

The Exchange Club of Rome membership meeting for September 7, 2018 was called to order by President Charles Norris at 12:10 PM.

The invocation was delivered by the Reverend Al Robles and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Tom Caldwell.

Birthday wishes were extended to Exchangites Amy Patterson, Ben Janes, Mike Littlejohn, and Milton Slack. Special recognition was given to Exchangites Paula and Buzz Wachsteter who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary the following day.

In addition to the fellowship already submitted via email, President Norris asked for additional from the floor and it was reported that Exchangite Ralph White has finished his rounds of chemotherapy and hopefully will be returning to the meetings shortly; Don Black’s wife was in Winthrop Rehab following a fall; and Richard Dixon’s wife Mary Louise had two stents inserted.

In the absence of the Secretary, Past President Mike Elliott made a motion to approve the minutes as posted, seconded by Terry Clift, and passed with no dissenting votes.

Treasurer Buzz Wachsteter went over the highlights of the report that was placed on the member tables. He pointed out there was $170.47 in the Tomb Petty Cash account; a starting balance of $24,457.22 in the Operating account with deposits of $5722.36 disbursements of $6,641.88 leaving an ending balance of $23,718.20; an opening balance in the Programs and Activities account of $2,860.75; deposits of $5,197.14; disbursements of $5,197.14 leaving an ending balance of $3,275.12. There was a balance of $2.88 in the Tomb account and $2,000.54 in the flag replacement savings account. All bills have been paid and the club currently has an A/R of $1619.76 of which the Treasurer feels all are collectable.

President Norris asked for any questions from the floor, and hearing none a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report was made by JP Cooper and seconded by Patrick Eidson. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

In addition, the Treasurer reminded all members that dues billing for the second fiscal quarter will be out within the next two weeks and urged all members to make their payments promptly and since a vast majority of payments were received through bank bill payment programs he asked the members consider setting up quarterly payment schedules for dues and they will not have to worry about paying on time.

President Norris reported the club’s membership started August with 199, there were no resignations, the Board voted to drop three members (Sean Wilbanks, Clay Burkhalter, and Dee Boylan), and three inductions were scheduled for this meeting. Two new applications were read to the membership: Ken Burton Jr. sponsored by Linda Hatcher and Lamar Renfroe sponsored by Buzz Wachsteter. President Norris announced that members have seven days to comment on these applications and without objection they will become new members in seven days.

District President-Elect Mike Elliott conducted the induction of new member Stacy Walker sponsored by Larry Walker. The ceremony ended with all Exchangites joining with her in the recitation of the Exchange Club Covenant of Service.

Coosa Valley Fair President Barbara Carter gave the fair report and conducted a drawing from those who had purchased tickets to ride in the copilot’s seat on the opening night of the fair as part of the opening ceremony flyover. She also played the fair’s radio commercial done by fellow Exchange Elizabeth Davis and distributed copies of V3 magazine featuring the fair board on the cover and a good article inside.

Gail Johnson delivered the report on the Tillman Clocktower Road Race and it was a record setter. The race of 360 5K participants and 119 2-mile walk participants for a total of 479 participants. The total registration receipts were $12,052, an increase of $1,016 over 2017. The total number of sponsors were 35 bringing in $26,250, an increase of $3,764 over 2017. The number of volunteers numbered 80 and the expenses were $9,339, up $1,540 over the previous year. The increase was due to trophy cost increases and finish line charges due to increased participation. **The net income of the race was $29,629 which is an all-time record!**

Committee Reports –

* New Member Expansion/Retention – Carol Abrams reported that her committee has been working to make all members feel more a part of the club. She also reported that they should have examples of new club polo shirts to show the members within several weeks. She said members can purchase the shirts at cost, and there will also be a button-down collar shirt available too at cost. President Norris notified the members that the Board had approved an increase in the application fee for new members to $50 and the club will purchase an Exchange Club of Rome shirt for all new members out of the club’s portion of the fee.
* Americanism – John Fortune reported the Tomb project was in Florida right now and upon it’s return will set up at Georgia Highlands College for an exhibit. The club will conduct the GiveAKidAFlagToWave projects in all fourth-grade classes next week and there has been a large increase in Exchange member volunteers. The club will participate in the City’s 9/11 Patriots’ Day ceremonies giving out flags. He also reported that he hopes to have a figure for the replacement of the Star Spangled Banner Flag that flies on special occasions atop Jackson Hill. The current flag could no longer be repaired and must be replaced.
* Awards – Chairman Jim Belzer was in Florida with the Americanism Committee and in his absence Buzz Wachsteter reported that our club has won the National Service Award for 2018-2019 and we are the very first club in the Georgia District to do so. He asked that all members congratulate themselves for the hard work and great start for this program year.
* CAP-FRC – Gail Johnson at the request of FRC Lee Niedrach reported the center will move to the new location at Serve Rome on Monday and Tuesday and thanked all of the Exchangites who helped in the painting and cleaning of the new facility. There will be a ribbon cutting for Serve Rome on September 24th at 3:30 PM. The next FRC fundraising project coming up will be Strike Out Child Abuse (SOCA) bowling tournament on November 13th.
* Community Service – Chairman George Fricks reported that a team from Exchange will join with approximately 250 other people tomorrow, Saturday, in the Village Building for the United Way packing food for the hungry event. On October 27th, the club will participate in a work day at the new Ruth and Naomi Women’s Shelter on North Board as part of the National Day of Service of Exchange. On October 31st, the club will provide crossing guards for the annual Downtown Rome trick or treat celebration.
* Social – In the absence of Chairman Charles Long, President Norris announced the annual Christmas Dinner will be December 7th.
* Programs – Patrick Edson reported that there are only 7 open program slots left in this program year to fill.

President Norris conducted a special auction of four University of Alabama football tickets that brought $80 for the blue cup money.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Buzz Wachsteter