

**Rotary Club of Swarthmore**  
**Board Minutes**  
**March 19, 2025**  
**5:00 p.m. via Zoom**

**In attendance:** Jane Billings, George Whitfield, Brian Casey, Lori Markusfeld, Rosemary Fox, Sarah Pita, Elizabeth Church, Lisa O'Mahony, Joe Lesniak, Carr Everbach

**Absent:** Hillard Pouncy, Ken Wright, Maria Zissimos, Marc Berneski, Josh Twersky

**Approval of February Minutes.** George Whitfield moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Carr and approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report** - Joe Lesniak. Balance as of 2/28/25 is \$22,376.42. 4<sup>th</sup> quarter invoices to club members will go out April 1. The club received a \$1000 donation from the Chester Rotary Club to assist with Mohammed Fakhry's rent. The District Rotary Foundation has verbally committed to a contribution. Brian Casey moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Carr and approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

- **Club Programs** – No report. There will be a Club Assembly on June 12.
- **Membership/Fun Fair** – Carr Everbach
  - *Membership:* Inducting three people tomorrow (Hugh and Joan Phibbs and Charlie Pell). Shaun Eyring will be inducted soon.
  - *Fun Fair:* Preparations continue. Carr will be meeting with *The Swarthmorean* on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March; club members will be asked to sell ads. Perri Evanson has agreed to coordinate the Mac and Cheese Cookoff event. Food Trucks need a coordinator. Carr is coordinating music and managing the two stages- the "coffee house" smaller stage under the clock and the larger stage at Borough Hall. The Players Club is interested in performing, and Carr is reaching out to the Silvertones. Other groups would be very welcome.
  - Returning to membership, George asks if we can replace member badges. Apparently back in the day, different colors signified different things—for example, the red badges indicate new members (but many are now being worn by not new at all members.) The round badges unfortunately do not exist in the world anymore, however. Carr has had to hunt down what he could find on eBay, which means that each badge is precious and pretty much irreplaceable.
- **Rotary Arts Conversation** –There is a RAC this Friday with designer Susan Smythe. The next two RACs have already been filled.
- **Rotary Foundation** – Elizabeth Church reports that she continues to hunt down laggard Foundation donors; we hope to get to 100% participation by the end of the fiscal year.
- **Service Projects** – Lisa O'Mahoney. There are lots of projects going on! There will be the April 5 menstrual pad project; an April 22 Earth Day Litter Free Schools cleanup event; the Hope for Hailey May 4 Color Run; and a gently used books drive still in formation. Brian Casey reminds

Lisa that all these events can easily be added to the calendar on the website. Lisa also reported that she had just picked up some Renato's gift cards (from the club) to give to families at Nick's Place, using the excess funds raised in January.

- **Youth/Interact** – No report. Jane plans to invite Vicki Shelter to come to an upcoming meeting.
- **Public Image** – Rosemary Fox. Rosemary reports that she has already gotten a lot of publicity for the menstrual pads event on April 4.
- **Grants** – Maria Zissimos. No grant requests in the pipeline.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Update on President-Elect and President-Nominee.** Hillard went back to committee, Jane will be taking on a rare second term as president, thank you Jane! She says she vigorously encouraged him to keep working on finding a president for the following year. Brian Casey added that it would be appropriate to find a president for the year after that as well.
- **Grants language on website.** Brian Casey shared an update on the language on grants on the website. The group has been working on the updates and he wants to run the current draft by grants chair Maria Zissimos. He says that generally it's coming along nicely.

#### **New Business:**

- **Future of SHHS Scholarships.** President Jane started the conversation by saying that she did not know if the scholarships had existed before the Women's Club designated donation. That funding will be exhausted this year. Does the club want to continue the scholarships in the future? In this community, the recognition of excellence is probably more valuable than the actual money. Jane is inspired by low-income students for whom an award would be more transformative. George shared that there was a scholarship prior to Women's Club, but it was smaller, and there was only one. Carr pointed out that many students could actually lose that amount in financial aid if they get a scholarship. There was a brief discussion of changing to a youth philanthropy award wherein the student would receive a token gift (Renato's gift card??) and be allowed to designate a donation to the charity of their choice.
- **Corporate memberships.** Jane shared that The Swarthmorean asked if it could join as a corporation, so that they essentially had one membership and could send somebody each week. George expressed a concern that, by letting in a bunch of less-invested part-time members, there could be a dilution of commitment. Who would then be responsible for doing things if it was only a partial membership? The concern was also raised that, when the Club already has a financial relationship with the corporation, "it feels like a shakedown." Brian suggested that, rather than diluting the power of a membership, this could be a conduit to more participation. Jane said she would send around a document on corporate memberships that would hopefully answer some of these questions.

#### **Adjournment**

#### **Next Meeting:**

**April 23, 2025 at 5 p.m. via Zoom**