

Rotary Club of New Jersey
February 27, 2025

Present: Michael Van Stine, President
David Still, Vice-President
Manuel Nunez, Treasurer
Brianna Tiernan, Secretary
Mo Orlando
Yaroslav Bortnyk
Judy Alessi, guest
David Winter
Clarence Cummings
Rahmena Wilson

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

Michael distributed our last meeting minutes. Michael motioned to approve, Brianna seconded, none opposed, approved.

The annual PETS training was held since the last meeting. The Rotary International president-elect, Mario Cesar Martinez De Carmago was there. Michael was able to get his business card and hopefully get him involved with our club. One of Michael's goals is to get a feature story in the Rotary International Magazine based on the volume of work with do with veterans as a special population, the range of our service programs and ultimately by a statewide Rotaract international project still under development. Michael took special interest in one of the session events with the author of the book "The Lasso Way- Believe", John Brubaker. The book is about Ted Lasso. Michael is hoping to find a proper way to distribute its information to all club members. Michael also discussed a breakout session about Resolving Conflict, and he intends to disseminate a link to that to all of us as well. It will include a QR code with the information for the seminar. There is a self-assessment test about Conflict Styles that he would like everyone to take. It's fairly brief.

Michael was surprised that few other clubs in other districts did not have their goals on RI Club Central. This is something Michael takes pride in having for our club. Michael took the time to share his screen and show the Club Central information and discuss the goals. He was very passionate about how Michael and Kathleen are nearly the only people to bring in new members and we have also lost members. Michael made a mention of the items he needs to fill in manually.

Rotaract Update: there are 9 registered students in Rotaract in RI and district records. But in the RUC campus club management system, Engage, there are 21 listed. Michael gave a shout out to Yaroslav for signing up seven new students. Rotaract will be revitalizing the Ukraine initiative and will be reaching for larger grants. The Associate Director of the Student Center is leaving Camden for a promotion in New Brunswick. He has agreed to be a liaison for us at Rutgers NB.

Judy will be taking on a chair role for drug abuse. She would like to be connected to spread her program. Rahmena was offered a chair role for housing. Currently her scope is working with DD clients. Michael said he would like her to expand this work in our club to also include housing for homeless and to secure a house for Ukrainian immigrants.

Michael wants to give out credits that might equal a partial or even a full Paul Harris to whomever produces the most new members this year. Kathleen and Michael will not be in this friendly competition. Yaroslav is being credited with the Rotaract students he brought in. There may need to be a minimum requirement or a sliding scale.

Mo has started in a new role with the foundation. He will provide consulting services. He has a personal goal to integrate robust programming with a focus on health and nutrition. There are many facets to being healthy. Our sleep is the number one focus to heal the brain. Our bodies can't differentiate stress. Stress is stress. This will be a more holistic approach to heal our bodies from within.

Tony and Michael are advancing the plans for the food pantry and meals. Michael would like to see the bus being utilized for homebound meal delivery. Tentative plans exist to start with Wooster Towers, and Lindenwold Towers.

Michael has been working for a very long time to secure the paperwork for the Rotary New Jersey Foundation. The IRS and the state of NJ have approved this. It is not an LLC but a 501(c)(3) corporation. Financials will be minimal because it is directly linked to the foundation.

Manuel gave the financial report: \$98 in our account because of the dues, \$704 due end of March for district. \$1700 in back dues are owed. Kathleen has kindly offered to assist with collecting back owed dues and will individually call everyone with owed dues. This will become part of the financials of who owes. Michael will have a collections attorney get involved if need be.

Michael opened the floor to discussion. Clarence is planning on attending the district conference and asked clarifying questions. Judy asked about "Social Activities"- Michael explained that everyone participates as much as they want at the center. The events are geared towards veterans but no one will be turned away.

March 21st is Oldies Night- \$30; Sept 18 is the Honor Our Heroes Gala- \$200

Michael motioned to adjourn, Brianna seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.