

Rotary Club of Swarthmore

Board Meeting

September 24, 2024

Attendees: Ken Wright, Charlie Pell, Jane Billings, Brian Casey, Lori Markusfeld, Lisa O'Mahony, Hillard Pouncy, Carr Everbach, Maria Zissimos, Joe Lesniak, Elizabeth Church, Vicki Shelter, Earl Varney

Not present: Josh Twersky, Rosemary Fox, George Whitfield

These minutes reflect that Earl Varney was unanimously elected as the President-Elect at the Annual Meeting of the Swarthmore Rotary Club, held on Thursday, September 18, 2025.

Motion to approve the August minutes by Charlie, seconded by Lisa; approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Rotary Arts

Ken reported that the Rotary Arts Talks are going extremely well; speakers are amazing. The next talk is on October 17 with conductor Andrew Hauze. Ken noted that these events do not cost us anything because of the contributions we receive from attendees and several sponsors.

Finance

Joe noted that there are no unusual expenses or revenue for the month. Motion to approve the August Financial Report by Brian, seconded by Maria; approved unanimously. Current balance reported as \$19,452 but should have been \$13,197.

Grants

Request from Hope for Hallie for a grant of \$1,500 to purchase purple light bulbs that will be sold at the Swarthmore Farmers Market in support of Mental Health Month. Some discussion as to whether to sell or give away the light bulbs. The board unanimously approved the full amount of \$1,500 with the understanding that \$1,000 would go to purchase light bulbs and \$500 would be for other needs of the organization.

Request from Mary Laxton for a grant of \$1,000 to Project Cure to support her upcoming trip to Ethiopia. Approved unanimously with an abstention from Hillard. (It was noted that this grant came in without enough time for review by the Grants Committee; final approval contingent on their review and approval).

Programs

Hillard reported that we are booked into November for programs. The details of the usual December event with CADES are being worked out.

Membership:

Carr reported that three new members are in the pipeline: Eric Behrens, Sarah Tuberty, and Marianne Englander. He is scheduling Fireside Chats. Ryan Martin has withdrawn his membership.

The Rotary Foundation

Elizabeth reminded the Board that our Club goal is Every Rotarian Every Year (minimum \$25 donation to Rotary International); she believes we achieved this last year. She will start soliciting donations for this year in late October.

Service Projects

Lisa said the Red Cross Emergency Kits were a hit, with many members participating at the Club meeting and donating funds to cover the cost. Upcoming events include Hope for Hallie at the October 4 Farmers Market, Loaves and Fishes on October 21, and Adopt-a-Highway on November 15. She also reported that she is considering a bicycle helmet drive for Chester.

Interact

Vicki reported that 25 students attended the first Interact meeting of the year. This year the club wants to do more activities and be less focused on raising money. They have plans to visit the Access Center in Chester and would like to do "Rise Against Hunger" again.

Other Business

Brian: There is a new Rotary app called Ignite. More details later.

The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, October 22 at 5 p.m. via Zoom.