**Rotary Club of Wiarton**

**Minutes from Feb 22/24 meeting**

**Chair: Nora Walden**

**Bev introduced guest Armon Vahramian, a prospective new member.**

**Mike McMillan introduced our youth exchange host families, Kent and Josie Myles, Hailey and Kayla Leigh-Mossley as well as our outbound student Bryaire and mom Kathryn Forbes from Tobermory. Regrets were shared from Shannon Crow and Shawn Ratcliffe.**

**Bev introduced our new “Social Piggybank” and everyone has been asked to submit your suggestion for a name to Nora. We will vote via an online survey.**

**Mike McMillan introduced our guest speaker, our very own exchange student Emanuelly Noleto Boesing who is from Brazil. Manu had many beautiful photos showing her family and**

**her part of Brazil and her Father and Grandparent’s farm. Farms in Brazil produce Coffee, Sugar, Soy Beans, Cotton and Beef.**

**Manu had slides to show how large and diverse Brazil is. It has Amazon Rain Forests in**

**the north and cooler areas in the South. Brazil has large rural areas in much of the country**

**and great cities like Sao Paulo which she compared to New York City. The Country also has**

**many beautiful lakes and rivers. Originally a Portuguese Colony, Brazil has a large and diverse**

**population.**

**She compared the major Brazilian Currency to the Canadian and US Dollars the rate is**

**4 to 1 Canadian Dollar and 5 to 1 US Dollar.**

**Being the number one producer of Soy Beans in the world, she stressed their**

**importance to the Brazilian Economy. Rebekah thanked Manu for her informative presentation and a job well done and provided her with our club banner to take home! Thank you George for taking notes on Manu’s presentation!!**

**Bev provided the last update on Wine Survivor 11 - $6,500 was raised for the Hospital Auxiliary. In total our wine survivor draws have raised $70,000! Stay tuned for #12.**

**Nora shared that the club voted in favour of applying for a District Grant of $3,000 USD to assist in funding our local and international expenses.**

**Golf tournament update – Greg will be setting up a registration site by mid April.**

**Nora called upon Glenda to provide an update on her Rotary experience in Guatemala with Rotarian Pat Cavan. Pat and Glenda met with the manager of the NGO, Amigos de Santa Cruz to further discuss the tutoring project and gather information needed to complete the grant application. They also attended a Rotary meeting in Panajachel. This club is quite busy being the local club involved in many global grants for projects in Guatemala including water systems, small business startups and the new tutoring project to name a few. Finally they were invited to travel up the mountain to visit 3 of the businesses started last year with Rotary’s help. These businesses are mostly ran by Mayan women and included an Organic chicken/egg farm, a Honey business and an Oyster Mushroom business, all of these businesses have expanded a lot in just one year! Everyone indicated that the businesses have helped them feed and clothe their family and provide education opportunities. Pat has spent many hours on preparing the grant application and ensuring signatures from all parties are included – Thank you for your dedication Pat and thank you for providing this experience to learn for Glenda!**

**The Appeal for the Grade 8 trip from Peninsula Shores will come out in a survey for a vote. Pat mentioned how important a grade 8 trip is in the school life of a child.**

**If anyone is interested in attending the Chamber Business After Hours on Feb 29th or the Women’s Day Event at Cobble Beach on Mar 8th, please let Nora know.**

**Mike Mason provided an update for the Wiarton Homecoming Weekend. Plans will be announced publicly in March. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday of Civic weekend along with our Shore to Shore on the Monday.**

**Saturday night – Concert band**

**Beer garden by Dockside Willie’s**

**Sunday afternoon – Classical music by Music on the Bruce**

**Lots of new participants coming on board – Outdoor Education Centre –kids games, BPSA – fish pond, Colpoy’s Bay WI – pancake breakfast on Sunday, Olipant group – Fish Fry Sunday night?**

**Social media sites are being set up as well as an event email address. A delegation will be attending the Mar 5 council meeting. They are looking at our club to be the “holder” of the funds on behalf of the committee. 20% of proceeds will go to the committee to be managed. A cheque requisition form will be used to pay bills with 2 signatures along with the requestors.**

**We will offer our equipment if other groups need it. Fire Dept is interested in Hammer Slammer, Dunk Tank TBD. We have a surplus of serviettes and cups from Maple Magic which we can sell for cost.**

**There will be 4 tournaments going on – Pickleball, Baseball, Horse Shoes and Corn Hole.**

**Sunday there will be a car show, Kid’s zone. Food booth both days.**

**Saturday - Pig Roast**

**Sunday - possibly Fish Fry.**

**Sunday - Movie night.**

**Each organization involved will have a display booth to highlight what they do in our community and abroad with the hope to attract members.**

**Some sponsors have been secured, but more are needed.**

**Our March 28th meeting has been cancelled as a result of many members attending Josie’s Fashion show.**

**Greg won the 50/50 draw but he said it belonged to George as he bought his ticket!**

**Next meeting – March 14 with guest speaker Mayor Jay Kirkland. Glenda will chair this meeting as Nora will be away at PETs training**