

NJ Open Road Thunderbird Club Minutes Sunday May 22, 2016

Meeting called to order by Pat LeStrange at 2:10 pm. Pledge of Allegiance led by Alec Johnstone. Pat thanked Julia & Vince Ucci for hosting the meeting at Fortissimo Italian Restaurant, West Orange. Minutes read by Sandy Pyrros. Treasurer, Carol Ehm, was not in attendance; Sandy read the balance, which is \$11,453.09. (attached report)

Meeting turned over to Arlene Kubat. Mention was made of the birthdays and anniversaries during this month.

Correspondence: Lois Martin-None

Sunshine: Lucille Chaballa reported that a get-well card was sent to Dorothy Guidone & “thinking of you” card to Don Dobres.

CTCI- Lois said info on the San Diego Convention is on-line & that this year’s Newsletter contest run by Barry Miller has ended and Barry will announce the awards in San Diego. He has retired and we have proposed a new chairman starting next year.

Newsletter-Paul Schroll mentioned that he’s gathering info & please email him. Info will be in the next newsletter re: the Tune-up Clinic at the Martin’s on June 26th & Corbett’s club mtg at 1pm. Bring your own chair please. E-mail Lois if you are attending the meeting. Joanne will be serving ice cream & root beer floats left over from the dance.

Joanne said that “Go Daddy” page changed their format & Pat has reformatted our club info. Password is “Classic” for member’s section. Check it out. Facebook site still the same.

Membership—Paul Adamoff met a ’57 T-Bird owner named Gary at Kohl’s in Clifton & he showed interest in joining our club.

OLD BUSINESS

Joe Kubat said the bus trip to Barrett-Jackson Auction at Mohegan Sun Casino on Sat., June 25th is cancelled -- not enough people to fill a bus. Some members will be going in their own cars.

Arlene & Joe were in Ocean City, MD, at a “car show”—largest one they’ve seen, cars all over town.

Bill Downing is chairing the Club Picnic on August 14th. More info to follow.

Joanne Seiler reported the ‘50’s-‘60’s Dance. Guests said it was a great dance, really enjoyable—good DJ music, good food. Profit was \$1,627.83. Thirty club members enjoyed the Spring Cruise on Lake Haptcong. Great even though the weather was chilly for May 8th. Miss Lotti, the boat, was nice. Club made \$52.07.

Donna Jessie is organizing the theatre trip on July 10th to see “Happy Days”, after-party at the Jesse’s. Please let her know if you want to attend.

Pat was contacted by Jerry Longstreet and invited our members to the Pittsburg T-Bird weekend on July 16-17 weekend. It's only a 5-hour drive.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat spoke about the 2017 Regional Convention that our club is proposing to run Wednesday to Sunday August 2-6, 2017.

Background: NJORTC has run 4 successful conventions. CTCI is finding it harder to get Chapters to step forward to host conventions and I'm sure in the future they will have to change the way they are done, with CTCI taking a much bigger role. This will most likely be our last opportunity to host one due to the ageing of the club, it may become too much to handle.

Who/what/where: Based on an e-mail survey sent a few months ago and the vote held at the Feb 21st meeting, 23 votes were cast, 13 yes & 10 no, it was agreed to go ahead with sponsoring a convention. A research committee was formed, myself, Joanne, Rich & Lois Martin, Phil Guidone & Mike & Wendy Meehan. Mike did a lot of work & spent a lot of time contacting 9 hotels and we narrowed it down to the Meadowlands Hilton and the Hanover Marriott. The Marriott made us the best deal, has a good location for a driving event & on May 14th a second walk-through was held that all members were invited to attend of which 14 members did. The hotel made us a great proposal & it was agreed that the Marriott would be the location to use.

The help/volunteers needed to run the convention will vary on the job. Chairpersons will have a large commitment whereas committee volunteers may only be needed for a few hours each day during the convention.

As of now, the hotel research committee will stay on as the Convention Committee. We will be asking for volunteers for the convention. The most time consuming and accountable are the Chairmanship positions—members may volunteer and others will be asked & appointed by the committee, according to their expertise for each position. In addition, we will open a page on the website member's only page, where updates and other info will be available to all members.

Wendy Meehan then spoke. The hotel was easy to work with; it's a tremendous facility. Room rate negotiated \$139 includes breakfast. This room rate includes (per night) a \$10 credit to the master account plus \$20 credited toward the food & beverage minimums as contracted & negotiated so as to limit liability to the club. No hotel rooms will be comped. It took a lot of work to negotiate a contract. Info such as how much money would the club have to guarantee spending on food/banquet/outdoor BBQ etc. CTCI provides some start-up money, which will then be repaid; and some other clubs send money as our club has done to other clubs in the past that hold conventions.

((((Just a reminder to all; like the bank balance, etc., the financials for this and the projected profit should not be shared outside the club. So, for the newsletter or any posting/communication, maybe a substitute generic version for this newsletter can be along the lines of "A great room rate including breakfast was negotiated" and just remove the whole paragraph about the projected profit.)))

Phil Guidone will be our legal counsel. Chairpersons & co-chairs need to be put in place and also a “pool” of volunteers. Every member should be involved and has something they can do or contribute—we don’t want it to be a burden on just a few members.

A projection was made that we could make a profit approx. \$5,000 or even more but there are no guarantees for any of this. The program/advertising book that will be compiled can bring us a profit—ads must be solicited.

All the information gathered must be compiled and presented to CTCI with criteria so that they can sanction this convention. Dave Tulowitzky, CTCI member, volunteered to be Concourse Chairman and Rich Martin will co-chair. The convention committee is looking to find an electronic registration program—which might have a cost associated with it.

Break for lunch. Then meeting continued after.

Questions were posed from the club members.

There was a list of committees needed that was circulated and some members already volunteered:

Event Chairman=Pat LeStrange
Treasurer=Paul Schroll
Concourse chairman=Dave Tulowitzky
Concourse Judge=Rich Martin/Lois Martin
Trophys=Vince Ucci
Welcome Party=Julia
Program/Ads/Sponsors=Phil Guidone/Wendy Meehan
Advertising/Promotion=Bill Downing
Transportation=Sandra Pyrros
Tours/Events=Lucille Chaballa/Joe Kubat
Hospitality=Arlene Kubat/Donna Jessie
Merchandise=Joanne Seiler

There are many more chairmen needed! Volunteers can sign up as time goes by. Also, submit a slogan! A design for the shirts needed.

Next meeting will be hosted by Aileen & Bruce Corbet on Sunday, June 26th at the Martins home at 1 PM.

50/50 won by Bill Hyde for \$60.
Minutes submitted by Sandra Pyrros