

Rotary District7505 e-Club

March 10, 2022

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by President Van Stine.

Present: Michael Van Stine-President
Manuel Nunez-Treasurer
David Winter-Secretary
James Young
Justin Green
Doris Zheng – Rotaract Club VP

Motion by Dave second by Manny to approve the minutes of February 24, 2022. Motion approved.

Pres V expressed real concern the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine is the worst since World War II. Mike said that many countries believe that Putin is committing war crimes. He said that he felt the need for our club to follow the broad lead of RI in this matter but do more than just raise/give money because many right now do not have much extra money to give.

Pres V said that Spectra Care Foundation is providing many programs but that the Veteran Center downstairs area is still not certified. Mike wants the area to be an Emergency Response Center for coordinated Ukraine response. He hopes to put some excess plywood on top of the pool table there as well as set up tables we have throughout for the collection and sorting, boxing, and mailing of goods to Poland and Hungary. At his Quaker Sunday meeting, Mike found out that we can also use excess space in Woodbury to set up goods for distribution. People can work comfortably to give out toys, personal hygiene products, and other needed items. The group is also collecting coats and other clothing items. The difficulty is getting supplies to refugees in Ukraine.

Pres v and Jay have pickup trucks to move some goods to distribution areas. They hope to work with UNICEF, the Red Cross, and Catholic Charities to partner with UPS and DHL to get goods to refugees.

Pres V is hopeful that Rotaract members can help collect goods on campus since most have limited funds.

Pres V also said that a major part of Ukraine has been destroyed and some veterans want to go and fight alongside Ukrainian civilians, mostly in a training and support capacity. He said there are networks that allow veterans to serve in Ukraine. Most are retired from active service. Mike wants the Veteran Center to support the concept. To be clear, helping veterans help Ukraine is not a Rotary function.

Pres V said there is a Rotary Club in Kyiv and the RI Board of Directors is working hard to get cash on the streets to help the residents that remain. Mike said that most residents have fled to Poland and that Rotaract can apply for grants to help Poland. Club funds can only be used to provide direct assistance.

Motion by Dave, second by Manny to provide \$500 to Poland for direct aid to refugees. Motion approved.

Jimmy said he has a specific role with the foundation trying to obtain pet food donations to aid displaced pets. He has also been tasked to investigate the Vets Without Borders program at the direction of Pres V. He also continues to place animals as part of the foundation's varied pets' programs.

Doris is an e-Board member of Rutgers Camden Rotaract with a BA in Biology who is working on an MBA. She wants to be a research scientist. She is an American citizen who put herself through college.

Pres V commended Doris for all she has done for Rotaract at Rutgers!!! He reminded us that it is the club we lead sponsor, it is growing, and it has its first general body meeting on Monday, March 21st.

Manny said he was a computer specialist who has known Mike for many years. He said e-Club is a good group of people who want to help others. He commended Mike for getting the Rotaract Club started.

Pres V said Manny is a valued partner. He is CFO of Spectra Care Foundation and is a recipient of the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Jay said he was one of the newer members of the club and he has worked with Mike since November. Jay is a veteran whose business is helping other businesses. Mike said he and Jay were able to get an entire truckload of books from the Camden Library when it closed.

Justin said he was an artist who is currently illustrating Children's Books. He is passionate about working with the Foundation. Pres V said he is the media and art consultant to the foundation; a great artist and photographer and he is the instructor for the foundation's PTSD therapy classes in art and photography.

Dave said he is a retired School Business Administrator who has supported the RYLA program for many years. RYLA teaches leadership skills to high school students.

Pres V told Doris she was welcome to attend any meeting she can!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.