**Rotary Club of Wiarton**

**Minutes**

**January 25/24**

**Chair: Nora Walden**

**Rebekah introduced a corporate membership attendee, Rebecca from Arbello Creative! So nice to have her!**

**Rebekah introduced our guest speaker, Jackie Ralph, from the Canadian Mental Health Association Grey-Bruce. Jackie, originally from Priceville, works with Children’s Mental Health and has been with CMHAGB for 19 years. She shared many stats with us, how many children have called the help line, how many puppet shows they do at school per year (Jackie has done at least 200 puppet shows per year), presentations, training sessions and info sharing presentations annually with a very small team. They have handed out over 5,000 mental health take home packages. Their program is aimed at helping our youth feel better about themselves and help prevent mental health problems from developing. Jackie started The Good Deeds Project”. They really depend on volunteers and the association is completely funded by donations!! With the funds from our District grant and funds from our club, they have been able to implement mental health activities in Peninsula Shores, Amabel Sauble and Kikendaasogamig schools! She shared all of the programming they have done and will continue to do. She indicated that each time they attend a school, on average 7 kids call the Kids Help Phone that evening as a result of her calling into the help line while with the kids so they see how easy it is. She won an award for the use of the helpline (over 600 times).**

**The association works closely with other agencies such as Keystone, Rainbows Canada (grief support for kids) and Kids Help Phone The pandemic had a major impact on children’s mental health – some grade 5 students have the social skills of grade 1.**

**A requirement of our grant application was that club member could be involved hands on. We are more than welcome to join at any of the 3 schools. Dates for each school are listed –**

**Amabel-Sauble Feb 7, Mar 6, April 3, May 1, June 5. Programs run 9-12:45**

**Kikendaasogamig – Feb 12, Mar 18, April 8, May 14, June 13. Programs run 9-10:55**

**PSDS – Feb 14, Mar 20, Apr 10, May 8, June 12. Programs run 9-1:35**

**Personally I plan to attend a day in each school and anyone is more than welcome to join me or attend on your own. I would just ask that you let me (Glenda) know so I can include that info in our grant completion report. George graciously thanked Jackie for her energetic presentation and reminded her of a puppet show she had once done for the Grey County Board of Education Trustees. Nora presented Jackie with a card.**

**Nora presented a RUBY Paul Harris pin to George Gordon. George earned this award as a result of donating over $7,000 to the Rotary Foundation since he began his donations! Congratulations George!**

**Mike Mason provided an update on the proposed Online Auction that was being planned. After having a discussion with the Hospital Foundation office, it has been decided that we will NOT move forward with a spring auction as they always have their auction in April and we could be in competition with them. Stay tuned as it may still be a go later in the year?**

**Mike also reported on the Wiarton Homecoming Weekend community event. This event is to replace Village Fair and Rotary is working with other service clubs with the plan to have it Civic weekend 2024. It would run Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning at Bluewater Park, with activities for adults, youth and children. Plans in the works are a parade and opening ceremonies on Sat., Pig Roast Sat eve, Fish Fry Sunday eve, Beer Garden, Food booth, Concerts Saturday/Sunday evenings. Baseball tournament, pickleball, volleyball, horseshoes, corn hole tournaments. Games and activities for all ages. Market vendors and Community organization displays, 50/50 draw and more!**

**Whatever activity we take on, we would get 80% of the revenue from it. Vendors pay a fee for a spot. Grants will be applied for and sponsorships will be sought.**

**We received an email about a new midway company in the area and Mike is looking into that.**

**Mike also mentioned that he is arranging for Food Service training in town. He and Trevor need to re-certify and we need one more Rotarian to take this course. Please let Mike know if you are interested.**

**Nora shared that the club voted to decline appeals in Q3 and Q4 but we would consider an appeal on an exception basis if an emergency. The club voted to provide $2,625 to Hand Up and $750 to the Sauble School for the playground. Rebekah will present to the school and once Bob is back, the club can present the cheque to him for the Hand up committee.**

**Wine Survivor – Bev reported that all volunteer positions are now filled! Training sessions have been held for new volunteers. Thank you!**

**Reminder that the Interact club will be providing hot chocolate and cookies by donation on Saturday of Wiarton Willie weekend at the shed. Thank you Trevor, Mike McM and Rebekah!**

**Shore to Shore has 45 participants registered and $310 in donations. A planning meeting is coming up next week.**

**Rebekah asked that whenever you see a Facebook post to please like it, comment on it and share it to your page to give the club more exposure.**

**Glen reported that the Fundraising Golf Tournament plans are coming into place. The initial critical path will be finalized in February. We will need support/volunteers for the event and getting sponsorships lined up – our hope is to grow this event year over year!**

**The club voted in favour of being the sponsoring club for the Global grant literacy project request in Guatemala.**

**Membership committee – Glen spoke about the email received today from the membership committee requesting that each member complete the attached sheet to help identify prospective members in our community. Please complete and email to Pat by Monday.**

**Crown and Anchor – The Lion’s Club is borrowing the wheel for Casino night but we do not know yet whether they will agree to keep it.**

**Thriving Volunteerism Workshop – being put on by the Town of SBP. Each community organization has been asked to send 2 members. It will be held March 21 at the Sauble Community Centre – 9:30-1:30. Nora and Mike Mason will attend.**

**Family Day at the Outdoor Education Centre, Feb 19. Nora will send out a survey asking if we should be involved – we would need 3 volunteers. We have been asked to assist with handing out snacks and can bring our Rotary tent. The event is put on by Terri Hastings real estate team (Keller Williams).**

**Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is February 8, Guest Speaker Krista Linthorne, Community Relations Officer, Grey Bruce OPP**