

Putnam County Rotary
Board of Directors Meeting
January 31, 2006

Board Members Attending: Rick Slater, Don Broyles, Mary Keely, Peter Faulkner, Bob Keely, Sam Sentelle

Board Members Absent: Linda Nesbitt, Vera Conley, Cheryl Rust, Tom Midkiff

Guests in attendance: Randy Lucas

President Rick Slater opened the breakfast meeting encouraging the Board to continue to work on programs for the rest of the year. He suggested that we communicate with him as speakers are arranged and he will coordinate that information with Sam for our website.

He then asked for ideas and suggestions from the Board Members for community service projects.

Sam stated that we need to more clearly communicate with our membership and with each other as Board members. He cited problems with past projects such as funds to the Humane Society and to the YMCA. His suggestion was supported by other Board members. We need to engage our members in projects and clearly define our role and responsibility in them. All projects need to have the approval of the Board of Directors for funding.

President Slater noted that he had been contacted by Hurricane Middle School for assistance in "a face lift" for the bathrooms. Both the girls and boys bathrooms need paint and repairs.

Bob Keely suggested that we look at a multi-year project for the club.

Sam suggested that we consider participating in the construction of hiking and biking trails in Putnam County.

Bob suggested that we consider placing benches with the Rotary logo in strategic locations throughout the county. He had visited a local business that makes concrete benches and obtained prices. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that the Board would pursue this project. We'll need to get specific costs for emblems, benches, installation, etc. In some cases, we may also need to obtain permits. Don agreed to contact Scott Junction as a test case for this project and report their response to the Board. We may be able to install at least 10 benches this year. The members felt that this would be a great way to involve our membership in locating the benches. This will be an on-going project for the club.

That discussion then led to the possibility of building a gazebo between Scott Junction and the Uno property as a type of park area for our club to sponsor. The project would involve the members in a "hands on" project for the community. Rick agreed to contact Gary Young for information about the building of a gazebo. Don will research the ownership of the property and if the owner is willing to let us develop the property in that manner.

Peter shared some ideas from Rotarian Joe Haynes. Joe mentioned helping with a bike path at a park in Eleanor, helping the Eleanor 4-H conference center project possibly with the building of a cabin, or assisting the animal shelter project for stray animals. (Rotarian Lisa Mitchell is spearheading the animal shelter project.)

The Board then discussed our annual scholarships and the possibility of raising the scholarships to \$1000 each. Tom Midkiff has agreed to help us define roles that would involve our Rotary club in a more active participation in the selection of those candidates. It was felt that we need to meet and interview the students, not just write a check based on someone else's evaluation and/or guidelines. We will await Tom's recommendations for the new guidelines.

Randy noted that we may have a new sponsor for the Interact Club in Hurricane. The previous sponsor left last year, and the club has not been active. Randy and Sam are working to reactive the group and will keep the Board informed.

Rick asked if any members were aware of any community needs for children, food pantries or any group that helps those in need. At this time, the members were unaware of such needs.

We had a discussion about our large contribution to the YMCA bathhouse project. We purchased a centennial plaque to be placed on the bathhouse in April of 2005, and have not been able to install the plaque even though many attempts have been made to secure a date with the management at the Y. Don agreed to contact them and explain our frustration; his goal is to set a date for the plaque to be installed with membership participation.

Mary presented the ad that we will put in the Metro Putnam section of the Charleston newspaper announcing our Sponsor Recognition Lunch. We have moved the date to March 14, 2006. Don Broyles will be leaving with his GSE Team for Australia at 11 AM on March 7, our original date. It was felt that we need to support their departure by being at the airport as they leave. The ad will run in the paper on March 1, and the Board approved the expenditure for the cost of the ad. Each Board member will contact several sponsors/donors with a personal invitation. The ad will include the date of our Sponsor Recognition Lunch and the date of our next golf tournament. Peter asked that we prepare a suggested script for those calls.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 AM.