**SERRA CLUB OFFICERS’ MEETING**

**St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, IL**

**September 6, 2014**

**MINUTES**

**Officers attending**

John Matyasik, President: Ron Beaumont (Past President), George Carr, Joanne Carr, Diane Fabrizius,

Dick Haymaker, Jim Kornesczuk, Ken LeBeau, Thomas Maronta, Maureen Toner, Sr. Audrey Rothweil, Secretary.

**Officers unable to attend**

Ed Graham, Joe Langenderfer

**Opening Prayer**

At 7:50 a.m. the Opening Prayer for perseverance for vocations was led by John Matyasik, President. Special intentions were mentioned for those who are ill or in need. Sangeetha Devadas, Jim Miller and Don Renfro were added to the list of those needing prayer; no names were deleted.

**Minutes**

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the August 13, 2014 Special Officers Meeting be accepted. This was unanimously approved.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Thomas Maronta distributed and explained copies of the Financial Report and of a temporary report of the Send-Off Dinner. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Financial Report be accepted. Approval of the Send-Off Dinner Report will be asked when final information can be incorporated and presented.

**Program Report**

ViJay Devadas reported speakers for the October meeting, Jim Hansen, OCarm.; for the November meeting, John Liston, President of Serra International; and for the December meeting, Fr. Burke Masters.

ViJay asked about having speakers other than priests, and was assured other religious men and women would be welcome, as well as lay persons involved in vocation promotion.

**Membership Committee**

Diane Fabrizius reported two new members as a result of the Send-Off Dinner. She has also been working on a new membership packet and has drafted a cover letter. This will be shared with the officers by email for their critique. Suggestions were asked for inclusion in the packet.

**Vocations Report**

Jim Kornesczuk reported a suggestion from Alex Pawlicki and himself regarding Serra visits to schools. Not all schools have retreat days but they do appreciate talks on vocations, especially for students in the upper grades. Also recommended are talks to classroom groups rather than large assembly groups; students are more apt to ask questions or enter into discussion within the classroom setting.

Jim Kornesczuk will be meeting with Fr. Burke Masters in the near future and it was suggested that he speak about this with him. Feed-back from the Jeremiah Days indicated that a young priest or seminarian is better received by the young people than an “older” priest.

**Communications Report**

Maureen Toner asked if members have seen Serra information in their local parish bulletins. She sends information regularly to the parishes and has received responses of thanks from some.

**Old Business**

**Initiatives for Five Years of Priesthood**

There will be one priest celebrating five years of priesthood this coming year.

**New Member Packet/Parish Vocation Committees**

There is an effort to get a list of the parishes that have vocation committees, and to promote this. Parents of seminarians are receiving the Serra News Letter.

**Carmelite Vocation Donation**

Due to circumstances, the donation for the Carmelites was unable to be given at the time designated. This will be done at the coming October meeting when a Carmelite will be the presenter.

**New Business**

**U.S. Council Dues**

A list of what the U.S. Council is supposed to be doing for local Serra Clubs was distributed. Our Serra group has not paid dues to the U.S. Council since last November. If they will not drop these dues and let us pay forward in the future, starting with this December, we will drop membership in the U.S. Council and retain membership in Serra International only. Dues amount to about $2,000 per year, based on membership count. John Matyasik asked the officers for approval in seeking good standing again with the U.S. Council. He will report back to the officers when he hears about excepting dues going forward as a way to have our club placed in good standing.

The Serra International fee will be changed from $10 to $11.75 per member.

**Serra Foundation**

John Matyasik suggested looking into Serra International and offering support as we can afford it. It seems there are also some grants available that might be helpful.

**2014-2015 Seminarian Cards**

George Carr reported that Serra has been providing seminarian cards for the past four years. It is not a money-making venture but a support for vocations. Financially it has been a loss each year. George has spoken with Fr. Burke Masters about this and Fr. Burke has indicated he is fine with the cost of the cards being taken from the Serra donation to him as a result of the Send-Off. Either way, the funds are being used to promote vocations.

The cost for the cards in the coming year is anticipated to be $3,000-$3,500. The Officers/Trustees approved holding $3,500 for the seminarian cards this year. Some suggestions to help pay for the cards were given: have the schools make a donation for the cards distributed in their classrooms; ask parishes to pay for the cards given to their parishioners/students.

(It was mentioned that the Peoria Diocese pays for the cards and distributes them free of charge.)

**Next dinner meeting**

Monday, September 8, 2014 at St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn, IL.

**Next Officers Meeting**

Saturday, October 4, 2014 at the Abbey in Lisle, beginning after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

**Future Officers Meetings 2014**

October 4, November 1, December 6, 2014.

**Closing**

The meeting closed at 9:00 a.m. with the Serra Prayer for Vocations.

Submitted by

Sr. Audrey Marie Rothweil, FCJM, Secretary