ROTARY CLUB OF MENDOCINO

MINUTES OF THE SPRING FORWARD MEETING

HELD ON MAY 14, 2024

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The Spring Forward meeting, held in Preston Hall, began at 5:30 pm. Tables were arranged so they were close together and participants sat around the perimeter. It was like a big dining table, very informal. Toby and Leona brought pizzas and soft drinks. Members kicked in with donations to cover costs. Persons present included President Toby, President-Elect Margaret, Secretary Jeff, Treasurer Brandt, International Chair Matt, Youth Services Chair Donna, Community Services Chair Trevor Kuchar, Photographer Leona Walden, and Pam and Tom Hudson, Gary Hopper and Pete Rose, not to mention Trevor’s two very well-behaved but slightly bored children. We collected $110 in donations, a little short of the pizza bill of $180. If anyone forgot to contribute, please do so at our next meeting.

President Toby opened the meeting, and we did the pledge. President-elect Margaret took over, with a description of how she had gotten involved in, and come to love, charity work, in the United States and South Africa. Margaret went on to describe some of her goals for the term ahead, including getting our community to know more about what our club does, and using our club as a platform for community members to form a united voice. She said the theme of Rotary International was “The Magic of Rotary” while the motto of our District Governor Jim O’Grady was “Building Better Friendships”. O’Grady may visit us on July 31 so it would behove us to have our club activities well underway by that time.

The topic of Membership was addressed. Margaret proposed that Mendocino Rotary reintroduce itself to the business community with an invitation to please come and attend our meeting. This would be in the form of personalized letter to local merchants with an in person follow up.

Margaret turned to the committee chairs for reports on the various committee accomplishments, challenges, and goals. Donna started the conversation reporting on Youth Services. She described the various things she had done with the youth of our community, particularly the Interact Club, and the desirability of getting involved in the exchange student program which might mean working with other clubs to provide homes for student’s stays. She and others described the satisfaction they had gotten in working with our youth, and urged members to attend the awards night coming up soon (May 22?) In the High School.

Trevor in his turn talked about an idea he had for Christmas in July, getting members out to meet with seniors, disabled and disadvantaged persons and help them with needs they could not take care of on their own. We talked about linking up with Gwen Jacobsen who could speak on the Meals on Wheels program, making recipes of nutritious low-cost meals more readily available, perhaps linking up with Harvest Market, and getting the news of what we were doing out on the internet and social media. We thanked Trevor, who is a techie, for stepping forward to lead out internet and social media team.

Jeff spoke about the role of Secretary in helping the President develop meetings supportive of club goals and reach out to members. He mentioned his desire that we add a develop a winter social event/fundraiser and a Spring park event/fund raiser such as a walk, marathon or triathlon some time around Mother’s Day. We talked a little about a Fall event, perhaps an Octoberfest to be held in September, and before the golf tournament.

Gary said he would like us to do more for our community than we had been able to do in the recent past, with which sentiment all agreed.

We talked about the golf tournament and other fund raisers, and ended with a resolve to increase our golf tournament revenues by getting more hole sponsors. We kicked around the possibility of a Casino Night or Bingo Night in late winter and will continue looking into options such as these as the year develops. Another potential fundraiser to note would be an “Oktoberfest” in Rotary Park which would take place in September.

We need to have members interested in becoming Standing Committee Chairs let Toby, Margaret or Jeff know immediately. These elective positions are: Membership, Public Relations and Foundation.

All members should join at least one Committee, and preferably more than one. Please let the responsible Committee Chair know of your interest, and ensure you are involved. This is how each one of us and help out, and enjoy being a Rotarian in the process.

Brandt had circulated prior to the meeting the financials through May 13, 2024, which puts us in a good position to wind up this year and prepare our budget for next year.

Our next club meeting will be on Thursday May 23 at 12:00 in Preston Hall. Terra Fuller will speak on Mendocino State Parks which is doing so much for our visitors and our community.

We ended by congratulating Margaret, Toby and Leona on putting together the meeting, and making it such an enjoyable, productive event.

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Prepared by Jeffry Stubbs, Secretary

May 17, 2024