

Rotary Club of New Jersey
March 27, 2025

Present: Michael Van Stine, President

Manuel Nunez, Treasurer
Brianna Tiernan, Secretary
Yaroslav Bortnyk
Dan Tangi
Shy Myers
Anthony Beaman
Judy Alessi
Clarence Cummings
Abby Walters
David Winters

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

Michael is choosing to keep this meeting more informal. Abby Walters is joining us today and will have some time for any news she has to share with us but today will be more casual than most of our business meetings.

Michael shared with Abby that the Rotary New Jersey Foundation was fully formed and legally separate from SCF. Abby inquired if both entities have separate EIN numbers; Michael assured. Both have their own EIN numbers, and both are 501(c)(3) organizations. Michael said he would like to see us have dual branded events in the future, along with specific events for each charitable organization.

Michael will find a way to incorporate the conflict assessment at a future meeting since the link is currently not working. Michael really appreciated the training and would love to share it with the club. Abby shared that conflict is usually due to a misunderstanding and typically can be resolved. Michael shared some situations in the past where unnecessary conflicts were caused by different people in different clubs and where the district failed to use proper technique in resolving them.

Abby had a few questions: where are we as a club with fundraisers? New members? Health of the club? She has had some illnesses and apologized for not being able to attend more of our meetings. Michael responded. He has also had some health issues as have others. Both wished all good health going forward.

Tony and Judy are new members. Judy has a small nonprofit for her son who passed from fentanyl poisoning. She spreads awareness for fentanyl poisoning and other substance additions. She is a chair for drug awareness/drug prevention. Her annual fundraiser is April 13th, a cornhole tournament and basket auction.

Tony distributes food at his Laurelwood church twice a month. He is hopeful of helping to expand that work into a small food pantry for SCF and having youth involved and getting their parents into Rotary. The church is in Deptford. Tony is now chair of the food distribution committee.

There was discussion about different local pantry organizations and that while SCF is getting their food pantry up and running, all can direct their people to. Cherry Hill food pantry on Wednesdays. Dan mentioned Philabundance, a large food distribution org in Philadelphia. Michael said he was involved with PhilAbundance when it was just getting started. Strike Out Hunger is August 18th, and the food collection goes to White Horse Rotary for their food pantry. Abby is one of the planners for SOH and would like to get Tony and Dan involved with it.

Dave added that his church in FL is involved with food pantry with a particular focus of the migrant workers, and that they work the tomato fields. His church has in the past got fresh water and bathrooms set up to the fields for the workers. They are involved with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

Michael has been wanting to have a meeting with Tony and Dave W to introduce them and collaborate with youth integration. Dave is coming to NJ for the torch program. Michael motioned that we allocate funds for an additional slot for Dave's group. Dan seconded. None opposed. Motion passed. This will be 19 students for Dave to send to Torch.

Manuel commended Tony for his work at the Coffee and Conversation. Manuel also mentioned the guest speaker at Coffee and Conversation. Clarence appreciated the guest speaker.

Michael motioned to adjourn; Brianna seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.