quite excited about the new site and is thrilled at the great job Tom has done. All are extremely grateful to Tom.

Kim Lockart is the new newsletter editor.

NEW MEMBER NOMINATION

Art Wells, the club's most senior member, celebrated his 93rd birthday yesterday. Bill Blake requested we make Art an honorary member. The board voted unanimously (Wayne/Finn) to do so. The Board will give Art a certificate, a banner, and a pin.

Kit Paulin will follow up on Norma Maddio's interest in joining Rotary. Reuben is interested in joining according to Marsha Fleming. Dr. Palmer expressed that Stephen Hill, pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian, is still interested in exploring the club.

New folks to approach include:

Dr. Wendell Becton Sports Medicine

Cynthia Bullock DMH Integrative Health Center

All of the above names were approved to be approached. (Finn/Paulin)

A discussion was held regarding advertising/publicity for Rotary's 100th year in 2005. Press releases for our club's 90th birthday were also considered.

The club has been asked to submit an article to the Business Journal to raise awareness of Rotary. All three area clubs will be highlighted in the article.

A color ad for the Business Journal was proposed and approved.

In celebration of Rotary International's centennial project our club voted (Furrow/Allen) to support the Million Flower project. The club will plant flowers at Rotary Park, such as Marigolds and Salvia.

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Member Cynthia Laegeler has submitted the required documents for the RYLA program. She has also contacted area high schools to find Sophomores to enter the program. A suggestion was made the events be moved to February so that it does not conflict with prom.

NEW BUSINESS

St. Mary's wants us to highlight their auxiliary and to attend their meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 PM.