

Rotary Board Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2003

Board Members Present: Miley Palmer, Kit Paulin, Stu Ellis, Wayne Allen, Jim Finn, Bob Lloyd, Harold Murphy, Heather Stoa, Steve Furrow, Tom Brinkoetter, Martin Getty, Dave Brandon,

Also Present: Debbie Seitz

Just prior to the Call to Order President Miley Palmer shared with the group information detailing the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Charleston Rotary Club. With our 90th anniversary coming up in 2005 the insight into other club's activities may be helpful. President Palmer then called the meeting to order at 12:00PM at the Decatur Club.

The MINUTES of the October meeting were approved.

Treasurer Heather Stoa presented a letter that will be sent to members in arrears. The letter will be sent to two members.

Stoa also presented the concept of providing a scholarship for a member who is currently experiencing financial difficulties and is also in arrears. Discussion followed and the following thoughts were expressed: Rules must be followed. Establishing a scholarship may set a precedent that would potentially cause problems down the road. It was recommended that we find a way to collect the monies owed and not establish a scholarship. Bob Lloyd offered to make contact with the member. He will also research who owes a considerable amount of money and will send statements.

No policy exists regarding arrearages. The board is curious if RI has guidelines for members in arrears. Miley Palmer will research that question.

It was noted that Bob Lloyd's incredible efforts on behalf of the club are greatly appreciated.

The TREASURER'S REPORT was presented by Harold Murphy. He noted that the cash balance does not reflect the payment due to Rotary Park.

There is a \$600 +/- discrepancy between our records and Rotary International's. We are working to resolve the difference.

This will be a lean year.

The treasurer's report was approved. (Brandon/Brinkoetter)

Dave Brandon requested a list of birthday's of new members. Secretary Kit Paulin agreed to forward those to both Dave Brandon and Bob Lloyd.

The GRANTS COMMITTEE submitted recommendations for the PENNY FUND for coming months. They were:

Year 2004:	January	Webster Cantrell Hall
	February	Dove
	March	Boys/Girls Club*
	April	4-H*
	May	YMCA Camp Sokia
	June	Race for the Cure
	July	Big Brothers/Big Sisters
	August	Boy Scouts

*The board noted that Boys/Girls Club was already funded this year and recommends that the Grants Committee consider 4-H in March and Heart Walk/American Heart Association in April.

Dave Brandon expressed concern that it is redundant to fund the United Way and United Way Agencies. He moved and Stu Ellis seconded that the United Way be removed from the Penny Fund list and that UW be replaced with a UW agency. The motion passed 12 to 1 with Paulin voting Nay.

Further discussion questioned whether grants should stay local or be available for international requests. Specific requests included one from Dr. Sinha for an eye clinic in India and one from Noel Myers for an orphanage in Merida, Mexico. Partnering with other clubs may allow us to support requests and get matching grants. For example, \$1,000 may be available for Dr. Sinha from the District.

This year \$11,000 is available from our club for grants. \$3,000 is for Partners in Education Youth Leadership Institute and \$8,000 for other grants.

Comments included:

In favor in International Projects (Stoa)

We are Rotary *International* (Lloyd)

Likes partnering with clubs in other countries to then attract Rotary International dollars (Furrow)

The Merida, Mexico project does not qualify for RI dollars

Perhaps the Penny Fund could be directed to the Mexico project

Partners in Education requested that Rotary consider a five year commitment to the Youth Leadership program. The board declined unanimously to make a five year commitment. (Furrow/Ellis) They were uncomfortable committing future boards for 5 years. Tom Brinkoetter reminded the board of the great success of the golf tournament that was organized by John Flora two years ago. John would be willing to organize that again and the club could expect \$5,000-\$7,000 in proceeds to fund the PIE/YLI program.

MEMBERSHIP

The board approved the resignation of Julie Curry (Lloyd/Finn)

Approved to be approached for membership were the following:

Rev. Stephen Hill Palmer	Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church	Proposed by Miley
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Jerry Dawson	Macon County Sheriff	
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Deneen Wilmeth	Director of Bureau of Conventions/Tourism	Stu Ellis
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Dane Bragg	City of Decatur	Debbie Seitz/MartinGety
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FOUNDATION

Year-to-date over \$1,100 was directed to the Foundation from the Rotary Club of Decatur for Polio Plus.

NEWSLETTER

Dave Brandon has been responsible for the Newsletter for three years.

Cost: \$50.86 for Printing

\$95.08 for Mailing

He has provided a great communication tool for the club members and the board is extremely grateful to Dave for his tremendous effort and professional expertise. Bravo and Thank You, Dave!

WEBSITE

Tom Brinkoetter updated the board on the progress of the new website. A sample home page was passed out to foster discussion about desired features. It is very exciting!

Notes: Bob Lloyd has Club Mate 4. We must upgrade to Club Mate 6 and then to Club Mate Online. Tom Brinkoetter has agreed to assist Bob Lloyd in completing this upgrade.

Once completed, the secretary will update Club Mate with new member data.
Question: Should we add links to members websites?

FUNDRAISING IDEA

A company could sponsor a meeting.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Jim and Paula Finn have a healthy supply of speakers. It was suggested that Tom Brinkoetter give a program on how to use the new website.

VOLUNTEERS

Wayne Allen reported that he has a full slate for Bell Ringing for Salvation Army. 21 members are scheduled to ring bells on December 13th. He also has a full slate of volunteers for the Turkey Tournament.

BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Furrow reported that the bulletin board will soon be displayed at weekly meetings.

DEBBIE SEITZ

The Crossroads Community Center at 1500 East Condit (Formerly Copenbarger School) is currently sponsoring a "Shoebox Project" for Christmas. Member, Debbie Seitz, attended the board meeting to explain the project to the board and to ask for the club's support of the project. Crossroads will work with Durfee school to provide names, sex, and age to people who will purchase gifts for \$10 or less that will fit into a shoebox. Sharon Simms is the director of Crossroads. She will organize a Christmas Party where the boxes will be presented. The board approved involvement in the project and Ms. Seitz will present the concept to the membership. (Paulin/Ellis)

CENTENNIAL PLANS

The past presidents have been asked to be on the Centennial Committee. There is a poster contest available for school children. Discussion suggested that the opportunity to participate may best be available through after school programs such as the one at the YWCA. Member Stacey Bryan will be approached to see if there is interest on their part.

Our club's 90th anniversary coincides with the 100th anniversary of Rotary International. We should slate a committee soon to organize our 90th anniversary celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30PM