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Newsletter of the

Rotary Club of Atenas

International Baccalaureate
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

Diploma Programme

A future-ready programme that builds students' inquiring mindset, fosters their desire to learn, and prepares them to excel at their careers and lead meaningful lives.

Drop off location for yard sale items (when building is open).

"We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in our hands to make a difference." ~ Nelson Mandela

Meeting Announcements

We welcomed Nicky Rothkop as a drop-in guest who happened to be having lunch at Iguanas. She's from England but has lived in Texas for a while.

Joe and Lynn met recently with representatives of the IB (International Baccalaureate) program at the local high school. The IB program is a private initiative, formed to supplement the education of the Costa Rican students in the Atenas district. It serves students from public and private high schools in Atenas and surrounding areas such as La Garita, San Mateo, and Orotina. The program includes about 48 students. Each are required to complete their high school course curriculum (English, biology, history, and study extra math) at their high school. Program requirements also include a service project. They go to their respective high schools but attend IB classes in a separate building. Their school calendar is extended an extra month each year and they attend school a year longer than their counterparts. These are dedicated students! Visit these websites to learn more: https://www.ibo.org/es/, and https://www.ibo.org/es/programmes/diploma-programme/

After spending time with them, we feel that the IB program gracefully aligns with Rotary's lifelong learning and leadership goals. Graduates of this program would make excellent Rotarians! In hopes of building a relationship, Joe and Lynn introduced the idea of a bingo fundraiser. This was well received by the association representative. The school had previously identified a need for 10 graphic calculators when they spoke with us last spring. It was explained that all special equipment that is needed for the IB program must by funded through the IB program fundraisers, parents, and/or private donations. They don't receive any financial assistance from the high school itself. A quick Google search indicated that we can probably get them for $35-$80 dollars each, depending on where we buy them. Although there is general consensus that we'd like to purchase these calculators for the school, we were unable to decide if we just want to donate them or make the donation contingent on partnering with them for a fundraiser. The bingo event would be held in March. The details will be worked out in a Board meeting next week.

They also asked us to support their yard sale/garage sale on November 25. We're encouraged to donate any gently used clothing, shoes and/or household items to the IB building by November 18 (blue building pictured left. It is located by the park).

Lynn also reminded us that we were approached for financial support by both the local elementary school for kindergarten students needing desks. The Outreach Committee will do additional research and present their findings at another meeting.

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Outreach
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Club News

Our board will be meeting next week to begin discussions of a strategic plan. We believe this will, amongst other things, assist us in making our decision about moving forward with the school partnership.

Stef, Eric and Lynn have been in contact with Omar, who is an accountant, Rotarian, and polio survivor! They are meeting with him Friday morning and hope he can assist with the paperwork to open a bank account.

Lynn went over the results of the survey about future meetings. She said that 68.7% of respondents expressed an interest in breakfast meetings; 43.8% expressed interest in both breakfast and lunch. Based on the response, we're going to try and alternate lunch and breakfast meetings. The number one choice of time for breakfast meetings was 9am. Thursday was the most popular day. Sele Bakery, Tica Café, and El Fogon received high consideration.

Upcoming Events

- Lynn announced that we've sold all the seats for our November 15 dinner!
- We're still hoping to have a holiday party in January. Lynn will do a poll to see if there is interest. If you would like to be on the party committee, please talk to Holly.
- April 23-26, 2026 is the annual conference.

Member News & Happy $$$

- Holly reminded us that the Angel Tree benefit concert is this Sunday.
- Lynn just had a birthday on November 3rd so we sang to her.
- Rosie announced she will be a grandma in late April or May.
- Holly enjoyed attending the art class at Art House, although we just had three attending. (We'll do better next time!)

Next Meetings

Our next meeting is November 20 at 12:20pm at Iguanas. In December, our meetings will be December 4, 11 and 18.