ROTARY CLUB OF MENDOCINO

MINUTES OF THE CLUB MEETING

Held On August 22, 2024

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The Club meeting, held in Preston Hall, was called to order at 12:05. We had a total attendance of 13, including President Margaret, Past President Toby, Secretary Jeff, Treasurer Brandt, Club Services Chair John, International Chair Matt, Youth Chair Donna, Community Services Chair Trevor and Golf Chair Gary as well as Susan Keller, Leona Walden and Michael Brown.

Margaret opened the meeting with the pledge and happy dollars.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIJI AND VANUATU TRIPS

Matt O’Halloran and Donna Schuler talked about and showed photos of their trips to Fiji and Vanuatu, altogether a rousing success, good work done in both places, friendships renewed and ways forward identified. In Vanuatu, they reported that they visited the Victory School of Hope where they were given a warm welcome. They observed that the school is continuing to perform at a high level, is now expanding from grades K-6 to 7-10, and has prepared a five-year development plan which includes additional permanent classrooms, a science lab, a library, and a second ablution block, for which we and Katikati are providing funding. Matt and Donna confirmed that the first ablution block and the fence were being well maintained, and were both viewed as valuable additions to the school’s facilities. Amongst other things, they had permitted the school to establish a canteen and would later support a clinic. They met Ann Owen of Katikati, members of the Port Vila Rotary club which continues to provide help and support for construction of the school and Rufino Pineda of the Santo Rotary club who has provided us a pipeline of small community projects for several years now.

They also talked about and showed photos of their visit to Savusavu, Fiji where we provided funding for purchase of wheelchairs for use by disabled persons in the province, as well as environmentally safe incinerators for plastic wastes, a perennial problem in the South Pacific where garbage collection and disposal facilities are often limited. They discussed the outcomes of our community health worker training program and visited the outlook which we helped fund several years ago. They hit the beach, went scuba diving and enjoyed the company of Savusavu Rotarians who continue to be wonderful partners in what we do.

Looking to the future, we have a pipeline of projects including for Vanuatu completion of the second ablution block and other projects at the school, various village improvement projects and a new public health initiative oriented around testing, treatment and prevention of cervical cancer, and for Fiji work in public health and village infrastructure.

Jeff mentioned that the successful trip had been reported to the District’s International Service committee meeting of the previous day, which had been attended by the District Governor.

OLD BUSINESS

We talked about the Dinner Raffle, which was about half subscribed at present, and how to get it done in the next month of so. Margaret proposed that we set up a table at Mendoza’s to sell tickets and sought volunteers to man it. Michael said he would help out. Toby will go through the list of members to identify those who have been unable to sell tickets and if necessary get those tickets reallocated to those who can sell them. We urged all members not to be shy, just go out and sell, we are doing very good things for the community and it is not terribly difficult to get people to commit. Gary suggested that if the $100 fee was too high for some they could partner with someone else and the split the proceeds of a win.

We also talked about the Golf Tournament, scheduled for October 19, and asked for volunteers to go door to door to sell hole sponsorships. Margaret and Jeff said they would help out.

We talked about building our membership, beginning with prospective new members Cathy Karabensh, Susan Ciminotti, LaDonna MacDonald and Rick MacDonald, and resolved to get them all inducted next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Last but not least we decided to have a happy hour celebration, to have some fun and get to know each better, on Friday August 30th at 4:30 at Cafe Beaujolais. We should be able to order pizzas, soups and salads if that is desired, and of course beer and wine will be available. All members, spouses, partners, prospective members and friends are urged to join. Margaret will talk with the restaurant to ensure they will be serving at that time, and have a place where we can sit.

The meeting closed at 1:05.

The next meeting will be a Board meeting on September 5.

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Prepared by Jeffry Stubbs, Secretary

August 23, 2024