ST. LUKE CATHOLIC MEN'S CLUB

 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 21, 2017 @ 7 PM

Saint Luke School Cafeteria

Called Meeting to Order: At 7:30 PM the meeting was called to order by Vice President Gilbert Ortiz. President James Benavides was on vacation.

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Larry Fuentes was not at this meeting, therefore, Father Miguel led the club in the opening prayer which was dedicated to those club members who have experienced severe medical issues.

Pledge of Allegiance: John Martinez let the club in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Welcome New Members & Guests: Robert (Bob) Truitt from the Knights of Columbus spoke to the club asking the membership to partner with the Knights in donating blood in an upcoming blood drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. He passed out cards for those who were interested in signing up to donate blood.

Guest were Eddie Anthony Paniagua Junior who was invited to be here tonight by Tony Paniagua. He stated that currently he is employed by Gun Automotive and he is also a student at St. Mary’s University and is a veteran of the United States Air Force. A second guest, Mark Candia, is employed by a general contractor and is a US Navy veteran. A third guest, Eddie Paniagua senior, was invited by his brother, Tony Paniagua. He is retired from USAA where he worked for 31 years. He is also employed, part-time, at a pizza place on Bandera Road.

Birthdays for July and August: Those who had birthdays in July were called to the front first. The oldest person for the month of July is Joe Cunningham, 86 years of age. The youngest for July is Jeff Phillips, 43 years of age. Next the August birthday club members were called up to the front. The oldest club member for August is John Donnellan, 88 years of age. The youngest is Joey Groff, 37 years of age. Each birthday member was given raffle tickets by John Martinez. Club members sang happy birthday to all individuals who had birthdays in July and August, 2017.

Introduction of the Cooking Team: The cooking team was introduced by Tony Paniagua. They were Eddie Paniagua Jr, Steve Garza, Bobby Olivares, Mario Lizarine, E. J. Arnold, Andres Gonzales, Stephen Ayala and Eddie Paniagua senior.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting have not been submitted but will be available for review on the club website as soon as possible.

Treasurer's Report; Joey Groff passed out a copy of the projected treasurers report for 2018 and presented his report to the general membership for approval. Several issues were presented and discussed. Groff stated that the amount of money spent this year on meals will pretty much be the same for 2018. He mentioned that the monthly raffle is doing fairly well. Last year the consumption of beer was excessive and it still is excessive. Unfortunately, the cost of beer is still rising and advised that this matter was discussed at the executive board. He mentioned that his suggestion was to place a “beer kitty” next to the beer keg. Joey asked the memberships for their thoughts on his suggestion. He made it clear that it was not mandatory or required of the membership to place money in the “beer kitty” and it was solely up to the member to provide currency, in whatever denomination the member decided. Joey requested a show of hands from the general membership of those who disliked this idea or suggestion. No one raised their hand. Next, he asked whether or not the membership thought it was a good idea and many raised their hands in approval of this suggestion. Joey announced that this method of raising addtional money was going to be given a trial next month in order to help pay for the ever increasing cost of beer. One member stood up and stated that he would not mine putting money in the “beer kitty” as long as a better beer was purchased. There was a short discussion about this and there was a suggestion that light beer not be purchased. Joey stated that this would be discussed at the next executive board meeting and told the general membership to email him with any suggestions.

Joey also brought up another issue which was the introduction of the 53 card raffle. This was done to offset some of the administrative costs. He mentioned that last year the club did three 53 card raffles and members agreed that this was a good thing. Joey also mentioned that this year the 53 card raffle would be changed somewhat. After analyzing the fluctuation of membership attendance to the general meetings during the year, Joey submitted the following modification for consideration by the membership. Those handling the 53 card raffle will sell cards on October November and December and the drawing will be held at the December meeting. Then, in the next segment, cards will be sold in January and February and the drawing will be held in February. Because of lesser attendance during the months of March April May and June, this period will be the next segment for the 53 card raffle, the drawing being in June, 2018. There will not be a 53 card raffle for July (due to the sharing of gifts) and August. There will also be no 53 card raffle in September due to the dove hunt because of dove hunt raffles. Previously, an Academy gift card would be provided to the winner, however, this will now change to a gift card that can be used anywhere. Other entertainment events scheduled for the following year are pretty straightforward and it is anticipated the club will breaks even on these schedule events. Joey asked if there were any additional questions on the budget. No questions were asked. He then recognized Reno Puente who has done a tremendous job in collecting club dues from members. Joe Piña made a motion to accept the budget for 2018. This motion was seconded by Rick Hite. The membership voted unanimously to accept the budget.

Club Correspondence; Gilbert Ortiz stated that secretary Todd Shannon announced to the executive board, at last weeks meeting, that an abundant number of letters were received from recipients of the sharing of gifts acknowledging their gratefulness for the club’s donation to their charity.

REPORTS OF APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Budget & Finance: Larry Ridder stated that he had no report.

Chaplain: Larry Fuentes is not here tonight because he is on vacation. Larry reported to the executive board that on October 14, 2017 at 1 PM there will be a Rosary at St. Luke to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. She appeared three times to the three children from May 13 through October 13, 1917. Larry also asked that as many members as possible participate in this momentous event.

Inventory Control: Rico Silvas/Peter Binkley stated that he had no report. He pointed out that he is working with Rico to learn the duties of the inventory control person.

Procurement: Russell Phillips stated that he had no report. Gilbert Ortiz took this opportunity to recognize Russell Phillips for his behind the scenes work in purchasing the beer, picking up the beer on his own time and using his vehicle in order that the keg of beer, enjoyed by the club, be available for every single meeting. It was also pointed out to the membership that not only has the beer cost increased but also the club is now paying someone to pick up the beer keg and make sure that it is refrigerated in preparation for our club meetings.

Membership: Reno Puente reminded the membership that club dues are to be paid in September. He joked that anyone who paid today would only pay $4.99. He was very optimistic that the club membership would reach 300 or more this year.

Wild Game Dinner: Russell Phillips, next year’s Wild Game Dinner honcho, stated that he has conferred with Matt Mora who has provided to him a list that will assist him in following procedures to manage the WGD for 2018. New ideas and suggestions are being looked at and considered.

Benevolence Committee: Ralf Meneses was not present. As stated before, he received numerous letters from charities thanking the club for our contribution to them at the sharing of gifts event.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Communications: No representative from the communications committee was present tonight.

Webmasters: John Hardin was not at the meeting but emailed his report. He stated that he made the necessary updates to the website such as date of tonight’s meeting; menu for the August meeting; removal of old information; added the revised Lifetime of Awards Recipients list that David Keller sent him; and the dove hunt announcement flier was added so that all members could download a copy.

Christian Services: Wallie Fields was not at the meeting. Gilbert Ortiz recognized Wallie Fields for all of the work that he puts into his reports for the membership to read and keep abreast of those members who are in need of our prayers and support.

Entertainment; Steve Kelly was at the meeting tonight but the vice president reminded club members that if they have kept up with the emails sent out by Wallie Fields they would know that Steve Kelly is ill and unable to speak. Therefore, Reno Puentes spoke for Steve. He stated that club members are beginning to plan the UTSA tailgate party and Reno is looking for individuals who will volunteer to assist and make this a big success. At this time Reno mentioned that he is looking at selecting a UTSA November game in November as the more likely time for a tailgate party. Peter Binkley stated that he hopes at least 50 club members sign up for the tailgate party in order to qualify for three tailgate spaces.

Rockport Trip: Steve Dupnik stated that at this time there is no update on the fishing trip. He stated that Rick Jones has the accommodations booked but there is nothing else to report.

Missions Baseball Game: David Keller mentioned that there is no report.

Sharing of Gifts Banquet: Matt Mora advised that all bills still have not been paid for this event. However, the event itself was very successful. He stated that the hall at St. Luke’s was free but of course the meal had to be paid. Every year the club loses money from this event but it is for a good cause. Matt recognized Willie, Peter, Joey, Reno, Rico and Patsy for their help in making this a success. Jeff Phillips, who helped secure the police guards, was also recognized. Matt stated that he did not have a full-blown financial report at this time but hopefully will have that the following month to present to the membership.

Dove Hunt: Augie De La Cruz stated that this years dove hunt will again be held at the same ranch as in the previous year. It is a 288 acre ranch located just south off of Interstate 37. The owner has a beautiful pavilion with indoor bathrooms. There are two ponds in separate locations which will prevent overcrowding. Last year’s dove hunt was extremely successful in terms of the crowd who attended, the prizes that were awarded and the fund that was experienced. For this year a shotgun will be raffled and Eddie Cruz is selling raffle tickets. The shotgun is a Remington 1187 semi automatic and its value is approximately $700. Raffle tickets are being sold at five dollars each for a chance to win this shotgun.

For each member the cost will be $30 if the member is going to hunt. For those members who are not hunting it will cost $15. Entertainment will include a big screen TV and the possibility that a poker game may be initiated. This will be aside from all of the food that will be served. Anyone who wishes to sponsor a nonmember can do so, however, for a nonmember to hunt it will cost him $60. If the nonmember wishes not to hunt it will cost him $30.

The date for this event will be September 23, 2017. Rick Hite is signing up those who wish to attend. No handguns are allowed for those individuals attending the dove hunt. Peter Binkley will have a skeet shoot between 2 PM and 3 PM. Prizes will also be awarded for those participating in the skeet shoot. Door prizes will also be available for hunters and non-hunters. The main door prize will be an engraved shotgun. Other door prizes include knives which have been donated, a fish fryer, and caps. Augie also stated that anyone who wishes to donate a door prize, it will be accepted. One of the members asked if he could bring his hunting dog. Augie stated that he would have to ask the land owner because no one has ever made this kind of request before.

Christmas Dinner Dance: Mike Raign stated that the Christmas dinner dance will be held December 9, 2017 at the St. Luke’s Hall. He said that the band has been booked and it will be the same as last year. Costs have increased somewhat. The band increased their costs. The caterer will be the same as last year and it appears that the cost per plate per person will increase possibly by two dollars from last year. Last year cost-per-plate was $16 so this may increase by two dollars. Mike stated that he will be working to get the caterer to provide a definite cost per plate by November so that this can be communicated to club members. He will attempt to get the information to the executive board concerning the exact cost of everything so that the true cost will be reflected in the dinner dance flier. Mike also stated that last year, in order to defray the cost, a raffle was held. Ideas are being tossed around concerning a combination of a raffle, silent auction and a 50-50. There was also a suggestion from one of the members that a 53 card raffle be held. He reminded the membership that anyone who could donate an item to be raffled, it would help defray the cost of having to purchase that item.

Public Relations And Logo Attire: Robert Quiroga Junior was not at the meeting tonight and no report was emailed for the purposes of this meeting. Gilbert did advise the membership that Robert is working on a sportsman’s vest that hopefully he will have ready for the membership prior to the wild game dinner event. He is also working on a design for a fiesta metal and hopefully this will also be completed prior to the wild game dinner.

Parish Festival: George Delgado stated that he and his team will cook for the festival.

A special thanks went out to Rudy Martinez and Orlando Garcia for donating their time and effort to make the “Welcome Ministry Breakfasts” on July 16, 2017 a success. Both individuals were there and assisted in cooking pancakes and other breakfast items.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Scholarship- RC Contreras: OOC

Nominations/Lifetime Member: OOC

Review of Accounts: OOC

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN;

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Reno Puentes requested volunteers to assist in erecting a small portion of a fence which was taken down right behind the school cafeteria. With the assistance of numerous volunteers this can be done quickly. He asked that volunteers bring their own shovels and other equipment needed to get the job done. This will be on Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 8 AM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB:

Joe Piña asked if there were any plans for a guest speaker. He is coordinating a guest speaker with John Martinez. The guest speaker is Roger Caballero from the Madonna Center. This will be given careful consideration for next month. Augie De La Cruz asked the membership if anyone was interested in having a game warden speaker prior to the dove hunt. The membership was very much in favor of this idea.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was made by Rudy Martinez. This motion was seconded by Rick Hite. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Raffle Winners: First Ticket winner Richard Hite: Second Ticket winner Roy Casares: Third Ticket winner Don O’Brien: Fourth Ticket winner Roy Casares: and Fifth Ticket winner Jeff Phillips: Six ticket winner Sam Haynes: Seventh ticket winner Loren Brown: Eighth ticket winner Don O’Brien.

Closing Prayer: Father Miguel led the membership in the closing prayer which was dedicated to all club members who have lost loved ones and also to those who recently experienced medical issues.