

02-15-2023 SHAMROCK CLUB GENERAL MEETING

EAGLES CLUB LA CROSSE

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Barrie Monks, Pat & Tracy Mullaney, Russ Stockel, Ron & Linda Smith, Sharon Candahl, Linda Pfaff, Rod & Pam Smith, Kelly Smith, Ann Nolan, Luke Sielestad, Kathy Sexauer, Eric Knudtsen, Whitey & Linda Hoehn, Jim & Debbie Kroner, George & Charlene Baumbich, Jerry O'Flaherty and Mary Jagim.

The meeting was called to order by Jerry O'Flaherty at 6:03pm.

01-18-2023 General Meeting Minutes – Barrie Monks:

Minutes of the 01-18 General Meeting were distributed via e-mail on 01-23, an e-mail was subsequently received from Dave Burgess concerning last year's Christmas Party, the minutes stated that the attendance was down from the previous year when in fact the numbers were approximately the same but were down from 2019. The minutes of record have been amended to reflect this change.

A motion was made by Linda Pfaff to accept the amended minutes, which was seconded by Linda Hoehn. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Jerry O'Flaherty (standing in for Dave Burgess):

As of January 31, 2023, the checking account balance was \$8,238. Included in that total is the \$500 gift from Tim and Marjorie Gillespie.

Since January 1 the account balance is up \$1,461. The increase is the result of membership dues and St Pat's dinner payments plus the gift from the Gillespie's and an \$80 gift from Sally Sullivan.

A motion was made by Linda Hoehn to accept the report, the motion was seconded by Luke Sielestad, voted on and subsequently passed unanimously.

Membership Report – Linda Pfaff:

At present we have 130 Paid members and are waiting on promised checks from further four. Jerry O'Flaherty asked how this compared to past years as he remembered at one time, we had close to 200 members. Linda stated that we are at about the same level as this time last year. The reason we had nearly 200 members at one time was when the club gave away leather beer cup holders during Irishfest with a new membership.

OLD BUSINESS

50th Anniversary Year – Tracy Mullaney:

The order for merchandise has been sent in and should be available to members in about a month, it is hoped before the St. Patrick's Day dinner. Unfortunately, samples are not currently available. A future reorder is possible. Kelly Smith suggested waiting until April to place any new order as this will give members the chance to actually see the merchandise before ordering.

The 50th Anniversary Reception is still planned for June 21st. If by some chance the fish hatchery is not completed, Plan B is to move the event to The Pump House. A final decision on the location will be made in about a month.

NEW BUSINESS

Storytelling at La Crescent/Hokah Schools – Luke Seielstad:

Luke has been in touch with the schools and informed them that the club will not be involved in this event this year but would revisit the idea next year. The schools are more interested in fairy tails as opposed to Irish history. It was pointed out that there are plenty of books pertaining to Irish stories which would come under this category.

Bowling in February – Tracy Mullaney:

Bowling is \$10 which covers the cost of three games and shoe rental. Spots are still available for teams and a travelling trophy will be awarded to the winning team. Dinner and trophy presentation follows the games.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner – Tracy Mullaney:

Approximately one hundred are signed up, which is slightly lower than last year but there is still time for this number to increase. Raffle and auction prizes are coming in and include a kayak trip and a whisky tasting and meal hosted by Jim and Debbie Kroner. A whisky tasting will be held at the meal along with the ever-popular Heads and Tails game. Invites have also been sent out to other groups in town. Tracy is also looking for volunteers to sell raffle tickets and beads.

St. Patrick's Day Parade – Tracy Mullaney:

Although this is an Irishfest event, the Shamrock club has always supported it and will once again this year. We will have a horse drawn carriage for the incoming Irish Rose and Man along with anyone who would like to walk in the parade. Pat and Tracy Mullaney will have the Shamrock Club float available for those who would prefer to ride, please note that riders must bring their own chairs. Line up begins between 10:30 and 11:00, The Freighthouse will be open early for liquid refreshment as well as a gathering place after the parade.

March Blood Drive – Tracy Mullaney (Standing in for Bill O'Driscoll):

A poster has been sent out to members with all the details. Walk ins will be accepted and will receive the usual "Pint for a Pint" coupon for David Reay's Diner and Tavern

St. Patrick's Day Bus Tour – Tracy Mullaney:

The bus tour will take place this year with the schedule posted below, all mask and contact restrictions put in place by the individual locations must be met and it is advised that those attending bring their own masks.

Due to the increase in the cost of renting a school bus and the availability of drivers, this years transport will be on the La Crosse Trolley. The trolley will cost \$500 and seats 29 people. A concern was brought up by Barrie Monks that we are spending this money on a 29 seat trolley that will primarily be used to transport the dancers from Amanda's and there might not be enough room for club members who would like to ride the trolley. A general discussion took place with the outcome that most club members who participate drive themselves and there will be enough space. Tracy stated that all members who wanted to ride on the trolley would be accommodated.

Due to the rising cost of putting on this event, Tracy put forward the suggestion that this event should be looked at next year as being too costly. Once again, a discussion arose with the consensus being that the benefit far out ways the cost. Sharon Candahl made the statement that this is part of our mission statement and if we were not doing this to promote the Celtic spirit then what are we doing.

Finally, Tracy encouraged all that are taking part in the bus tour to get their Irish on.

Schedule:

07:30 - Orange Juice, Coffee and Rolls at The American Legion 6th and Market.
08:05 – Trolley leaves.
08:20 – 08:50 – Blessed Sacrament School.
09:00 – 09:30 – Cathedral School.
09:45 – 10:15 – St. Pat’s School, Onalaska.
10:30 – 11:15 – Onalaska Care Center, 1600 Main Street, Onalaska.
11:30 – Lunch for purchase at The American Legion.
12:40 Trolley leaves.
13:00 – 13:30 – Eagle Crest South, masks required to walk through the building.
13:45 – 14:30 – Bethany St. Joe’s, masks require to walk through the building.
14:45 – 15:30 – Springbrook La Crescent, no mask requirements.
15:45 – Return to The American Legion.

Any Other New Business:

Two members of The La Crosse River Rats, Andrew Jones and Daniel Hillsbrand, were present and thanked the club for its sponsorship. They apologized for the oversight in not having the Shamrock Club logo printed on their new shirts but are working towards a means to remedy this by having patches embroidered and stitched on the shirts. Anne Nolan volunteered to be liaison between the Shamrock Club and The River Rats in making this happen. It was suggested that The Shamrock Club could provide a meal, possibly Irish Stew, after one of The River Rats home games,

At 7:03pm a motion to adjourn was made by Jim Kroner, the motion was seconded by Luke Seielstad, voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted 02-15-2023 by Barrie Monks.

\CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Feb 18 Bowling Coulee Golf & Bowl 4pm Dinner 6pm
March *No General Meeting*
March 4 Dinner Cedar Creek
March 11 St Patrick Parade
March 17 Bus Tour
April 19 General Meeting 6pm Eagles Club