

Minutes of the West Little Rock Rotary Board Meeting July 27, 2016

The 2016-2017 West Little Rock Rotary Board of Directors held its first board meeting on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at the Innovation Hub. The board met before the club's regular weekly meeting, where 2016-2017 District Governor Darlene Andrews would address the club.

The following board members were present:

- Lance Bennings, Past President
- Brooke Bridges, Vice President/Programs Chair
- Bo Frazier, Treasurer
- Ivan Hudson, President Elect
- Jai Lambert, Public Image Chair
- Nancy Leonhardt, District Governor Elect/Executive Secretary
- Stephanie Shine, President
- Gary Stoops, Membership Chair
- Pittman Ware, Club Administration

Darlene Andrews, District Governor, and Dr. Francine Bruyneel, Assistant District Governor, were also in attendance.

The following board members were absent:

- Lisa Garrett, Service Projects Chair
- John Hodoway, Foundation Chair
- Jim Shenep, Secretary

Welcome

Stephanie Shine called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the first board meeting of the 2016-2017 year. A quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report

Bo Frazier stated that, at this time, there was not much to report. He explained the club's internal control system with Kevin Freer, who is also a CPA. He stated that more financial data will be available next month.

Committee Reports

Foundation

Stephanie Shine shared that former member John Ragsdale recently donated \$10,000 to the club's Annual Fund. This generous gift will be used to award Paul Harris pins.

Membership

Gary Stoops stated that, last year, club membership went from 49 to 56 members. We have an official goal of increasing membership by two this year.

Gary shared that the median age range is 30 to 69. Currently, we have 16 female members and 39 male members.

Stephanie Shine stated that she hopes to reach 60 members this year.

Gary Stoops stated that three new members will be inducted next month. The club will host a new member drive again in January. Last year's membership drive was successful by offering reduced fees to new members for a limited time.

Public Relations

Jai Lambert stated that he intends to increase the club's visibility using social media. He plans to increase awareness of our club's social projects and get new members through social media.

Jai will establish a Twitter account for the club. He will issue press releases occasionally to publicize club service projects.

Service Projects

Ivan Hudson reported in Lisa Garrett's absence.

Ivan stated that he will serve as the Terry Elementary School service projects chair this year.

Our club is very strong in offering a wide range of service projects for members to participate in throughout the year. 13-14 service projects are completed each year.

Ivan stated that one area of opportunity for our club is to host a Career Day for students.

The board discussed using the Angel Tree service project as a holiday fundraiser for the club.

Club Administration

Pittman Ware stated that, at the next board meeting, the board will discuss adding a Sergeant at Arms position.

Pittman suggested using an online calendar for sign-up sheets.

New Business

District Seminar

Stephanie Shine stated that we need a few more club members to attend the District Seminar.

Fireside Chat

The upcoming Fireside Chat on August 23 will fulfill the club's vocation goal. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Stephanie stated that additional club members are needed to host Fireside Chats later in the year.

Scholarship Update

Stephanie Shine stated that the club will revamp its scholarship program this year. Next week Tamisha Cheatham will introduce two of the club's scholarship recipients.

Rotarian of the Year

Lance Bennings announced that Ivan Hudson was chosen as Rotarian of the Year.

Board Book Updates

Lance Bennings distributed updates for the board books, which include clarifications to the 2016-2017 calendar, scholarship information, club recognition criteria, and budget details that need to be reviewed and approved.

Grant Updates

Lance provided an update on the club's grant to Dunbar Gardens, which is eligible for an additional grant from the club pursuant to the grant agreement terms.

Lance stated that \$4,100 is needed from a district grant for the club's partnership with Terry Elementary School. \$4,100 has been included in the budget.

Gary Stoops noted that the club's continued involvement at Terry Elementary has contributed to increased student test scores at the school.

Brooke Bridges stated that Camp Aldersgate and Museum of Discovery will present a grant update to the club next week.

District Governor Address

District Governor Darlene Andrews greeted the board and shared the following updates and important requests:

- Andrews asked everyone to attend the District Conference and read the *Rotarian* magazine.
- She encouraged everyone to utilize the online tools available to Rotarians.
- Andrews asked the club to send newsworthy items to her for the district newsletter. Doing so will assist the club with our public relations.
- She asked our club to consider sending a team or sponsoring the upcoming golf tournament on October 7 at Village Creek State Park.
- Andrews encouraged West Little Rock Rotary Club to host a Centennial Celebration that could tie in with other celebrations within the club.
- She asked for board members to attend this year's International Conference in Atlanta.

District Governor Andrews asked Stephanie Shine about our club's main strategies to increase membership. Stephanie responded that our club offers good quality programs and social activities for members. Increased public relations efforts this year will also help to increase our membership.

District Governor Andrews asked Nancy Leonhardt if she wished to say anything as the District Governor Elect. Nancy announced that Shannon Gwinn will chair her installation reception, which will also serve as an installation for other clubs.

Jai Lambert asked District Governor Andrews how many Rotarians reside in District 6150. Andrews stated that we currently have between 1,900 and 2,000 members.

Adjournment

With no further discussion, Stephanie Shine asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Gary Stoops and seconded by Bo Frazier. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.