

12-09-08

**Minutes of Special Board Meeting with
District Governor
Putnam County Rotary**

In Attendance: District 7550 Governor Bill Haslem, Assistant District Governor Larry Nelson, President Tom Midkiff, Sam Sentelle, Randy Lucas, Cheryl Rust and Bob Keely
Absent: Don Broyles, Bonnie Prisk, Alice Riffie, Chet Marshall, Glen Clark

DG Bill complimented Putnam Club on their poster display of projects and avenues of service. He wants all clubs to display the same type of information at the upcoming District Conference to be held May 15-17, 2009 at Glade Springs Resort near Beckley.

The Putnam Club currently has 44 members (including 4 honorary). **Bob Keely** discussed the success of our recent “Club in a Club” membership drive that resulted directly in 8 new members. These members were added AFTER June 30, 2008. (During the meeting it was erroneously stated that they were included on June 30th member list – Their actual start date was July 1, 2008!). **Randy** added that there were 4 more members inducted after CIC. **Tom’s** membership goal is 13 new members for the calendar year 2008 (since he took over as President in January of 2008). Our club “net” gain since June is actually 11 (erroneously stated in meeting that net gain was only 3).

Bill asked “What has Putnam Club been doing and is planning to do”?

Tom mentioned our golf outing as the major fund raiser for our club. **Bill** made the point that with the current economy, sponsorships may be harder to secure. Also a “raffle” type fund raiser is being planned for winter/spring with all members selling tickets and possibly three cash prizes awarded. **Bill** suggested a “kick off” type meeting to generate excitement for our raffle fund raiser. Also our Poinsettia fund raiser made almost \$200 even though we only had about two weeks to promote it. Our weekly “happy dollars” is currently designated to be used for Polio Plus. **Bill** asked that each club commit to giving \$1000 to Polio Plus and additionally, he would like for each member to individually contribute \$25.

Bob led a discussion of club involvement with Salvation Army bell ringing as a participatory club project. Other clubs track the donations they collect during the bell ringing and some even use it as a competition with other non profit groups.

Bill talked about Monte Carlo night as a fund raiser at some other clubs. **Bob** and **Randy** led discussion of some type of fund raiser at the 10 day Putnam County Fair in the summer.

“What type of service projects”: **Bob** explained the Rotary bench project. We used a District Simplified Grant, in the amount of \$914, to purchase language translators for Putnam Literacy Volunteers. Our club tries to spend \$5000 on local projects and \$5000

on our international project. We have had discussions with Habitat for Humanity about assisting with building a house (furnishing a room?) including some sweat equity. One of our members is a pastor and her church is building a Community Center in the area. There is an anonymous donor willing to match up to \$250,000 of donations from other groups. We are considering helping with this community service project.

This is our third year helping the First Divine School in Uganda. The first two years we provided books, desks, lab & science equipment, chickens and a chicken coop. This year we will be providing knitting/sewing equipment for the girls and wood working equipment for the boys as well as some water holding tanks for the chickens. We have some other clubs (St Albans, Milton, Ceredo Kenova, Vandalia) interested in joining us on this project. We already have a \$1000 donation from a local church towards this project. We still need some key information from the Rotary Club in Uganda to complete a Rotary Matching Grant for this project. In the past we bought books for kids in New Zealand and bought a goat for people in Nepal (thru the Ripley Rotary Club).

Bill suggested that all District clubs consider a Southern West Virginia project as many places in that area are basically “third world” areas.

Bill asked about the Dictionary Project in our area: **Randy** explained that a local business provides dictionaries to all third graders in Putnam County. Two years ago we provided Thesauruses to all sixth graders in the county and the project was well received by students, teachers, and club members.

Cheryl added that we provided \$1500 for the Putnam County Fire School to help train volunteer firemen in our area. We also made a donation to the Putnam Senior centers for purchase of tires and cell phones. **Bill** commented that our club won numerous awards last year at the District Conference. **Sam** was commended on being Web Master of our Award Winning web site. **Sam** discussed our current Scholarship program and how it has changed from previous awards. Now our winner is selected from candidates who are deserving but may not have been able to secure other scholarships. The \$2000 scholarship may be an ongoing annual award for the same individual. **Bill** suggested that explore providing one half of the money for each semester instead of all up front.

Bob added that our club has also agreed to help our District Governor Nominee’s personal expenses as well as provide for a Club project during our club’s DG year.

Our club still matches Every Rotarian Every Year donations. Tom mentioned that over the years we have made donations to Junior Achievement, Habitat, Literacy Volunteers, Red Cross, high school Interact Club, and Hospice to name a few.

Meeting adjourned.

