

Missouri-Arkansas District of Kiwanis International
District Board Meeting Minutes
Aug. 25, 2022, at 1 p.m.
University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center

Carla O'Brien brought the meeting to order over Zoom at 1 p.m. Due to COVID, Governor Carla was not able to join us in person.

1. Attendance: Mary Vaughan took attendance:
 - a. Members present: Carla O'Brien (by Zoom), Roy Ockert, Bill Dooley, John Buckwalter, Les Mace, Don Leupold (by Zoom), Susan Lafond, Gary Baker, Thom South, Mary Vaughan and Robin Asher.
 - b. Members Absent: AC Paxton, Rick Quattlebaum.

2. Introduction of guests: Governor Carla O'Brien introduced the guests:
 - a. Katie Rennard, Convention Chair (by Zoom)
 - b. Barbara Thompson, Membership Chair
 - c. Angie Oshia, President Meramec Community
 - d. Paul Sherman, District Governor Candidate
 - e. Bert West, KI President Designate

3. Secretary Mary Vaughan presented the minutes from the Board Meeting on May 12, 2022. Susan Lafond made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Thom South seconded; all approved.

4. Finance Reports:
 - a. Treasurer Robin Asher presented the District's Financial Statements. Robin reported on the Cash Flow Report and the Account Summary. As of July 31, 2022, the general fund had Revenue of \$95,097.43 and Expenses of \$261,073.84 which includes the transfer of \$150,000 to longterm investments with Fidelity. Bill Dooley made a motion to accept the financial report; John Buckwalter seconded; All approved.
 - b. Roy Ockert, Chair of the Finance Committee, gave a Budget Analysis update. He reported that membership dues are down. KI will send our final dues amount in September, but it's not known at this point the amount of that deposit. The convention account shows an increase in revenue. However, at this point our revenues are down \$14,477.23. the expenses are up due to the Club Building programs. Funds have been spent but no grant revenue has been received. Of course, the district expended \$14,250.00 in new member rebates. \$1,963.41 was spent on Club Revitalization but no funds were budgeted to that account. \$2,433.60 was spent on Zoom accounts for the Lt. Governors. The bottom line is that the district has a deficit budget of \$18,400.10. Hopefully, the outstanding

revenue will help the bottom line. John Buckwalter made a motion to approve the budget analysis with Gary Baker seconding; All approved.

- c. Gary Baker gave the Earl Collins Foundation Report. In 2022 the Foundation used income from investments to make \$50,000 in donations over their normal contribution, including \$5,000 in grants to SLP, an additional \$24,700 to Beatrice Johnson Kamp, \$10,000 to MOARK Key Club, and \$10,000 to Key Leader. Carla mentioned an email he received from Ron Knost Aug. 23 to Beatrice Johnson Youth Kamp and Earl Collins Foundation. He has some concerns about the development of the headquarters. He stated a few facts about the aggressive plans for the building. The Kamp Building Committee has plans to move forward with hiring a contractor and start construction to be done in various stages as funds become available. His concerns center around the proposal. He feels it does not comply with the existing BJKYK/Earl Collins Agreement/Contract signed previously by both Boards. There are multiple incomplete and unresolved contractual issues that need addressed before moving forward with contractor/construction.

Examples:

- Staged Construction vs. “Turn-key Contract”
- Partial Funding vs. Complete Funding
- Modification/Reduction of Architect’s Plans vs. Compliant Architectural Plans
- Non-compliance vs. Compliance of Arkansas State Regulations for Camps
- No Cabin Usage Policy
- No Cabin Financial Plan - Annual and Long-term Operations & Maintenance Costs

With regard to compliance with Ar. State Regulation’s for Camps. The “American Camp Association” has a great web site that clarifies or leads you to Regulation’s related to State Requirements for Camps. They also have a step-by-step procedure/business model for starting and maintaining a Camp. This information was shared with the various Board members a few years back, but never pursued/ followed upon by the leadership. The biggest “Red Flag”, if the Boards move forward and are not in compliance with State Regulations, Architectural approved design and the signed BJKYK/E.C. Agreement, the Boards could be held accountable should some unforeseen/ unfortunate incident occur.

The District Board feels this is an issue for the BJKYK Board to address. Thom South, Region Trustee and BJKYK Board Member, stated that all areas were being considered and that Ron Knost does not want the Headquarters built and is trying to stop the project. The District Board has confidence in the Kamp Board and feels it will make the best decisions. To confirm that, Susan Lafond made a motion to express confidence in the Kamp and Earl Valenti

Boards to make the right decisions on the headquarters building. Robin Asher seconded; All approved.

- d. Mary Vaughan reported on the Outreach fund. Donations from clubs are down greatly this year. The district has only received \$4,660, which is half the budgeted revenue of \$8,000. Only 27 clubs out of 158 have made a donation of \$5 per member to the fund. Hopefully we will receive more before the end of the year to get us closed to the budgeted amount.
- e. Thom South gave the Beatrice Johnson Kiwanis Youth Kamp report. Currently there is \$59,105.76 in the General Fund, which includes approximately \$12,000 in special accounts designated for particular things by the donors. We received two grants for recreation equipment and storage. KI Children's Fund provided, through MOARK, \$5,7420.50 and Johnson County Community Foundation Grant gave \$1,000 toward recreation equipment. We have used the grant money to purchase archery equipment (including bows, arrows, targets, back screen, and storage rack) and a 40-foot storage container to hold the recreation equipment when not in use. We have already had interest expressed in children coming to Kamp for an Archery Day. As we provide more activities for the kids, I believe more will make use of the Kamp.

The Headquarters Cabin fund currently has a balance of \$69,202.75. Money spent this year from those funds include Architect drawings, dirt work and perk test. This amount does not include the last scheduled grant from Earl Collins nor the \$24,000+ approved last year. The bad news is that building price increases have nearly doubled the estimated cost for the building. The joint Building committee recently met with 2 builders and recommended (and the board approved) that we negotiate with David Clayton of Russellville, Arkansas regarding (1) His fee and how it will be paid, (2) how much building can be completed with current funds, and (3) How much will be required to complete the project. This will give us an estimate of how much more fundraising we must do to complete the building.

5. Robin Asher gave the Investment Update. \$150,000 was transferred into Fidelity Investments in April. Currently we have \$139,426.15 in the three accounts. Even though some of this was the fees paid when sitting up the accounts, the fund has lost money in the stock market downturn. There is also \$18,261.44 in the Money Market account at Commerce Bank.
6. Children's Fund Report: No Report
7. Carla O'Brien reported that she is very happy that two clubs were just opened in West Little Rock and Bryant Area, AR. Barbara then gave the membership report, further commenting on the new club building in Arkansas. She also stated that new members continue to join those clubs. It has been very exciting. Barbara also commented that

four clubs have been built to far this year. However, Carla had a goal of fiveclubs for the year. She stated that plans are now in the works to build the fifth club in High Ridge, Mo. Carla agreed that this may be our best bet to meet our goal. Town and Country in the St. Louis area will be one for next year.

Since Ralph was not able to join the meeting, Roy and Les gave the club revitalization report. The reported that Beebe, AR; Neosho, MO; Cabot, MO; and Pine Bluff, AR are all in need of assistance and wanting to have assistance in rebuilding. Ralph will continue to work with these clubs to get them back to charter strength. Carla reported that plans are in place However, many of the clubs that want help don't want to help with those boosts. The clubs that aren't thriving don't seem to want help.

8. Roy Ockert shared a spreadsheet on Lt. Governors and District Chair positions. Roy reported Lt. Governor vacancies in Divisions 14 and 21. Stewart Marshall in 23 and Matt Silas in Division 16 do not want to continue. Some LTGs are having a hard time finding replacements.

Bert West stated that this is happening everywhere throughout International. He stated we need to just keep going with what we are doing.

Carla O'Brien reported that Chuck Seevers will be the next Region IV Trustee. No action is needed.

9. Convention Committee Report

- a. Katie Rennard reported that we are having a convention this weekend. We are at 147 registered and three virtual attendees — more than last year. Mary reported that Jennifer was confident that we would have a delegate. 2022 District Convention
- b. Susan Lafond reported that we have two possible locations for the 2023 Convention. Embassy Suites in Rogers and Doubletree in Bentonville. Robert Lucaof Conference Direct said they would continue working with both of them. They will continue to shave these numbers to get them to a lower cost on both Food and Beverage minimum and room costs. Must have a final
- c. Susan Lafond reported that 2023 Mid-Year ELC is planned to be in Branson. There is no answer at this point. Would like something together by September zoom call. Looking at the second and third weekends of March.

10. Old Business

- a. Mary Vaughan reported that the Club Closing Policy has been tabled many times in the past few meetings. Barbara Thompson also reported that There are inaccuracies in the guidelines that are distributed throughout the International.
 - The decision must be approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the members of the club.

- Money in the project account needs to be disbursed to local community projects or given to the District Foundation and Bank Account must be closed.
- Once the district board approves the dissolution, a letter should be sent to Kiwanis International stating that the club has closed. The letter should include the effective date, number of members at the meeting and number in favor of the dissolution. A copy should also be sent to the district office and lieutenant governor.
 - The concern is the once the name is dissolved it causes problems for future building and naming rights.

Les Mace made the motion to table this until the next zoom meeting, Bill Dooley seconded; All approved.

11. New Business:

- a. International President Designate Bert West made some comments to the Board. Bert did not know that clubs no longer get a bell but a block of wood. He wanted to tell the board that they are not alone in what you all are going through. He appreciates everything they are doing. Bert and Barb were governors together. Districts deal with struggles and get little recognition.
- b. Carla O'Brien discussed a possible dues Increase for 2023-2024. It became obvious that our dues are the lowest of everyone in the Mid-West. We don't have enough money coming in. It's been at least 10 years since the last dues increase. John has a concern that with dues increase and all the money we donate to the various funds. This will need to be a bylaws change. The Finance Committee will look at it and make a proposal to the board for a bylaws change in 2023 District Convention. John made a motion to refer to the Finance Committee with Les Mace seconded; All approved.
- c. Mary Vaughan reported that Elbert Bradley gave his apology that he had to drop out of the election. So we only have one candidate of Governor Elect.

12. Region Reports: this will be an opportunity for each trustee to update info from the region, or express concerns or questions

13. Adjournment: 2:57 p.m.

14. Next meeting: By Zoom on Sept. 26. The next official meeting will be in October TBA.