

**Rotary Board Meeting  
September 18, 2003**

Board Members Present: Miley Palmer, Wayne Allen, Harry Cook, Tom Brinkoetter, Steve Furrow, Harold Murphy, Stu Ellis, Marsha Fleming, Martin Getty, Kit Paulin, Jim Finn, Kevin Kehoe, Heather Stoa, Bob Lloyd, Steve Reid

Also Present: Bill Kienzle

President Miley Palmer convened the meeting in the Flintridge Room of The Decatur Club at 12:00 Noon on a spectacular, sunny, high of 75, September day.

The MINUTES of the August board meeting were amended to reflect the inclusion of Steve Reid on the Finance Committee and approved on a motion by Allen, second by Finn.

A motion was made by Kienzle, second by Furrow, to donate October's PENNY FUND to the Rotary Endowment Fund within the Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County.

A request was received from the District Governor asking the club to support the Host Committee of the upcoming 100th anniversary International Convention to be held in Chicago. Members are asked to contribute \$1.00 per member per month. A motion was passed (Allen/Stoa) to take this request to the membership.

The Finance Committee presented the 2003-2004 budget recommendation that was developed in their 9/17/2003 meeting. Following are comments from discussion of the recommendation.

\$11,000 is available for Grants this year, compared to \$30,000 that was budgeted for grants last year.

\$24,000 is estimated to be the excess received from meals billed, but not eaten.

\$45,000 is owed to the Decatur Park District for Rotary Park. \$15,000 will be paid this year and the same amount the next two years. It was noted that we paid \$25,000 the first year and \$15,000 the next year for a total paid to date of \$40,000.

Martin Getty expressed that the School District's fiscal health is improved, which makes it no longer necessary for Rotary to sponsor the Staff Appreciation Dinner.

Bill Kienzle requested a budget from the board, because the grants committee has received a number of requests including several new sources of requests. He noted that the District Simplified Grant is a maximum of \$1,000 and spent within the district. Grants that we do not fund are considered for the Penny Fund. December Penny fund is designated for the Decatur Club wait staff.

A motion was approved to accept the budget as recommended. (Paulin/Fleming)

That budget is as follows:

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Rotary Club of Decatur #180  
2003-04 Budget  
Community  
Grants \$11,000  
Rotary Park 15,000

Individuals

Isabella Hamdan 500  
Youth Activities  
Rotary District 6490 Youth Exchange 650  
(Based on number of Members)  
Speaker Honorariums 720  
RYLA Scholarships 900

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TOTAL \$28,770

Anticipated Income from Meals \$24,000

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Additional Notes from the Budget discussion: Dr. Sinha has been requesting support for an eye clinic in India. His original request was for \$25,000.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Carla Brinkoetter requested resignation from the club because her schedule prevents her from participating on a regular basis. The board reluctantly accepted her resignation noting that she has been a valued member and will be missed. (Kehoe/Furrow)

There were no new member requests, but the following were noted as potential members: Anne Vaux, Paul Osborne, Doug Zemke.

(Box) Bob Smith, who has been a member since 1968, has requested to pay for meals only when he attends. This opened the discussion on establishing a policy for disabled/retired/traveling/ill members. It was noted that in the past a designation was made for Senior Active status which allowed members to pay dues and meals only when they attend. There were originally 23 members of this status and there are now 15. Other members who have recently requested such a designation include Dick Hall, Vi Eggers, and Dave Wilhour. Wayne Allen is supportive of this concept, but Bob Lloyd and Kit Paulin expressed concern that providing this option may be detrimental to the financial health of the club. One recommendation was made to allow a designation, but with higher dues for Senior Actives.

Stu Ellis moved that the Finance Committee study this request and report back to the board. The motion was seconded and the committee will report back in October.

New Member Orientation will be held on September 19, 2003 at the Decatur Club. The first orientation was held last month and was extremely well received.

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

It was noted that last week's attendance was 110 people, a great response to our speaker, Doug Whitley, head of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. The e-mail notices are very effective and greatly appreciated by the membership. Bravo to the program committee for that enhancement to our club.

It was noted that Scholarship Athlete dates are the fourth meeting of the month. Teacher of the Month is the first meeting of the month. And the Distinguished Rotarian award is given quarterly with the goal of the second Monday in February, May, August, November.

Following is the schedule for Scholar Athlete Awards:

September 29, 2003	MacArthur
October 27	Eisenhower
November 24	St. Teresa
December 15	MacArthur
January 26	Eisenhower
February 23	St. Teresa
March 29	MacArthur
April 26	Eisenhower

Tom Brinkoetter made an excellent presentation on enhancements to our club's website. In the past Tom has created our website from a Rotary International template. It has been extremely cost effective but cumbersome to operate.

Tom proposed adding a new web site as we add club mate to our system. The cost would be less than \$2,000 and would provide great enhancement and efficiency to our site making it a much more effective communication tool.

Tom Brinkoetter and his partner, Jason Ferguson, are donating their time to the club. The cost of <\$2,000 is strictly to hire a programmer. Funds are available in the club's savings account for this project.

A motion was made and passed unanimously (Furrow/Ellis) to accept Tom's offer. The Board expressed profound gratitude to Mr. Brinkoetter and his Partner for their very generous effort on our behalf.

Side notes: Rotary hats and shirts are in storage somewhere and need to be located.

Wegi Stewart is working hard to refurbish the club's many banners. The board is very grateful for her effort.

Jim Masey requested a list of members so that he could market Daryl Sieplinga's home, which is for sale. It was noted that the membership list is available to all members over the website and we will direct Jim to that site. How he chooses to use the information is up to him.

In a final motion, the board moved and passed the recommendation that grants be limited to \$1,000 each. (Ellis/Allen)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 PM.