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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 ~ CLUB MEETING

GUESTS 

Newest member of Harper’s Corporate Sponsorship – Brenda Escutia, accompanied by two recipients of the ACE II Grant.

Sharanya Reddy visiting from India and a member of the Rotary Club of Hyderabad Deccan India.

Joanne Parke, Terry’s lovely wife.

Pete Justen, Charter President of the Schaumburg AM Rotary Club, and Rosemary’s handsome half.

ANNOUNCEMENTS 

- 1) Holly Fath announced that approximately \$10,000 worth of sold tickets have been turned in to date. Keep selling...we’re almost halfway to our goal!
- 2) Gene Walters was pleased with the turnout for the Platzkonzert and passed around sign-up sheets for two upcoming fellowships. You can sign up for these events on clubrunner.

Fellowship Committee Presents

Driving & Drinking Event

(at the Golf Range ~ that is! **)



**You don't need to *know* how to golf to
Join us for fun, friendship & food!!**

**September 30th, 2023
1 to 3pm**

Bridges of Poplar Creek - TopTracer

\$20 per person

**2 hours play, 2 drink tickets &
appetizers included**

**** If you have clubs, feel free to bring them.**
(Designated drivers will not be provided when the event has concluded, please plan accordingly!)

BRIDGES OF

POPLAR CREEK
COUNTRY CLUB

1400 Poplar Creek Drive
Hoffman Estates


TOPTRACER
RANGE



- 3) Eileen Higginbotham asked for volunteers to help with the last CAC Butterfly Garden cleanup. October 14 from 9 AM to 11 AM. The rain date will be the following Wednesday from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.
- 4) Ted Gross reminded us of the “Classic Modification” meeting after lunch at 1:30 PM. As Treasurer, he asked that he be notified of money deposited in the weekly “Lunch” envelope. He also informed us that balance reminders will be forthcoming. If you submit expenses that require reimbursement, please include a copy of your receipt; Ted will endeavor to distribute reimbursements in a timely manner.
- 5) Rachel Hubsch reminded members of upcoming events. A) Senior Center Social at The Barn on September 23 from 9:30 to 2:00. Even if you can only help out for a short time, feel free to come. B) Top Tracer Fellowship September 30 (see flyer above). C) CAC Golf Outing on October 4.

HAPPY DOLLARS



- 1) Terry Parke had a fun time at Platzkonzert; thank you, Linda and Gene.
- 2) Eileen Higginbotham is impressed with how Brenda has taken over the Fishing Well and ACE II programs.
- 3) Roger Smith had dinner with 4-month-old granddaughter Ellie who speaks volumes with her eyes.
- 4) Pat Groenewold is relieved that the ACE II Grant is complete. She will be sending the final report to Rotary International soon.



- 5) Bill Kelly gave happy dollars for Pat Groenewold's hard work on ACE II, the accomplishments of the two visiting Harper students, Sharanya Reddy's desire to form a partnership between her Rotary club and ours, and for the sign that makes it easy to pay dues, happy dollars and fines using QR codes.
- 6) Jeff Miller and wife Michelle are going to Italy on Wednesday to celebrate 40 years of wedded bliss. Bon voyage, Jeff and Michelle!
- 7) Gene Walters' daughter will appear in Little Mermaid, Chorus Line and Nutcracker and earns straight A's in school. Gene really liked today's meatball appetizer and thanked those who attended the Platzkonzert fellowship. Gene was initially surprised that Allen Gabe was not at the Renaissance Faire in August, but then realized he was working in the Mud Show.
- 8) Pete Justen thanked members for supporting the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive for those with disabilities.

PROPOSED PROGRAM



Sharanya Reddy from the Rotary Club of Hyderabad Deccan India exchanged club flags with President Rachel. She is eager to work toward a Friendship Exchange with our district during 2024. Hyderabad is a fairly large city. Her club is active with projects that include giving funds to the needy, supporting a blood bank, and supplying free medical tests to children.

FUN & FROLIC FINE MASTER ~ Allen Gabe



Kristy Ritchie received a pass for helping Allen out this week.

Also receiving a pass were those in the golf foursome playing in Allen's outing.

No fine for arriving late (except Loren) because of the parking situation.

Fines went to:

All those at tables with no guests.

Jeff Miller for something to do with Pickleball.

Bill Kelley for all the things he was happy for.

Those who have not contacted John Selke since he's missed several meetings.

Those who ate some meatballs before the start of the meeting.

Pete Justen for selling tootsie rolls and tempting members to eat them before lunch.

Those who did not turn in sold vacation drawing tickets today.

Those who are not signed up to participate in any of the fellowships planned by Gene and Linda.

Those who have not volunteered at a CAC garden cleanup.

Anyone not wearing the yellow Rotary shirt given out by Eileen Higginbotham.

Loren Trimble for being late – or was it early for next week's meeting?

Brenda Escutia as an official "welcome" initiation.

Pete Justen's phone rang during the meeting.

If you did not help eat all the meatballs at your table.

The person who got up and put their badge on *during* the meeting.



PROGRAM – ACE II (Advancing Community Economics) Grant Update



Pat Groenewold, who has worked tirelessly on this grant for over three years, introduced the program with a recap of how the grant came to be. When our club outgrew Fishing Well and ACE I programs, a new grant was needed. Our ACE II grant was approved on August 21, 2020 and provided \$160,000 in scholarship funding.

We had support and funding from partners as follows:

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>DDF</u>
Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates	\$26,675	
Other Rotary Clubs (Arlington Heights, Barrington Breakfast, Batavia, Bloomingdale-Roselle, Fox Valley Sunset, Northbrook, and Park Ridge) and Total District 6440 DDF	10,616	\$28,940
International Sponsorship – 7 Taiwanese clubs (DaDu, Tachia, Taichung and Taipei) in District 3461	19,000	10,000
Other partners included Harper College and POC		

Special recognition for ACE II committee members: Julie Clark, Eileen Higginbotham, Don Minor, George Panopoulos, Jean Schlinkmann, Pat Boquist (BBC mentor liaison) and Advisors Bill Kelley (advisor because of conflict of interest) & Terri Kelly (POC).

There were a record 116 applicants and ultimately 31 were selected to receive scholarships. A second round of applications/interviews resulted in 8 additional recipients for Fall '22/Spring '23.

COVID presented unique challenges (prerecorded video interviews, virtual selection meetings, virtual mentor match, and virtual meet your mentor/mentee meeting).

Funds have been fully expended:

\$154,500 to Harper for tuition, books, supplies and one special emergency grant

\$ 5,050 to POC for support with mentor matching and survey administration.

Balance will be returned to The Rotary Foundation.

Brenda Escutia gave an informative presentation. Of the original 39 recipients, 30 have completed a degree or certificates (45 awarded) across 33 subject areas with Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Nursing, and Information Technology being the top three programs.

The average age of the ACE II recipients is 32.1; 62% attend school part-time; 38% full-time; 92% are first generation to attend college. ACE II student average GPA – 3.03; average Harper student GPA – 2.89. ACE II student persistence – 100%; Harper student – 76%.

Two original ACE II recipients shared the impact of the scholarships. A student from Brazil moved to Chicago 15 years ago. She had been an engineer in Brazil but stayed home to care for her three young children before becoming a Science Teacher in the Chicago area. She lost that job when the pandemic closed schools. The ACE II Grant allowed her to attain three certificates



from Harper: Emergency & Disaster; Drone Technology; Geology. She now has two jobs: the American Red Cross and Harper College. She is most grateful to our club for the scholarship.

A young woman from China came to America thirteen years ago. After freeing herself from her abusive, drug addict husband, she and her son began their new life. The ACE II grant allowed her to pay Harper tuition and even have a little left to pay rent. She has lofty goals: Bachelor degree, Masters degree, and a job as a teacher. She is also extremely thankful to our club for the opportunity to better her life, provide for her son, and ultimately reach her goals.