

Springfield Rotary Club BOARD Meeting
April 7, 2026 – 11 AM - Noon
Springfield Area Parent Child Training Development Center
DRAFT Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sue, Emma, Marty, Ed, Alan, Michelle, Jeff, Deb

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michelle, John

March Minutes: Motion by Marty, seconded by Emma to accept the March minutes. PASSED.

Treasurer's Report: TABLED.

Old Business:

- Chester Rotary trailer (Sue) –TABLED.
- Member Survey – Jeff prepared a one-page survey that will hopefully be sent to members this week.
- Trex Plastics Challenge: The Springfield Rotary Club recently presented its 15th recycled bench to Union Street Elementary School. Next in line for the program was the Springfield Lions Club Dog Park, Springfield VFW, and Elm Hill Elementary School. We have learned that Trex has changed the incentives for program participation. Instead of earning a bench after collecting 1,000 pounds of plastic bags and films, organizations that collect 250 pounds in a three-month period will be entered, along with 24 other groups, into a prize drawing. The program details are at www.nextrex.com/view/programs. What this means for our community: after collecting the 1,000 pounds we expected would produce a bench, we received only four raffle entries for this quarter's drawing. There is now no guarantee that the next organization in line – the Springfield Lions Club Dog Park – will get a recycled bench. Although this change is disappointing, the motivation behind the effort remains environmental stewardship. Over the past three years, our program has removed more than 14,498 pounds (over 7 tons) of plastic film from the waste stream, and that positive impact should not be overlooked.
- Fundraising / Credit card Software - (Michelle) – TABLED
- Programs: 04/14/26 Matthew Garcia, Windsor County Mentors, 04/21/26 Governor Scott, 05/12/26 Kayla Bapp, SAPCC Diaper Bank
- Governor's Lunch: Will be held at RVTC with catering by Black Rock. Motion by Marty, seconded by Ed to subsidize the cost of the luncheon so that Rotary members pay \$30. PASSED.

Upcoming Club Activities

- Diaper Drive (Emma): We will be collecting diapers throughout the month of April at various locations around town. Size 4+ and Pull Ups preferred! Springfield Collection Locations: M&T Bank, Springfield Town Library, VTel. Chester Collection Locations: M&T Bank. Marty will post on Facebook.
- Food Drive: May 16. NOTE: National Postal Carrier Drive is on May 9.
- Rotary Reads: Jeff will check with Union Street School for May.
- Butterfly Sales: Jeff will explore selling butterflies at Community Band concerts at Hartness House

New Business

- Edgar May Kentucky Derby Fundraiser: Motion by Emma, seconded by Jeff to sponsor drink for \$200. PASSED.
- Special Olympics Torch Run: Motion by Marty, seconded by Deb to sponsor mile for \$125. PASSED.
- Political speakers: Marty presented a Rotary Club Policy on Political Candidates and Speakers. Motion by Marty, seconded by Deb to adopt the policy. PASSED. <NOTE: Policy is attached to these minutes.>
- Easter Bunny costume: Ed will bring the Chester Easter Bunny costume for our club storage.
- NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 11 AM at Springfield Area Parent Child Training Development Center.

Motion by Marty, seconded by Deb to adjourn. PASSED.

Rotary Club Policy on Political Candidates and Speakers

Rotary clubs often attract interest from individuals running for public office. Candidates recognize that Rotarians are active in their communities, civic-minded, and engaged in efforts that improve the public good. As a result, particularly during election years, clubs may receive requests from candidates seeking opportunities to speak to members.

Each Rotary club has the discretion to decide how it responds to these requests. Decisions may depend on a club's past experiences with political speakers, as well as the preferences of club leadership. Rotary International's primary requirement is that clubs remain nonpartisan—meaning they must not endorse political candidates or take positions on partisan political issues.

The relationship between Rotary and politics has been discussed since the organization's earliest days. Ultimately, Rotary established that clubs may provide opportunities for members to learn about public issues, while leaving it to individual members to form their own opinions. This principle continues to guide Rotary's approach today.

To maintain neutrality and fairness, the following guidelines apply:

- Political candidates will not be invited to speak at the club within **120 days of an election**.
- When candidates are invited, they should **avoid campaign-style presentations**, including soliciting votes or funds, or distributing campaign materials. Presentations should instead focus on **informational, nonpartisan topics** relevant to the community.
- If the **Board of Directors** determines that hearing from candidates would benefit members, **all candidates for the same office must be invited**. This may take place either in a **single candidate forum** or through **individual presentations scheduled over successive meetings**.

It is acceptable for a **current officeholder**—such as a congressman, senator, or other elected official—to address the club when the purpose is to provide a **nonpartisan update to constituents on legislative or governmental matters**, rather than to promote a campaign.

This policy is intended to preserve Rotary's tradition of civic engagement while maintaining the organization's commitment to political neutrality.