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# Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Atenas

***I cannot do all the good that the world needs. But the world needs all the good that I can do. ~ Jan Stanfield***

## Meeting Highlights

We welcomed Joy as a guest today. She has submitted an application for membership to our club. To be formally accepted into the club a person needs a sponsor. Then their application is taken to the board. If the board approves then it goes to the membership and if there are no objections the person is accepted into the club. Nia has followed all these steps and will be inducted into our club next week when our district governor is here. We also welcomed Nancy P, originally from Columbia, and Alex, a friend of Mary Beth's, as guests.

Today's meeting was called a Club Assembly. We will have two to three of these a year. This is an opportunity to talk about how the club is doing, encourage feedback and showcase our accomplishments. Eric began by reviewing the club's achievements to date: Beginning in March of 2025 we pulled together twenty people who embodied the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." In May of 2025 we put together our charter. Over the next couple of months we became legally incorporated as a nonprofit and hired an accountant who assisted us in setting up our bank account. We've got a website, email, and Whatsapp group.

In addition, we've had several fund raisers including a raffle for sunglasses, and a dinner and music event. We also met with leaders in the town including the mayor, vice-mayor, town engineer, town attorney and others. Several members met with leaders of the IB school program seeking a partnership in fundraising. Early on we met with the police to explore ways to support public safety. We also supported Rotarian Nolan who bicycled across Central America to increase awareness and funds for eradicating polio.

Russ, our incoming president in July, presented the slate of officers for our club.

- President:  Russ
- President-elect: Lynn
- Secretary: Nia
- Treasurer: Stef
- Sgt-Arms: Eric
- Past President: Eric
- Foundation: Chris
- Membership: Holly
- Public Relations: Cynthia
- Service Projects: Joe

Lynn emphasized that we're a new club and we're still learning how to do things in line with Rotary protocol. She's referencing the Rotary website and will meet with the new officers over the next 6 months and discuss roles and responsibilities. She emphasized that moving forward it's especially important that we follow the recruiting procedure noted above for new members. Not all people will necessarily be appropriate candidates because their priorities may not align with those of Rotary. That is why prospective members will need a sponsor, board approval, and club approval.

## Officers & Committee Chairs

**President**
Eric Snyder
**President Elect**
Russell Herold
**Treasurer**
Stephanie Bogatinoff
**Secretary**
Lynn Snyder
**Sgt-at-Arms**
Mary Beth Clark
**Foundation Chair**
Chris Toal
**Membership**
Judy Tiktin

**Newsletter**
Rosalie Olds
Joe Rossi
**PR/Website**
Leslie Mueller
**Programs**
Lynn Snyder
**Sunshine Committee**
Betty Van Putten
**Fundraising**
Nancy Rees
**Club Events**
Judy Tiktin
**Outreach**
Joe Rossi
David Mullins

Chris reported that a few weeks ago he briefed the board on a strategic plan. This will include a one-year, three-year, and five-year focus. He'd like to do a three-hour workshop soon with the board, and anyone else interested. He also suggested a community assessment which could include data collection, a survey of community members, focus groups, and any other way we might gather information.

Nancy reported on fundraising. All fundraising events need to go through the fundraising committee. Once the fundraising committee approves it, they present the idea to leadership. If leadership approves then it goes to the whole club for approval. We're aiming to do a bingo event in spring. Everyone can donate prizes to this as we'll need 50 prizes. Coordinate with Nancy on this. Nancy also introduced the idea of selling t-shirts, hats, bandanas etc. to earn a little money for the club. Russell Hampton has some good products available. Here's a link to their website for everyone to look over options available https://www.bestclubsupplies.com/.

It was clarified that outreach projects are for volunteering time/hands on projects, which is separate from the fundraising initiatives. For example, some members are talking about building desks for a local kindergarten class. For now, go to Nancy with fundraising ideas and David for volunteer projects.

We also discussed assisting the community in building a new volleyball court. Apparently, Atenas was well-known for beach volleyball in the past. This would involve fundraising and finding sponsors to contribute funds to support this.

Thank you to Nia for teaching us a bit about New Year's traditions in Costa Rica. Some highlights were: Traditional Radio Countdown with Jose Angel Vasquez Lobo, family gatherings on New Year's Eve, formerly tamales and arroz con pollo, but now BBQ or chicharrones, song at midnight *El Ano Viejo* with Tony Camargo, eating 12 to 13 grapes during countdown for good fortune, colored underwear to attract different outcomes, walk around the block with a suitcase to invite travel, gift of Santa Lucia flower kept in wallet for financial prosperity, and cinco colones for good luck.

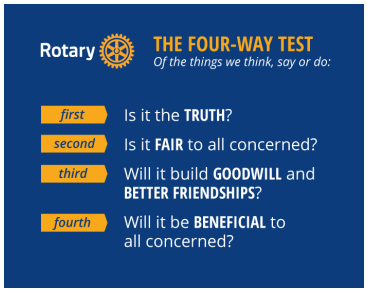
## Club News

Lynn gave the Treasurer's Report in Stef's absence. Throughout this year we've collected club money in the form of dues, private donations, and happy dollars. Expenses include the dues we pay to Rotary International, Rotary Foundation, the District, our monthly e-newsletter, the attorney fees, accountant etc. Our fundraising budget is kept separate. We have accumulated funds through our Ray Ban auction and the Dinner & Music event. Part of these proceeds will be used for the purchase of the graphic calculators for the IB Program.

Eric is also working on drafting our bylaws. He will put these together based on Rotary International guidelines.

## Upcoming Events

Nancy announced plans for upcoming parties. We'll have a Spring Fling at Nancy's home, which might actually be in July to induct our new officers. We also will do a picnic/barbeque that is potluck and no cost to Rotary. Holly has offered to do a Halloween party at her home. We're also working on an end-of-year party/holiday party. Please let Nancy know if you're willing to volunteer your home. Judy had the excellent idea of planning social activities to do as a club monthly, such as going to museums, attending concerts, hiking etc. She'll put a poll out on this.




## Member News and Happy Dollars

- Happy Birthday to Leslie
- Mary Beth is just happy.
- Rosie is happy about her fun trip to Panama
- Everett is now a citizen of Costa Rica! Congratulations to Everett!
- Lynn is happy that Nancy is back.
- Joy is happy about the breeze.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Our next meeting is January 15 at 8:30am at Tica's Café. Our District Governor Eugenia will be there (and will induct Nia!)
- January 22nd is at Iguanas at 12:20. Our presenter will be Dmitry, a builder of hand-made custom guitars.
- On January 29 we'll meet at Tica's Cafe again at 8:30am and the Bomberos (firefighters) will talk to us about fire safety.
- We are making arrangements for a February 5th meeting at El Toledo Coffee in San Isidro. This will include a short coffee tour.
- There is an informal scheduled for February 12 to allow members to support Mary Beth's Valentine's Day fundraiser on the 14th featuring the Poison Dart Frogs.
- On February 19 Heather Tracy will introduce us to The Bridge Supportive Gap Program.
- On February 26 Robin Sabine will share interesting Excursions and Experience in CR

We also hope to have a meeting at The Retreat in the future. Hope you can join us!