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**Rotary District 5500 Corporate Board**

**November 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The Rotary District 5500 Board meeting was called to order by District Governor Sue Archibald at 6:31 p.m. via Zoom.

Present: District Governor Sue Archibald

District Governor Elect Bruce Monro

District Governor Nominee Emma Carrillo

Immediate Past District Governor Don Jorgensen

Past District Governor Anita McDonald

Past District Governor Ellie Patterson

Past District Governor Diane Goodyear Ventura

Member at Large Joe Puett

Member at Large Lynn Devoe

District Secretary Nancy Fusco

District Foundation Chair Kristi Halvorson

1. DG Sue welcomed everyone and verified that there was a quorum. DG Sue asked for approval of 2 different minutes, the Special Meeting and regular Corporate Board minutes. Motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes by Kristi Halvorson and seconded by Joe Puett, all in favor, motion carried. Nancy Fusco addressed her mistake in sending the draft Corporate Board minutes instead of the corrected minutes. There were spelling errors. Motion to approve corrected minutes by Lynn Devoe, seconded by PDG Diane Goodyear Ventura, all in favor, motion carried.
2. PDG Diane gave a report from the Finance Meeting. PDG Diane reported that they made $2,000 on the Reserve Account. Finance Committee wants to change banks due to problems with Wells Fargo. PDG Diane wants to do a comparison to last year. The budget meeting is scheduled in January. New District Treasurer Mickie needs access to the Grants account. DG Sue will work on it with Chad and Mickie.

DG Sue gave background information on the Mellus Trust. PDG Michael Drake was able to get the family to agree to release the Trust. The monies will go back to the Globe Club, approximately $9100 will be used only on Youth Programs.

DG Sue asked if there were any questions on the Financials. Joe Puett asked if there is contact information for the new Treasurer for deposits to the Charities Account. DG Sue said to use the same Tucson address to send anything to Mickie. Kasia will pick up mail and will send it to Mickie. Chad is still the Treasurer for the Charitable Fund until June 2025.

1. Kristi gave an update on the Foundation. We have 3 Global Grants that are in process now. The Tubac Club only needs about $5,000 out of their $200,000 budget for their Cleft Palate Project in Mexico. The Tucson Club has an AED project with District 4100 in Mexico. No DDF is needed, they have funded the whole project. The Tucson Grant is with the Vocational Program in Senegal. They have a $200,000 budget and need approximate $95,000. They are planning on raising those funds in January through March. The Valle Verde Solar Environmental Project in Mexico was not viable and they have abandoned that project for now.

We need to use $120,000 of DDF that has been carried forward since 2020/2021. The District Rotary Foundation Committee addressed at this in October. New RI policy states that in the 2026 year any DDF that is unused 5 years prior must be awarded by the District to any World Fund Project and cannot be rolled over to the next year. We currently have about $167,000 in DDF that is not tagged or pledged to use. District Rotary Foundation Committee agreed to disburse a one-time DDF award to each of the Rotary Clubs that are currently working on Global Grants projects in the amount of $10,000 of DDF for each $100,000 in budget. Disbursements the Committee agreed was $20,000 of DDF to the Tubac Club for their Cleft Palate Grant, $20,000 of DDF to the Tucson Club for their Senegal Grant, and also agreed to $40,000 of DDF to used in Xalapa for the Arizona/Mexico Friendship Conference and Global Grant Exchange. It leaves us with approximately $77,000 in DDF for the rest of our Rotary year to help replace money from Clubs that sent funds to the Annual Fund as per our District Policy. Discussion held.

The Saddlebrooke Club Global Grant issue. A $64,000 Global Grant to provide clean water drinking fountains to 24 schools and for 25,000 children in Nogales was approved in 2018 but because of a pandemic requirement of foot pedals the Saddlebrooke Club provided an additional $8,000 to the project. Progress is slow and difficult. RI sent a request to the Nogales and Saddlebrooke Clubs in January asking them for further data with no response. We have requested that District 5500 & Saddlebrooke be removed from any further requirements of this Global Grant. RI has received it and they are processing it.

At the District Conference, we will have a Triple Crown Donor, Major Donor, and Bequest Society reception. There were 56 donors in attendance out of 162 registered Rotarians. Our new Triple Crown pins were distributed. Only 1 person wished to anonymous. There are 5 new Paul Harris Society members in District and 1 new Bequest Society member.

The Arizona/Mexico Friendship Conference was last weekend. About 60 Rotarians attended in Xalapa, Mexico in Veracruz State. We had 9 Rotarians from District 5500. 23 Global Grants were presented including our 2 Global Grants. The Cleft Palate grant received $21,000 in funding and don’t know about Senegal. District 5500 pledged the $40,000 in DDF to 8 projects. 5 of the projects were fully funded and various amounts pledge to the remaining 18 projects. District 5500 will host the Conference next year in Yuma. It will be managed by Yuma Rotarians and chaired by DG Sue and is October 30-November 1.

In March, we have the PDGs College of Governors luncheon, Major Donors and new Paul Harris members will be invited to attend. No date as of yet, we are just getting it organized.

1. Membership update – DGE Bruce reported that we started the year at 1383 and so far we have lost 46 members. Brought in 58 but lost 3 of those members, we are at 1397 right now with a net of 14 members. Not including the newly formed Rainbow Club, UofA Rotaract Club which has 15 members and Tucson Rotaract has 3 but it is more like 5 or 6. The system still shows Cochise College and Arizona Western but they didn’t pay their dues and should have been taken off the books.

The Zone had a surplus from all the events they put on over the years, approximately $90,000. They gave us $3,000 to help us on some kind of marketing and advertisement campaign. We chose to use a digital marketing campaign. Developed an interest page on our website where people can signup and express interest. It comes to our District Membership Chair and I will dole it out to the applicable clubs. Only 1 interested so far but after reaching out to them, there has been no contact. Clubs need to fill out a Google Business page. PDG Diane applied for a Google Grant so when someone clicks on any of our advertisements, we won’t be charged. Every District that received money from Zone has used it differently. DG Sue thinks it will be discussed at next Zone what worked and what didn’t work. We are the only Zone doing anything like this.

Bruce discussed the membership gain and losses. We attracted 19% last year. We lost 18.5% last year. Our greatest problem in Membership is how do we retain new members? Discussion held.

DG Sue asked about PE signups for PETS. Bruce reported that he had about 30 out of 50. Making phone calls and to encourage PEs to sign up. Missing Yuma region which does not have PEs listed. Discussion held. Wendy Guyton will be new Membership Chair next year.

1. Youth Services – DG Sue reported there are 2 outgoing exchange students next year. We have 2 here right now. No issues yet.

RYLA is DG Sue’s charity. We are up to $4,000 or $5,000 raised so far to help off set expenses this year. Thank you to all Clubs who helped out. Slots are still available.

Interact – DG Sue reported that there was lot of good feedback from the Interact Clubs at District Conference. Maybe time to do an Interact Day Conference.

1. Joint District Project updates - DG Sue reported only 1 person signed up for RLA this year. Looking at restructuring RLA.

AZ Week of Service starts on April 20 and talked with District 5495, will do projects centered around the environment. Will encourge Clubs to clean a park, plant trees. Will hear more as we get closer to the dates.

License plate status. PDG Anita said the project is going but doesn’t know the status. No update from the State as to sales, probably wont know until March.

TRVFA – PDG Diane reported they had to stop issuing checks because they ran out of money. Not getting people in Rotary to using the TRVFA. Struggling to get additional funding. Putting information in the newsletter. Discussion held.

1. District Conference update – Thank you to everyone, we did pretty well, waiting for final numbers. Looking forward to Tubac next year. Baskets did approximately $3600.
2. New Business – PDG Anita asked about the dates on the Tubac District Conference, September 26 & 27, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m. Next meeting is Feb 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 15th day of December 2024,

Nancy Fusco

District 5500 Secretary