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**Rotary**

Club of Western Forsyth

**Minutes of Board Meeting for the Rotary Club of Western Forsyth -- August 15, 2023**

Attendees:

Gene Blackwelder                     Mike Swain

Anant Venkataraman                Mike Baley

Andrea Misel                             Tim Johnson

Richard Harrington Stephanie Dean

Ronda Cooper Karen Cox

Damian Birkel District Governor Van Lankford

District Governor Elect Ron Pearce

Our President Richard Harrington started the meeting by welcoming all board members and guests. He asked each person present to introduce themselves.

The following items were discussed:

**Club Socials** – We have four club socials scheduled. The first one is Saturday, August 26 at Ron Uren’s lake house. More than 20 people have already signed up.

**Club Service** – Committee chair Mike Baley reported that he has not met with his committee yet but he did share information on the service projects we supported last year including the Neighborhood Hands Food Distribution at Thanksgiving, Professionals in Transition, Easter Eggstravaganza, House of Prayer Ministry and the local Pet Food pantry. District Governor Van Lankford commented that it appeared that we were touching on all the pain points in the community with our projects. There was a general discussion about our Rotary knowing community “pain points” and reacting. There will be more emphasis on Mental Health. Hope Grants of $400 and $100 will be awarded in response.

**Eggstravaganza–** Event Chair Stephanie Dean said that the event is an event we do for the children of the community with music, photos with the Easter Bunny, food and an Easter Egg Hunt. This will be our 14th year organizing the Easter Eggstravaganza. The event continues to feature something new every year and provides a positive impact to our community yearly.

**Fundraising** – Mike Swain and Gene Blackwelder reported that we have a good group of speakers for the Roast and are closing in on 400 attendees. This will be our big fundraiser for the year. Mike has been on WTOB and they continue to run PSA’s for the Comedy Roast. Mike also mentioned the importance of our work particularly at Southfork Elementary where in many cases children are only receiving 40% of their nourishment needs. In addition 200 families receive food to take home for their weekend needs. Two additional fundraising events are the BBQ Boston Butts and our continuing *CART Fund\** loose change initiative.

**Membership -** Committee Chair Mike Swain reported that we have ten people signed up to attend the Membership Summit on August 24. He also suggested that we have a tailgate party at a Wake Forest Football game and invite prospective members to attend.

**Networking** – Committee Co-Chairs Ronda Coooper and Karen Cox indicated that this is a new committee. Their first project will be to ask members to invite business associates and people that do business within the community to an evening social.

**Public Image** – Committee Chair Tim Johnson reported that we have a very robust YouTube, Instagram and Facebook presence which helps promote our club and the things we do in the community.

**Foundation** – Gene Blackwelder reported that member Ben Sessions had developed a plan to enable all our members to become Paul Harris Fellows. Our club is committed to donating $100 per member to the Foundation. We have three people signed up for the Foundation Summit on September 16. We have Debbie Scott scheduled to speak on Polio Plus during October Polio Plus Month, and we have James Goaty scheduled to speak about the Foundation on the first week of November which is Foundation Month.

**Youth Services** – Richard Harrington reported that we support food pantries for both Lewisville Elementary and South Fork Elementary School We also have a student of the Month h from Winston Salem Preparatory Academy, and w also award a scholarship to a Senior from Winston Salme Preparatory Academy.

**Treasurer’s report** – Treasurer Anant Venkataraman reported that we have $42,716.84 in the bank.

Andrea Misel nominated Anant Venkataraman for an upcoming District Governor position.

Damian Birkel and Karen Cox both seconded the motion. The board voted on the motion. It was a unanimous vote in favor of Anant.

Richard Harrington adjourned the meeting.

\*The CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimers Research Trust was founded by Rotarian Roger Ackerman in Sumter, SC., which is a nonprofit grassroots organizationthat provides “seed” money for cutting edge, high impact research grants to help find a cure for Alzheimers.