



The Telescope

Monthly News Letter for the Greater Hartford PROBUS Club

November 2016

PROBUS MEETING OF 10/19/16: MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:25 p.m. at The American School for the Deaf by **President David Hoff**.

Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Meyer Frankel: Yearly membership dues are due. Last month we received 8 membership dues checks and tonight before this meeting another 5 came in. A check for \$500 was cut earmarked for Norfeldt School in West Hartford for the Special Education grant fund.

Meyer also the Editor of our Probus monthly newsletter (The Telescope) and he mentioned that in the most recent October, 2016 issue there were a number of Charity Thank You Notes published. Last year (2015-2016) The Probus Club of Greater Hartford gave donations to several charities, so we listed all of the thank you notes we received for them. The Treasurer's Report was voted on and accepted by the assembled members tonight.

David Hoff welcomed Syd Elkin's wife Janice as a guest tonight.

The Secretary's Minutes from our last chapter meeting were voted on and accepted.

Committee Reports:

Ed Peltier gave a synopsis of the Special Educator Grant program's recent activities. He said that they submitted grant applications to 7 or 8 schools including some Hartford schools. They have not heard back yet from the Hartford schools perhaps due to it being the start of the new school year and thus a busy time, and due to the bureaucracy of the large Hartford school system. Ed said that they will call a committee meeting and take appropriate action on the proposals once they hear back from the individual schools. Also, to date, the committee has only received one brief summary of how the project went from one school (from last year's recipients). **David Hoff** suggested **organizing a "coffee meeting"** to allow us to find out how past recipients have spent the money on their projects. Conversation then ensued on the subject of liaisons and what their responsibilities are. For instance, should liaisons contact schools who have received our grant proposal forms but have not responded yet to determine why no response has occurred yet? Perhaps the liaisons can help the schools in some way to get the ball rolling and the proposal filled out and sent back?

A discussion about the merits of having solid Committee Teams and Mentors for some of our prominent Probus events and activities ensued. Under "New Business" **David Maslin** provided everyone with a "Member Engagement Initiative" handout that he developed. Dave spoke about building a "team approach". He also touched upon designating team leaders as opposed to committee heads or "do-it-yourselfers". A big goal is to encourage commitment and participation from members to specific team and develop future team leaders! Team responsibilities would include setting goals and objectives and developing budgets, identifying and acquiring needed resources/donors, communicating to the wider membership and executing

the plan. Identifying issues/problems/challenges to be rectified for the event when it occurs the following year is also a priority. The bottom line is to engage all of our chapter's members in some meaningful way in one or more of our events to benefit developmentally disabled citizens in our communities.

Additionally, we want there to be a knowledge transfer from the event mentor to the person shadowing him or her so that in the event the mentor cannot orchestrate the event there is someone capable who can step in seamlessly and make sure the event is a success! David would like to foster a new generation of Probus leaders who can tap into the knowledge and experience of the old guard and continue the traditions and even improve upon them. He strongly encourages all members, especially new members, to sign up and participate and get involved. **Meyer** added that David's Member Engagement Initiative document is a great descriptor of what our club does and as such should be given out to new Probus members from Day 1.

Syd Elkin then said that we should be "selling the idea of Probus membership" during our Memorial Day Parade balloon sale when we are working the crowds. Often times adults who are buying our balloons share that they have a developmentally disabled child or friend they know so we should talk up the benefits of joining our club when we are face-to-face with such a captive audience. He added that it is really crucial that all our members participate actively in at least one major Probus event each year.

Dave Maslin spoke about the Team Concept and how this means we are charged with strategizing and taking stock of the constraints and opportunities (e.g. the pros and cons) of an event and then formulating a game plan/blueprint for success. **Ed Peltier** suggested that we allow some time at our November meeting for break-out sessions where event Teams can strategize. **David Hoff** then added that we should break off into Teams and eat our dinner together with fellow team members at the start of our November meeting to facilitate this.

It was mentioned that one of our members recently saw a **Knights of Columbus** solicitation in front of Shop Rite supermarket soliciting donations, and they displayed a plaque saying the K of C serves the intellectually disabled. This parallels what Hal Levy and our volunteers do in front of **The Crown Supermarket** every year. **Ed Peltier** voiced a concern that he feels there is a need for more signage/banners with bullet points of who Probus is and what our mission is all about. **Charlie had a banner made up at Staples** for our last Crown solicitation and it is available for other Probus fundraisers so let him know if and when it is needed for display. It was then mentioned by **Bob Goldberg** that a "perpetual sign" listing who our chapter has donated to over the years and which can be added to as needed would be a great promotional display to have.

Discussion ensued about having our Probus chapter represented at "**Celebrate West Hartford**" which is a huge public event occurring the weekend after Memorial Day and which attracts 30,000 attendees. We decided to form a new ad hoc committee to investigate what having a presence there would entail in terms of a booth to hand out brochures and/or sell something such as balloons as a fundraiser.

Good and Welfare:

Meyer reports that one of the original members of our chapter **Moe Kotick** is feeling a lot better. **Alexandra Flowers** informed us that a patient of hers expressed to her a great appreciation for our September 11th Annual Client Picnic and the great joy which this event brought about. Our Next Meeting will occur on November 16th and we will have a speaker. YOUR presence is requested! Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Dobrow, Secretary

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New Special Needs Grant Awards:

The Supporting Special Needs Education project has approved six new grants. We are currently arranging presentation dates and expect to present the awards over the next two weeks. We are requesting checks be prepared for the following awards:

- 1) American School for the Deaf -- P.A.C.E.S., \$500.00; notation as SSNEgrant2016-06
Funding for "re-enforcers" for specialized behavior modification program
- 2) Gengras Center/University of St. Joseph, 500.00; notation as SSNEgrant2016-07
Funding of sensory feedback therapy chair for autistic students
- 3) Oak Hill School, \$500.00; notation as SSNEgrant2016-08
Funding purchase of iPad to assist learning of multiple disabled student
- 4) River Street School, \$585.00; notation as SSNEgrant2016-09
Funding purchase of materials for pre-vocational training to develop independent work abilities
- 5) American School for the Deaf -- CORE, \$500.00; notation as SSNEgrant2016-10
Funding purchase of visual/motor skills development aids for 4th grade students
- 6) American School for the Deaf -- CORE, \$500.00; notation as SSNEgrant2016-11
Funding development of Skype-based physical fitness seminar video

We are working to expand favorable media P.R. with these awards, and are particularly pleased to connect with the Gengras Center and Oak Hill school as new institutions in our outreach.

David Maslin

Good and Welfare Donations:

-For all that **Bob Goldberg** does for the Probus Club - *By Michael Barker*

-In honor of **Hal Levy's** 70th birthday - **By - Bruce Stanger,
Susan & Ron Scherick
Mike & Maddy Turk
Joan & Barry Baron**

Reminder:

Next Probus Meeting:

Date: Wednesday November 16, 2016

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: American School for the Deaf

139 N Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107

Speaker: Andrea Barton Reeves, HARC President/CEO

An Easy Fund Raiser

Occasion Cards

As you know, the Probus Club is 100% committed to helping those that, for no fault of their own, cannot help themselves. One of our fundraising events that we sponsor is the ability for us to be able to accept contributions to honor, praise, memorialize or make a special acknowledgement to someone who is either in our presence or in our memory.

By you making a contribution to the Probus Club, our very own Bruce Stanger will process your contribution; inform the donee that a contribution was made to Probus to recognize him or her and for the event that is being recognized. Also, an acknowledgement will be sent to you, the donor, to thank you for your charitable contribution to the Probus Club. As always, 100% of donations to the Probus Club are used exclusively for charitable purposes.

Consider the Probus Club when honoring or remembering someone special.

Bruce Stanger can be reached at:
Attorney Bruce Stanger
433 South Main Street
Suite 112
West Hartford, CT 06110

The check should be made payable to The Probus Club and forwarded to Bruce along with the information necessary for a proper acknowledgement. Thank you for supporting The Probus Club.

Meyer Frankel, Editor

The "Telescope" is the monthly newsletter of the Probus Club of Greater Hartford.