

Rotary Club of New Jersey
January 23, 2025

Present: Michael Van Stine, President
Manuel Nunez, Treasurer
Brianna Tiernan, Secretary
Kathleen Van Stine
Dan Tangi
David Winters
Yaroslav Bortnyk
Shibin Yan

Michael opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

The dentist's sign has been removed from outside the SCF building and the Rotary sign has been put up in its place. Michael is going to work on filing the Rotary New Jersey Foundation as a separate NPO and then create an RI compliant affiliation agreement with SCF to meet Rotary guidelines. This will have many benefits, including allowing RI liability insurance to cover our volunteers when they are involved in RNJF standalone or RNJF and SCF joint activities. Michael shared that it is now planned that on July 1, all four districts in New Jersey will be merged into one district. Once everything is finalized there will be events separately for RNJF, SCF, and jointly.

There was a meeting with Dr. George and Michael, Kathleen, Adrianna and Justin. Dr George is an artist and professor as well as is disabled due to a very bad accident. He donated a million dollars to Rowan to create an Art Therapy Institute there. Michael was sad when he heard the news as in the Rowan PR release, they didn't know anything about art therapy, but they would learn. This is contrast to the volume of healing arts programs we have sponsored for years on a shoestring budget helping so many veterans. Dr. George said he was impressed but all we had been doing for so long. Michael proposed the possibility that if Dr. George wanted to underwrite some of the expenses for the renovation of Unit B, we could put up a plaque in the name of his family foundation and cross integrate what we are doing with what his foundation will be doing at Rowan. Dr. George was delighted with the prospect and asked that we get construction estimates. He is also scheduled to teach some classes at our veterans' center in the coming months.

Michael introduced a guest, Yaroslav Bortnyk. He is a student who has joined our Rotaract club at Rutgers Camden. He is a first yr student studying business. He is from Ukraine. His family has been involved in Rotary there for many years. He has been working to support Ukraine since the war began. We discussed one of the big projects that has been shipping clothing overseas to aid the refugees from the war. Shipping via train has involved some major logistics because of differing rail sizes. Rotaract is looking at an international project with Rutgers Global and Michael with the help of Yaroslav will be lobbying for community projects that can help as well as looking at other international project possibilities.

Kathleen thanked everyone that attended the MLK Freedom Award Ceremony. She is so proud of everyone for helping. Today she attended with Commissioner Melinda Kane becoming an assembly woman. Kathleen was able to network at the event and put faces to names. Anyone who may not have been able to yet see the MLK awards, there is a link to that on our website.

The Honor Our Heroes Gala is set for September 18th on Battleship NJ. So far, Kathleen has 10 sponsorships. June 30th is the absolute deadline for tickets and sponsorships.

Michael connected Yaroslav with David Winter during the meeting. David explained youth leadership programs from his experience to him as they connect to the Torch Academy.

We are signed up for 1,000 tickets for the Big Game Raffle with the Indian Rocks Rotary Club for next year. Someone from our batch of tickets from this year won 5th place prize!

Manuel gave a financial report: We have an admin balance of \$1,286 and a charity balance of \$2,900. Admin will be wiped out due to RI fees, every January and July, and July also has the district fees. Of about \$1,248 at current membership levels. Michael inquired about Rotaract Invoices.

Michael motioned to adjourn; Brianna seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.