

ST. MATTHEW MEN'S CLUB

130 ST. MATTHEW ST. GREEN BAY, WI 54301 (920) 435-6811 FAX (920) 435-0065

Minutes of St. Matthew Men's Club April 13, 2023

Our April meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President Bob Olson. There were approximately 34 members in attendance. Greg Simonson opened with a prayer asking the Spirit to guide us. The Minutes of our February meeting were approved and Pete Kirschling provided a Treasurer's summary of \$24,401.67 as of April 13th as well as \$3480.00 in Dick VanLangendon's restricted account. (SIDEBAR: The amount of money on hand was questioned after the meeting and a further review showed that he had reported the amount on hand from the wrong column. The corrected amount on hand as of that day should've been reported as **\$38,451.77**. It did not affect Dick's reserved account. Sorry about that!)

There were also a couple new faces in the crowd that were introduced to the membership. Charlie Maus and Dennis Kostac were recognized as new members as well as a long time member, Gene Haakonson, who came out of the woodwork to see what's happening since he's been away. Applause all around!

Communications:

Two cards were received since our last meeting. The first was a thank you for our donation from the family of long time member, Dick Hearnden, who passed away in February at the age of 93. The second was from Pete Kirschling thanking the members for the kind recognition showed to him at the Wild Game Feed. He was particularly enthused about the bottle of Grey Goose and gift certificate to Hilly Haven. He assured everyone there that he was not going away but merely stepping aside.

Old Business:

The subject of VIRTUS came up, however it was a non-issue now that the WGF was behind us. For those that did get VIRTUS certification, they all realized it was a simple procedure and should keep them certified for five years. Also, the tabled discussion of Dick's restricted fund would remain tabled for another month so we could get on with the business at hand.

New Business:

It was reported that our net proceeds from the 40th Annual Charity Wild Game Feed produced \$26,032 in profit. That compares to \$34,812 from our last event (2020) however it was deemed successful considering around 300 fewer guests were present. Well done, gentlemen!

Among the random thoughts brought up for the critique:

- \$40 admission at the door was too much, it turned a couple of people away
- It may not be a bad idea to have a children's pricing for tickets (although they don't have deep pockets)
- Sales at the door resulted in about 30 extra people coming to the event
- As a way to temper the \$40 price, offer to them four tickets for the price of three
- Buy a \$40 ticket and include a free beer
- The food was plentiful and delicious
- Not having the event for three years showed how much GRACE has altered the way we have to operate
- Plan signage well ahead of time
- January is the most important meeting for planning
- Keep open lines of communication between Men's Club and the school
- Dan Kiernan will keep things rolling for one more year but will conclude his commitment after that
- Delaying the WGF until after Easter or during Spring Break was suggested

There were many other thoughts introduced but flew by so fast that this writer couldn't keep up. Please feel free to contact him with any missed info and he will include it in an addendum.

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Bob Olson asked for volunteers to help investigate the funding requests we have received. The panel would consist of the executive board and four at-large members. Volunteering their assistance were Jeff Lotto, Steve Lealou, Ambrose Kowalczyk and Tom Schumacher. They will join Bob Olson, Greg Simonson and Pete Kirschling. Thank you for helping! Steve Noel suggested we consider diversifying our grants so that it is not always the same organizations year after year. It was noted that anyone can apply for assistance but it was also not a guarantee they would receive funding.

John & Amy Weiss and Tom & Robin Schumacher are co-chairs for the Parish Picnic and John and Tom were in attendance to explain the changes that would be taking place this year after a 3-year sabbatical. What they won't be having will be a DJ, Kid's Games or Bake Sale. What they will still be having is food, booyah, beverages and the raffle. The format of the raffle, however, will be changed to a Bucket Raffle where the winner will claim their item by luck of the draw rather than highest bid. They will be looking for volunteers to help with staging this event. The Men's Club will handle the Beer Tent as it has in the past. The date of the picnic is Sunday June 4th from 10:00am-2:00pm, a much more compact time frame.

Open Floor:

Ken Moes said he would be willing to travel to collect birds from the NE Wisconsin field trials in September. He would like to make sure he has help cleaning the birds when he returns with them. Be sure it is added to the agenda in September.

Greg Simonson made a special presentation to Ambrose Kowalczyk. Bonnie's Blankets, one of the Men's Club's favored fund recipients, made a special blanket for Ambrose and presented it to him as he continues on his journey with cancer. Kudos to Ambrose!

Kelly Fitzgerald just wanted to state his pleasure with being a part of St. Matthew Men's Club and letting everyone know what a special group of people we have here! He pointed out the hard work of Marc Gerbec and Greg Simonson for their culinary skills and to everyone else that put in the time to make this special event. It followed with a thunderous round of applause for everyone there!

Having no further business to tend to, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm for a bountiful repast of venison, rabbit, bear balls, venison Polish sausage, wild rice, rolls and cake.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Kirschling
Secretary/Treasurer

Next Meeting: May 4th 7:00 St. Matthew School Cafeteria (Distribution of Funds, Election of Officers, Ceremonial Cleaning of the Closet) Also, Star Wars Day!