

Rotary Club of Decatur #180
Board Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting with District Governor
September 12, 2005

Members Present: Dave Brandon, Steve Furrow, Kim Lockart, Harold Murphy, Jack Owens, Pen Shade, Paul Stanzione, Heather Stoa

Visitors: Liz Skinner, District 6490 Governor, Kelly Skinner (Liz's spouse), and Wayne Honeycutt, District 6490 Assistant District Governor

President Dave Brandon called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Dave Brandon distributed district 6490 Directories.

A dialogue was opened with District Governor Liz Skinner on a variety of topics:

District Simplified Grants are available; however, the deadline for this year is September 15. Our club will look at trying for one or more of these during the next round. Submission is done on-line. The Rotary Park beautification with the plantings in the shape of the wheel qualified for this. The grants are typically not for construction or rehabilitation of existing structures. Recognition signage would qualify as part of a project, but not by itself.

The Rotary efforts to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina were very positive. Two semi-truck trailers were filled with collected items to be trucked to the affected areas. The Star of Hope was the focal point of the drop-off as arranged by Rio Grande Travel International. Thanks to Kim Lockart, Wayne Allen, Tom Burns, and Bill Owen for pulling this together.

Rotary #180 gave away approximately \$11,000 in grants last fiscal year, in addition to the \$15,000 given to the Decatur Park District as part of a 5-year pledge for Rotary Park.

Makeups for missed meetings are available on-line at the Rotary.org website. Look for the e-makeup section. This will be suggested in the next issue of *The Sparkplug*.

Vocational Service: ideas Liz mentioned included ethics seminars, essay contests for school children on the 4-Way Test, and job shadowing by young people (Junior Achievement, PIE)

International Service: the grants we have given to the orphanage in Merida, Mexico and the Sister Cities project fall into this category. Also, Bruce Nims has visited Vietnam on an informal friendship exchange and is considering a trip to Italy in the same vein. He contacts Rotarians in these countries to visit during his travel.

Matching Grants: district and RI monies are available for worthy projects. A bus for the Mexican orphanage was one idea mentioned. The minimum amount that the local club (or several area clubs) has to contribute is \$5,000. The district will match this dollar for dollar and RI will match 50 cents to the dollar.

Liz would like the club to promote increased giving to the Rotary Foundation via sustaining memberships. The goal is \$100 per member per year.

There was an interest from St Teresa in starting an Interact club late last spring. This will be pursued now that the current school year is underway. A Rotaract club for Millikin and Richland will be chartered soon.

Constitution and By-Laws—should be updated yearly so the local club is operating under the guidelines as revised yearly by RI (as indicated in the Manual of Procedures). An example is that there are only two classes of membership—active and honorary (there is no longer a senior active membership).

The next President Elect Training Seminar will be held March 24-25, 2006 in Springfield. Heather Stoa will be attending this.

Budget: will be developed at the September 15th board meeting.

Ambassadorial Scholar: our club supported a candidate for this. It is available to dependents of non-Rotarians. These are usually college students.

Peace Scholars: also available.

Teacher Grants: these are educators who spend several months in a third world country.

District Newsletter: available on-line via the district website. To get to the database on the district website, go to Member Log In, and use the password "dist6490".

Media advertisements (30-second TV and 60-second radio spots) for organ donation are being shown. Contact referrals are local Rotary clubs. The Secretary of State office is coordinating this effort. It was mentioned this would be a possible program idea/speaker for our club.

Rotary Credit Cards are available. The club and the district each get a payment for each one of these used.

Newsletter: Dave would like to submit our club newsletter for an award. Liz indicated deadline for submission is April 1, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 15 at Noon at the Decatur Club.

*Respectfully submitted,
Steve Furrow, Secretary*