

SHAMROCK CLUB GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 17, 2024

EAGLES CLUB, LA CROSSE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT – Tracy Mullaney, Debi McGrury, Elaine McGarry, Dave Burgess, Kathleen Ryan, Kathy Sexauer, Mary Jagim, Linda Hoehn, Linda Pfaff, Luke Seielstad
OTHERS PRESENT– Mary Erickson, Gerald O’Flaherty, Angela O’Flaherty, Pari Sexauer, Pat Mullaney, Dennis O’Brien, Diane O’Brien, Bob McGarry, Ann Nolan, Tina Stuhr, Debbie Kroner, Jim Kroner, Jim Crothers, Theresa Wang, Cheryl Byers, Kathy O’Driscoll, Bill O’Driscoll, Becky Seielstad, Al Seielstad, Whitey Hoehn, Charlene Baumbich, George Baumbich

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Tracy Mullaney, current Board President. Mary Jagim motioned to approve the February minutes, Linda Pfaff seconded, and the motion carried forward with member approval.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6 The Finns Concert at The Main, La Crosse, Concert at 7 pm, doors open 5:30 pm

May 15 General Meeting, Eagles Club, 6 pm

TREASURER’S REPORT

Dave Burgess reported a balance of \$7,614. Budgeted sponsorships paid this year include: \$1,500 for Irishfest and \$100 for Coulee Hoolie Ceili. Rotary Lights volunteering payment received, \$215. Budgeted expenditures: float modifications/cover \$2,000; Scholarships \$500; Sponsorship to promote Irishfest \$500 (The Finns concert). St. Patrick’s Dinner: raffles and silent auction proceeds contributed significantly to the \$2,071 profit from the dinner, which was \$800 more than budgeted. Thanks to all who contributed raffle baskets and silent auction items. Silent auction donations included Jim and Debbie Kroner’s two Irish Whiskey tasting events and Bill O’Driscoll’s Genealogy Tutorial session. Donna Finn’s memorials donated to the Shamrock Club totaled \$315.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Linda Pfaff reported a total of 138 members and 13 members have not renewed their memberships. Sympathy cards were sent out to Jean Burgess (brother), Sue Crothers (brother), Tim Sprester (mother), and Donna Finn and family. There is a \$315 memorial for Donna Finn and could potentially be used in the Cultural Tent at Irish Fest. A thank you card was received from Donna Finn’s family. A get-well card was sent to Gerry O’Flaherty. Linda Pfaff is recovering from knee surgery and is thankful for the get-well cards she has received. The Coulee Hoolie Ceili sent a thank you card for the \$100 sponsorship from the Shamrock Club. The turn out for the event was the best ever reaching their goal of \$5,000 with even shares to the La Crosse Dive Team and the Bantry Lifeboat Search and Rescue Teams.

OLD BUSINESS

Congratulations to Bob McGarry for winning the bowling trophy and \$25 gift card at the bowling event at Coulee Golf Bowl on February 17th. We had a short general meeting after the bowling event.

Tracy reported 122 attendees at the March 9th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and welcome event for our 2024 Irish Man (Gerald O'Flaherty) and Irish Rose (Mary Erickson). Several positive comments were received on the fairy themed table centerpieces. Thank you to Mary Jagim and family for the wonderful whiskey tasting event, it was a great success! Thank you to all who helped with the raffle basket preparations, silent auction items, and the selling of raffle tickets and beads for this special event. Jim Kroner mentioned a controversy regarding the number of beads worn for the Heads/Tails game, in the future the limit per person participating in the game will be 7 strings of beads. All in all, the event meal, program, activities, and turnout was a grand success!

Credit goes for the hard work in some last minutes changes for the bus tour to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 14th at local elementary schools and elder care centers. The bus tour was a fun and fabulous celebration with a variety of musicians, Irish dancers, Clancy (new member Michael Scott), and lunch at Bennett O'Riley's. Approximately \$250 was saved by changing the trolley to a rental bus. Discussion of the cost for next year's event will occur at a future board meeting.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16th was well attended by many members. Thank you to Pari Sexauer for the use of his Jeep and his awesome talent on the cordless microphone during the parade. Irish Man Gerald O'Flaherty and Irish Rose May Erickson looked spectacular in the white carriage. The cost of the carriage increased because of insurance. A new solution for attachment of the signs to the carriage needs researching. A celebration of music and dance followed the parade at the Freighthouse.

Thank you to members who donated to this year's blood drive on March 19th. Bill O'Driscoll reported a total of 21 blood donations and 43 lifesaving blood products were given by Shamrock Club members.

Currently there is no volunteer for the Blarney newsletter, but a letter from the Dane County Shamrock Club, Inc. exists on the "other" tab on the La Crosse Shamrock Club website, www.shamrockclublax.org. Members are encouraged to use the website because it does incur a cost.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill O' Driscoll stated elections for board members will be held at our May 15th meeting. Nominations for 2 open Trustee positions will be accepted until May 13th at 6 pm. The nomination committee members include Bill O'Driscoll, Kathleen Ryan, and Linda Pfaff. Current board members need to be re-elected to their positions.

Gerald O'Flaherty and Mary Erickson discussed this year's parades for the Shamrock Club: June 1st – Dairy Days, West Salem; July 14 – Trempealeau Catfish Days; August 17th – Holmen Kornfest; September 22 – Apple Fest Parade; September 26 – Torchlight Parade; September 29 – Maple Leaf Parade; November 29 – Rotary Lights. Dave Burgess stated that this year any member riding/participating in a parade will have to sign a medical insurance policy waiver for each parade. Insurance coverage in the parades covers vehicles and floats, but not people.

Ann Nolan announced this year's Steppin Out in Pink event is September 14th. Our club's name for this event is the "Shamrockers" and early registration cost is \$20 during 29 April – 28 June, \$25 during 29 June – 8 September, and \$30 the day of the event. Come walk with us!

Tracy Mullaney talked about the Cultural Tent at Irishfest, this year's theme will be about the Titanic (built in Belfast). A creative team of ideas is in the works. The time slots in JD's Pub in the Cultural Tent will need to be re-established, Matt McGrury will head JD's Pub. Volunteer slots are available, and members are encouraged to volunteer.

Kathleen Ryan announced a concert co-sponsored by Irishfest, La Crosse Shamrock Club, and Bantry Friendship Association. The concert is **the Finns**, on May 6th at The Main, 422 Main St., La Crosse, WI, 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 available at www.irishfestlacrosse.org, doors open at 5:30 pm.

Debi McGrury is willing to organize a Brat Barn fundraiser at the Onalaska Festival Foods. Support from members in volunteering was expressed for this event. A date for the fundraiser will be forthcoming.

Kathleen Ryan announced the Annual JD Oelke Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 15th at Drugan's in Holmen; an information meeting is forthcoming.

Luke Seielstad stated he is working with Pari Sexauer in a possible new location for Road Bowling in mid-June; information will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

Linda Pfaff motioned to adjourn the meeting and Luke Seielstad seconded the motion, the motion carried forward with member approval and the meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine McGarry, Secretary, April 18, 2024