**Rotary Club of Wiarton**

**Minutes**

**April 11, 2024**

**Nora thanked Bev Garinger for providing a scrumptious Mediterranean meal and thanks to Donna Ruddell for providing the oil and vinegar for the salad and dipping. She also thanked the servers for their assistance.**

**Nora recited the 4 way test and during our moment of silence she asked that we think about the words.**

**Pat introduced our guest speaker, Lorna Gunning Fratschko, DGND, Membership chair for District 6330. Lorna is a member of the Rotary Club of London Hyde Park. Lorna will be the District Governor in 2026/27.**

**Lorna shared that membership is top of mind for Rotary International as some clubs have already had to close. She talked about resources that are available on Rotary.org for ideas of how to attract and maintain members. Clubs need to be intentional about membership goals, ie: how many new members this year. We must be irresistible and people will want to join. When communities realize what Rotary does locally and internationally, it is attractive and energizing.**

**We need to identify under represented parts of our community, learn what members want and keep it relevant. We also need to find out why members leave.**

**Membership is a collective effort – every member is really on the membership committee. We have to be welcoming and enthusiastic about membership growth. Club goals are keyed into Rotary Central and club should be kept up to date on how we are doing toward our goal. Goal for membership this year was 30 active members – we are at 26 at present.**

**She suggested each club have a story board or presentation at our new member event, April 18th. Show people what we do and how we make a difference. It is important for clubs to keep the club website and FB up to date and she encourages use of Rotary.org branding.**

**Effective onboarding of new members is very important. We talked about Fire Side chats and new members having a mentor for the first year. We don’t want to overwhelm new members, help them understand the avenues of service and ask where do they see themselves for committees – what is their passion? Everyone needs to embrace change; it is not easy to find new members. We need to be flexible. We should increase diversity.**

**Lorna also spoke about the Visioning session that is provided by members of the District. Nora and Glenda will speak about this at our next meeting.**

**Glenda thanked Lorna for her educational presentation and for being a member of the district.**

**Wine Survivor – Bev reported that positions are filled and additional people are being trained. Ron B has the tickets so pls let him know how many books you think you can sell.**

**Mike updated us on Wiarton Homecoming Weekend – they have applied for a grant from TSBP, they will be receiving a $2500 grant from Bruce Power, they have $3500 in sponsorships so far. The vender market has 30 confirmed vendors signed up! The committee will be working with the hospital foundation on a 50/50 draw. Event photographers will be Keith Gilbert and Stu Paterson. Align Body & Mind will be leading dance and Boardwalk yoga and will be doing something with the Kids Zone. Curling Club and Ag Society will have displays.**

**Kudos to Mike for really helping out the Cape Croker pancake breakfast event when their supplier for pancake mix fell through 2 days before the event. Mike was contacted to see if we had mix, however not enough. He reached out to his supplier in Mississauga who in turn drove up the next day with 8 cases of pancake mix and saved the event. What collaboration!!!**

**The Grade 8 trip we donated towards was cancelled but they are planning for a different trip that will be less costly. Many students could not afford the original planned trip.**

**Nora enjoyed the PETS session in Kalamazoo Michigan and met presidents of our surrounding clubs and we will be partnering with those clubs more.**

**Mike M and Nora attended the Volunteerism Workshop hosted by the town. We are already doing much of what was discussed as far as partnering with other groups. The cancellation of Village Fair has been a wake up call for all organizations.**

**Fireside chat on fundraising and projects was held. Fundraiser – Shred it Project – Beach cleanup. These are both being looked at by committees assigned that evening.**

**Everyone is welcome to attend the Membership Committee event on April 18 at 6pm. This is at the Revell Cooperative on Berford Street. The event will be completed by 7:30.**

**Rotary Club/Interact Road Clean up April 22 (Earth Day) at 10 am. There will be pizza served at the school after. Our club will do another road cleanup on Oct 17th.**

**The Succession Planning committee announced that Jackie Drawbell has withdrawn herself as President Elect due to personal reasons. The committee also announced that Glenda Jamieson will take her place as President-Elect.**

**Mike Mason indicated that it would be great if a few more members signed up for the Safe Food Handling course on May 3 at the Lions Head Rotary Hall.**

**Please sign up with Nora if you wish to attend the Southampton Rotary Club BBQ on May 22.**

**Winner of the 50/50 draw was Mike McMillan.**

**The Meeting was adjourned.**

**Next Meeting is Thursday, April 25 with guest speaker Sandra Hong, Alzheimer Society Grey Bruce. The Rotary Club of NBP has been invited to attend.**