

1/24/2025 Vinings Cumberland Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 24, 2025
12 P.M. – 12:55 P.M.

In Attendance: Shawn Bendig, Brant Campbell, Jolene Northrop, Todd Ash, Betty Smith, Fiona Grandowski, Matt Jarrard, Joe Bartenfeld, Casey Patrick, Marshall McCabe, Thomas House, Joe Stockman, Ann Hudgins

The meeting was called to order by President Shawn Bendig.

Quorum

Confirmed by Shawn and Secretary Brant Campbell, with 13 members in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Shawn requested approval of the December minutes during the next meeting.

Family of Rotary (Marshall)

- **Cobb Rotary Council Social:** Shawn has nominated our club to lead the Cobb Rotary Council social in March. Marshall suggested Punchbowl Social as a potential venue, offering games like ping-pong, skeet shooting, bowling, and cornhole. It can accommodate groups of 100+ with easy access and parking. Other venue options are being considered. The Council comprises about 10 clubs; the last meeting, a potluck, had 200+ attendees.
 - **Calvary Children's Home Event:** Previously canceled, Marshall proposed using Truett Cathy's RV to create a unique experience for the children. Suggested date: Saturday, April 12.
 - **'Thirsty Thursday':** Shawn proposed reviving this event. The manager has offered appetizers starting at 5:30 P.M., with members buying their own drinks.
 - Monthly Thirsty Thursdays at Old Vinings Inn
 - Margarita Make-up once a month
 - Casey recommended rotating venues, such as wine tastings or breweries.
 - **Top Golf:** Suggested by Shawn as another social event.
 - **Family of Rotary Picnic:** Marshall will follow up with Peter Sebel regarding reservations at Cochise Club and determine a date.
 - **Atlanta Braves Outing:** Proposed by Thomas House.
 - **Meeting Activities:** Jolene suggested using meeting time for games or bonding activities. Betty mentioned a birth order game she has conducted at Kennesaw State University.
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Budget (Todd)

- **Club Operating Account:** \$27,000+
 - **Charity Account:** \$21,774 (minus ~\$1,000 remaining in Shawn's term).
 - **5K Run for the Kids Race:**
 - Total raised: \$77,638
 - Estimated for distribution: \$70,000 for grants; ~\$7,600 to Jolene's term for projects.
 - All member dues are paid.
 - Checks for race organizations will be ready by Monday for the Wednesday meeting.
 - E-Ray payment sent today.
 - Dues were submitted to Rotary International two weeks ago.
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Race Update (Jolene)

- **Grant Presentation:** Canine Companions cannot attend Wednesday's grant meeting. Jolene will present their check separately and seeks volunteers to join.
 - **Handover to Bill Thorneloe:** In progress.
 - **Sponsorship Committees:** Need to engage quickly.
 - **Administrative Support:** Jolene is working with Bill to finalize Nicole's contract.
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Membership (Joe Bartenfeld)

- Weekly updates/slides will remind members to assist with club growth.
 - Proposal to send membership applications directly to prospective members.
 - Joe Stockman's application is under review by the club.
 - Matt is coordinating with Alec Smythe to ensure new member requests from the website are directed to Joe.
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Foundation (Fiona)

- \$7,000 of the \$12,000 goal has been raised.
 - A new major donor will be celebrated this year.
 - Four Paul Harris elevations expected by late February, with celebrations to be scheduled.
 - Planning a foundation fundraiser; Fiona is coordinating with Shawn.
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Local Projects (Betty)

- **Hero Career Day:** Scheduled for Saturday; 12 club members will attend.

- **GA Laws of Life:** Annie is leading this project. Betty will email details about school and state essay readings.
 - **District Grant:** Table on Delk lunches are in progress.
 - **Charter Memory Care:** Betty is pursuing this project for February or March, with March being a “lonely month” for seniors.
 - **Pacific Palisades Rotary Club Donation:** Steve Hughes proposed a donation to support fire recovery, matching club and member contributions. The local fund has ~\$7,000 remaining. This will be discussed next week.
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International Projects (Brant)

- **Paraguay Agua Fresca:** Global grant funds are awaiting confirmation of the club’s check, mailed by Todd. Once confirmed, funds will transfer to the Luque Rotary Club’s account. The Luque Club is ready to start installing the fountains.
 - **Bolivia Project:** Updates were shared during the Wednesday meeting. The project significantly impacted children, parents, and the community.
 - The club committed to being the international sponsor.
 - Discussions with the Bolivia Rotary Governor may prioritize this project for funding.
 - Sustainability efforts include training Bolivian doctors.
 - Strong relationships were built with Bolivian Rotary clubs.
 - Shawn recognized Brant, Betty, Caroline and Dave for their contributions, noting Dave’s rapport with the children.
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Ongoing Projects (Shawn)

- **Red Badge:** Two members completed their second training meetings today.
 - **District Assembly:** Scheduled for March 29. The club will cover costs. Shawn encourages carpooling, as done in past years.
 - **Rotary Youth Exchange:** Jolene is seeking three host families within the Campbell High School district. Each family would host for three months during the school year (August–May).
 - **District Conference:** Progress is being made on member registrations. Jolene is working to confirm the count. This year, three districts will participate. Shawn and Dave will manage the hospitality house.
 - **Copeland’s Setup:** Ann confirmed Copeland’s staff is prepared for Wednesday’s meeting. She requests board members arrive by 11:15 A.M. A new tripod and remote are being ordered by Dave Bendig.
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Meeting adjourned promptly at 12:55 P.M. by President Shawn Bendig.