

Rotary Club of New Jersey  
September 28, 2023

Present: David Still, President  
Michael Van Stine, Vice President  
Manuel Nunez, Treasurer  
Brianna Tiernan, Secretary  
Eston Spain  
Dan Tangi  
Shyheyra Nunez  
H. Qawi R. Austin  
Kathleen Van Stine  
Jeff Eget  
Kenny Williams  
Desmond Cusaac

Dave opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed all attendees.

Dave thanked everyone that attended the 2nd annual Spectracare Foundation Gala. Dave stressed that the work starts now for next years' event, especially for getting more sponsorships.

Dave introduced the "Big Game" Fundraiser. Everyone will have to sell 50 tickets. The goal is for everyone to sell many tickets rather than only one or two people selling the bulk of them. Michael added that there are 800 tickets for the club to sell.

Tonight's format will be a little different. Dave wants to start hosting brief guest speakers at one meeting per month.

Michael gave the VP report. At Rutgers Camden involvement fair, Michael had started with 11 and recruited 26 students for a total of 37 Rotaract Members. Michael resigned from the Senate and will be focusing on Rotaract is hoping to expand more at New Brunswick and Newark. Michael spoke about previous approvals to send students to Ryla and Torch. This was previously passed February 23rd 2023. Manuel confirmed that these funds have not been distributed.

\$300 was previously approved to support the fires in Maui. Michael motioned to reappropriate that proposal to a more local situation that we can more effectively assist. Manuel seconded. All in favor.

In July there was a scholarship for Moorestown HS Interact club for a compost facility for \$300. Our motion was \$100, and this was also confirmed by Manuel that it has not been distributed. This will be followed up on.

Michael also spoke about getting Unit B at the SCF building. The owners got an appraisal and it has been donated to SCF with a tax write off. The unit will also be getting a property tax abatement. The space is a large rectangle and would be an ideal spot for the Thursday Coffee and Conversations since the group has grown significantly. Michael was able to get the final of the Home Depot Grant to be matched to what Kathleen has raised to renovate Unit B. The storage unit will need to be emptied soon to save costs. Volunteers will be needed to DIY as many renovations as is appropriate. Michael inquired to Jeff for any Scouts connections for volunteers for assisting with organizing the magazine collection.

Dave motioned to approve the previous minutes, Manuel seconded. Approved.

Kathleen gave her report. The "Big Game" 1/\$5, 5/\$20. Grand Prize is a trip to the "Big Game" in Vegas with \$1000 spending money. The drawing is December 10th. Monday after Thanksgiving is the last day so the tickets can be gathered to send back to Indian Rock. We get half of the proceeds from what we sell and had brought in almost \$2000 last year. The first trip with the bus will be Longwood Gardens for a photography trip. 11/16 We are thankful for our veterans brunch, approx 50 seats more if there are sponsorships. Dave reiterated that the gala was great. The bus is a huge win for SCF purposes.

Manuel gave his financial report.

First, he introduced Kenny Williams, his guest. He runs Urban Warfare Incorporation for at-risk/urban youth. Kenny shared that UW started with sports and has gone towards the trades and STEM in more recent years and will soon have an aviation program.

\$221 in our account. \$960 has been paid to the district. Everything is paid up for rotary international and the district 7505.

Manuel is getting caught up on sending invoices and is working on the website for paying online. Manuel asked that we do not sign up yet. He will be making accounts for us. This will also send automatic reminders when invoices are due. Manuel is also working on setting up autopay.

Michel asked if we can get an update on owed back dues. Michael motioned to approve Manuel's report. Dave seconded, Approved.

Michael brought up new business and spoke about Eli Berkowitz's injury and asked that a card be sent from the club. Dave and Brianna will coordinate to get this done.

Dave spoke about our guest speaker and how moving forward he would like input on guest speakers

Dave introduced Qawi who founded "Q&A thought partners." Qawi commended the club for the work they do alongside SCF. Qawi spoke about the work he has done in the past.

Community work: he taught career development Year Up, non-profit assisting getting college credits to improve career paths for underprivileged. He also teaches Camden County OEO financial literacy which also provides matching funds for business owners and home buyers. Q's role is to provide training and consulting for folks starting businesses or buying

homes. He's also been part of the BOE in Lawnside. Doing consulting for Campbells soup with SJ community Foundation for a community fund to help make Camden go from a food desert to food rich. He's also working on a tech startup in Baltimore. Lastly, he's part of the NASA astrophysics database of DEI practitioners.

Qawi is affiliated with Rutgers Camden. He is president of RU school of business alumni assoc. The group is only a few years old and growing under his leadership. Black alumni collective conference board member.

Dave thanked Qawi and our guests and adjourned the meeting.