

GSIA MINUTES

Wednesday, May 14 Meeting

Attendance:

Members: Jose da Cruz, Emmanuel Naniuzeyi, Pete Hodges, Leigh Ryan, Jim Anderson, Ed Eckstrand, and Adriana Oliveira

Advisory Members: Francis X. Hayes, and Mark Linsky

Ex-Officio: None

Guest: Cari Clark Phelps from Clark Creative.

Opening the Meeting: Chair Leigh Ryan called the meeting to order at 11:00 am and introduced our guest speaker for today.

Minutes: The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Guest Speaker: Cari Phelps noted that Rotary has 1.2 million members who work to solve world-wide problems such as promoting peace, fighting disease, and providing clean water among other activities. Ending polio also has been a big project for Rotarians for a number of years and now there is very little polio left in India. She along with other Rotarians spent 6 weeks in India on an exchange. Her group visited a lot of schools while living in local homes of Rotary members during their stay. She shared the various kinds of activities and cultural events they participated in, including the family religious and secular rituals. She further explained that learning about the many kinds of food was a big part of the trip. She showed us a number of photos, especially of the family she lived with, the foods for meals, and various cultural and government buildings. In the area they stayed in, farming was a big part of life. Even though they were in a rural area, it seemed everyone had a cell phone and especially in the more remote villages, many husbands work overseas and send money home. The local common jobs for women only pay \$1/day. As part of the experience, her group had an opportunity to visit several factories where they make biscuits, rice, peanuts, cotton, etc. A group from India completed the exchange with a visit to the Savannah area earlier.

Her local Rotary group now sponsors a Happy School Program and raise funds to make a Happy School. These projects need \$10K per school with average of 200 students/school. The project includes providing clean bathrooms with toilets, desks, benches, safe drinking water, and hand washing stations.

Rotarians work in several countries and sponsor various projects.

GSIA Projects

The next part of the meeting was a presentation and discussion of tasks for the Communications and International Organizations committee (see attached for full details).

Communications Committee

Their goals are the continual updating of the GSIA website and Facebook pages, sending one email per month to the international organizations in Savannah about our meetings. They are to be invited to attend our monthly meetings and to share their information/news/events that can be promoted via email and Facebook. A further goal is to develop and implement a press relations plan, and in the future, study the possibility of sponsoring an international scholarship.

International Organizations

The goals of this group are to restore the regional subcommittees of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe and have the chairs of each group select members from the regular and advisory membership to assist them. During the summer, the members of each regional group are to contact each international organization in their region to make sure all their contact information is correct. We need this information to send out invitations for the annual international luncheon. As a part of contacting each group, it is important for the contacting person to obtain an invitation to come to one of each group's meetings to introduce GSIA. The executive team has developed a power point presentation that can be used for this function. In addition, the chairs of the regional subcommittees will work with the International Organizations chair to select groups to make the monthly presentations at the fall and spring monthly GSIA meetings.

Other News

Ed Eckstrand told about the WRUU FM community radio station that is sponsored (but not funded) by the Unitarian Church. Ed has a weekly program. He suggested GSIA find a volunteer to host an hour program monthly using as guests, the leaders from the many international organizations.

Pete Hodges reported that GSIA has three vacancies for the committee and that the city had 15 applications. The new people should be appointed fairly soon.

Next meeting – Sept 19

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.
