

Rotary Club of New Jersey

January 26, 2023

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Young.

Present:

Jay Young-President

Michael Van Stine-Vice President

Manuel Nunez-Treasurer

David Winter-Secretary

Dan Tangi

Kathleen Van Stine

Brianna Tiernen

Eston Spain

Victor Krapevin

Armen Bucci

David Still

Justin Green

Cathy Adriance

Michael Castagner, AG

Michael Thompson, DG

Pres Jay led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pres Jay welcomed our Assistant Governor Michel and our District Governor Michael. All applauded.

Pres Jay and VP Michal jointly explained the importance of the DG's annual visit and reminded all that this meeting was the Governor's meeting. As such, no routine club business would be conducted.

At that, the meeting was turned over to DG Michael. He started by asking for introductions and went around the table and on the Zoom-screen allowing all club members to provide their introductions.

DG Michael then opened his remarks by asking the club what was different this year in the history of RI? After some guesses, he stated that this year was the first year RI had a female President in Jennifer Jones from Quebec, Canada. After sharing some background and history about our RI President, he

presented the club with the largest banner he could get acknowledging her 2022-2023 Presidency and its theme "Imagine Rotary".

DG Michael then said he has challenged all clubs in his visits to ask themselves four questions: 1) *What do you do well?* 2) *What do you not do well?* 3) *What can you do better?* 4) *What can you avoid?*

DG Michael then covered the following items in general order:

- He encouraged us to get the word out of what we do better and more voluminously. He discussed easy ways to do that by using social media and "piggybacking" off the events of other local organizations and thus populating our website and other media platforms with many co-sponsored or encouraged attendance events. He said that it was his experience that if you ask any organization "what can we do to help you with your event?", and that in so asking many orgs love the help and it is an instant way to build new areas of community service.
- He added to this that the district was adding a tabulation of guest speakers available for speaking at club meetings and that we should both use and populate this shared list.
- He mentioned and promoted the upcoming District Conference at the Fontainebleau in Ocean City, MD. He explained that he intentionally wanted the conference to be outside of NJ and he picked a location where people could "get away" and enjoy the fun with open smoking and drinks, Chi and Yoga classes, a movie theatre nearby, golf courses, a \$2 bus that takes you all around town, and in general a more festive atmosphere than most conferences, a place that had many more amenities than AC and one where people would want to stay at for a few days. He referred all to the many announcements for the conference and to go and check out the details further.
- He also encourages attendance to the numerous "Drinks with the DG" events he had scheduled, to use that as a great way to forge new relationships. And do not come alone! Bring people with you!

Pres Jay then asked the DG to present two Paul Harris Fellow Awards:

- The first award went to Kathleen, who is an honorary member of the club and serves as our Membership Chair. VP Michael provided background on the award to Kathleen. He told some stories of her talent and tireless sacrifice for veterans and the elderly over her entire career. He assured all that there was no nepotism at all in her past receipt of the SCF Medal of Honor award for her lifetime of eldercare service. Kathleen has also won numerous awards and recognitions over her long service career. But VP Michael explained that he felt this award was very special. Her PH was sponsored by our late member Jerry Clark. He had been sworn to secrecy that he was the source of the award. But in Jerry's passing, Michael explained that he had conversations with Jerry's wife, Leslie, and both had agreed that in Jerry's passing the time had come to remove some of the anonymity that he always insisted upon and now acknowledge in the open some things he had past done to help and recognize others. He shared some stories about Jerry and some of what was his and Kathleen's and Manny's experiences at Jerry's

funeral. DG Michael then presented the PH certificate and pin to Kathleen, and she was most surprised and in tears over the award.

- The second PH award went to Catherine Adriance. She was sponsored for her PH and it was fully paid for by Secretary Dave W. Dave W. then provided background on why he sponsored Cathy. He discussed the many years she had tirelessly supported what was past the D7500 RYLA program which has morphed into the Torch Academy, a program that both past and present the Club has supported in no small part for substantial financial contributions made by Dave W. as a member. DG Michael then showed Cathy her award on camera and symbolically pinned her. VP Michael assured Cathy that he and Dave W. would make sure she gets her award as soon as possible.

DG Michael then presented all club members with RI 2022-2023 theme pins and said he would stay for as long as we wanted to answer questions.

The meeting was then officially adjourned at 8:45 p.m., while the club had arranged food and drinks for our distinguished guests and there was then after-meeting sharing of stories and club kinship.