

Southport Lions Club Foundation Board of Directors Meeting

Date: August 1, 2024 **Location:** Southport Senior Center **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

Present: Roger Albizu, Steve Altieri, Mike Blau, Thad Brewer, Jim Brown, Dennis Cease, Ronnie Clark, Rich Klein, Barbara Lemos, Bob Prunty, Jim Rizzo,

Not Present: Tim Parkman, Norm Rademacher, Woody Wilson

Agenda

The agenda circulated in advance of the meeting was approved. Lion Norm Rademacher was unable to attend due to COVID and had asked Lion Mike Blau to run the board meeting in his absence.

Minutes

The meeting minutes for the July 10, 2024 interim Board meeting held via Zoom were approved based on a motion by Jim Rizzo and seconded by Dennis Cease with a unanimous vote.

Labor Day Weekend Car Show

Much of the meeting was devoted to plans for the August 31, 2024 Car Show with discussion led by Lion Roger Albizu. As documented in a recent State Port Pilot article, it is unclear whether City of Southport aldermen will approve funding for Taylor Field Park. Our Car Show flyer has been edited accordingly to say that funds raised will go towards "All Inclusive Playground Equipment" as well as "Southport Lions Vision, Community, and Youth Programs."

Collection of sponsorship money has pulled in \$1,350 towards our \$5,000 goal. Lion Roger reported having gone to the Chamber of Commerce meeting which yielded no sponsors. He also indicated that our decision to pre-register cars had an unintended downside in that \$0.80 of every \$20 registration fee went to "Stripe," our on-line credit card payment mechanism.

Lion Roger plans to distribute flyers at an August 10th car show in Leland. We are still arranging for port-a-johns for the Car Show. Our previous supplier "AAA" was unable to assist last year. The City of Southport may be able to help us; Lion Mike Blau will follow up with them. Lion Roger said that he would circulate the list of past sponsors and associated Lions Club contacts at the August 1, 2024 club meeting. Sponsors need to be confirmed by August 15th to order the trophies and sandwich board signage.

Car Show responsibilities include set-up the night before, parking, registration, 50/50 raffle, silent auction. Lions are encouraged to sign up on our web site as soon as possible; this will be emphasized at the club meeting. Lion Mike Blau indicated that Lion Norm Rademacher wanted to have a co-chair for the Car Show to be mentored by Lion Roger. It was noted that Lion Dave Lippincott is a "car person" who might be interested.

Other Car Show issues discussed included the need to clean up our storage shed (without moving the car show materials that Lion Roger has set aside) and the need to have an insurance certificate

naming the City as an additional insured. Lion Dennis Cease suggested that Lion Joe Lhotsky as Administrative Secretary should pursue this. Lion Mike Blau stressed that obtaining City approvals begins long in advance of our events. Lion Bob Prunty asked what recognition our sponsors got for their \$100 donation; Lion Roger indicated they get a name on a trophy, listing on a sandwich board, and recognition in our “thank you” ad in the State Port Pilot.

2025 Boat Raffle

Lion Mike Blau conveyed Lion Norm Rademacher’s notes on the 2025 boat raffle plan. Lion Rich Klein will head the Boat Committee with Lion Mike Bearden mentoring him. The raffle will follow the 2024 schedule with the exception being starting on-line ticket sales in early January 2025 through the Lions web site and fishing magazine advertisements. This will provide a cushion of revenue allowing us to adjust in-season labor plans accordingly. The plan is to order 10,000 tickets with pricing at 1 for \$20, 3 for \$50, 7 for \$100, and possibly a “high roller” option of 45 for \$500.

Lion Norm had requested that we establish lead Lions for each of the following boat raffle responsibilities. Attendees agreed to the following:

- Boat hauler lead – Bob Prunty
- Ticket control – Rich Klein
- Equipment readiness – Rich Klein
- Outside club sales – Mike Bearden
- Budgeting – Dennis Cease
- Club member sales – Barbara Lemos

Meeting attendees discussed the need for improved ticket control. There are five “buckets” of tickets to track in terms of number on hand, number sold, and revenue received. These include member sales, outside club sales, Yacht Basin sales, general sales, and on-line sales. Discussion also focused on the composition of the Boat Committee for 2025, beyond the individuals listed above. Lion Barbara Lemos stressed that we should open such opportunities to our full membership if we wish to foster club member engagement.

Rich Klein indicated that Mike Bearden’s plan is to reach out to local Lions Clubs with 20 or more members to offer them a chance to sell our raffle tickets and split the proceeds 50/50 with our club. Lion Steve Altieri asked how much we made from outside clubs this year; Lion Lou D’Abramo has the final numbers.

Club Treasurer Report

Lion Jim Rizzo provided copies of a Profit & Loss Statement for the Club for the past fiscal year during which time there was a loss of \$4,387. This was largely attributable to District and Lions Clubs International dues. Mike Blau noted that a subcommittee has been established to consider how to make our club budget more financially sustainable. There was consensus among attendees that raising membership dues would be the choice of last resort. Other options mentioned included reducing dues and charging for meals on an individual basis and bringing in younger members by holding one daytime meeting and one evening meeting each month. Lion Bob Prunty

proposed that we move to less costly meals. Lion Jim Rizzo raised the issue of the club's tax-exempt status. The North Carolina Department of Revenue reportedly does not have a listing for our club. Thus, we are paying sales tax on club purchases. Our accountant Wayne Berry has indicated that the club is a 501(c)(4) organization for tax purposes. Lion Mike Blau suggested that since we are affiliated with Lions Clubs International, we should be tax exempt.

Foundation Treasurer Report

Lion Dennis Cease distributed copies of a Profit & Loss Statement for the Southport Lions Foundation for the month of July 2024 and noted that the last of the boat raffle expenses – the bill for Consumer Cellular – has now been paid. Memorial donations for Lion Bob Smith's wife Dot have reached \$325 and will be earmarked for activities related to children's causes.

Membership Chair Report

Lion Ronnie Clark reported that he has made 25 copies of Southport Lions Club orientation materials that will be made available to new (and seasoned) club members. Lion Jim Rizzo noted that in his former club of approximately 50 members, there was a formal "vetting" process for new members and that this was something we might want to consider.

Vision and Hearing Chair Report

Lion Thad Brewer updated attendees on vision committee activities including the upcoming August 10th "Day4Hope" at the Moose Lodge; this event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is NOT listed on our web site so Lions are encouraged to contact him or Dave Graves to sign up. Lion Dave Graves' will be meeting with Brunswick County school nurses to review our school vision screening program and solicit their help in encouraging parental approval for screening.

Other Business

Lion Mike Blau noted that we had established "liaisons" for each organization that we supported and that we should return to this practice to understand their needs. Lion Paul Fisher who had arrived early for the club meeting endorsed this idea citing Captain Charlie's Fishing Tournament as an event for kids that we supported every year, helping subsidize the t-shirts for the kids and showing up at the event. Lion Thad Brewer asked whether we should hold an evening meeting to cover unfinished business Lion Paul Fisher noted that any changes to our first-and-third Thursday of the month meetings could end up costing us money as the City of Southport only allows us the use of the Senior Center for those occasions. Lion Barbara suggested that we codify some of these legacy arrangements. Lion Roger Albizu noted that we should review our Foundation budget now that the boat raffle revenue has been counted; Lion Mike Blau said that this would be done at the six-month point of our current fiscal year.

Adjourn

Lions adjourned the 11:28 a.m. The next Board meeting will be September 5th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Southport Senior Center.

Minutes drafted by Lion Barbara Lemos