**St. Luke Catholic Men’s Club Minutes of the General Membership Meeting Monday, July 16, 2018 St. Luke Parish Hall**

The St. Luke Men’s Club (SLMC) General Meeting for this date was held in the St. Luke Parish Hall. The normal membership meeting agenda was dispensed with in order to facilitate the Sharing of Gifts (SOG) Distribution Banquet hosted and held by the SLMC in July. The following are the recorded highlights of this event.

* SLMC President Gilbert Ortiz called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Mr. Ortiz greeted all attendees to include the recipients, spouses and guests for this July membership meeting. He explained to the audience that typically this July meeting is reserved each year for this special event. Mr. Ortiz was the host for this annual affair.
* The National Colors were posted by the St. Luke Parish Boys Scouts, Troop 405, and the

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ortiz. He subsequently thanked Troop 405 for their patriotic tribute to our great Nation.

* Mr. Ortiz entertained a motion from the floor to dispense with the normal membership meeting agenda. A motion was made by Terry Sparrow and seconded by Rick Hite. The motion carried favorably by a unanimous “Aye”.
* Mr. Ortiz recognized Father Jim Barlow, who has since retired as the Pastor of St. Luke Catholic Church, thanking him for his service to the Parish and the community. He then introduced the new Pastor Father Eric Ritter; gave a brief biography of him; and, then invited Father Ritter to come forward and render this evening’s invocation.
* Before the dinner being served, Mr. Ortiz introduced the SLMC membership to the guests beginning with the elected officials, the Executive Board, the Wild Game Dinner Chairman and his Co-chairs, and the Sharing of Gifts Banquet Chairman, Matt Mora. He then introduced the general membership noting to the guests that many of the men have themselves been Club officers, while also noting that an elite group of members were wearing a Special Club Medallion, i.e., a “Lifetime” award for their extensive and significant service to the organization.
* He graciously noted that this evening’s generosity and Sharing of Gifts is the result of thousands of hours of volunteer service unselfishly performed by over 200 Club members, family, and friends
* He acknowledged and thanked the many Business Partners who donate merchandise, services, discounts and monetary support each year to complete the Club’s charitable mission of service and help make the SOG distribution possible.
* Dinner proceeded thereafter. At the end of the dinner Mr. Ortiz acknowledged that the dinner, dessert and coffee was provided by the Outback Steakhouse located at IH 10 and De Zavala Road. Mr. Andy Shalit, the site manager, was acknowledged and thanked for his special gesture to cater this event. The Club presented him a gift for his special service, support and friendship to the Club. In his absence, Mr. Mark Twomley accepted the gift for Mr. Shalit.
* The presentation of the “Gifts” ensued. Mr. Ortiz prefaced the presentation of these awards for this year by noting that these “gifts” were made possible through the financial success of the 44th Annual Wild Game Dinner (WGD). This year $59,871.84 was netted for this distribution to parish and community charitable organizations. He added that a percentage of the initial WGD proceeds is designated for the St. Luke Catholic Church Capital Campaign, and this year’s contribution of $23,479.15 completes a 10-year pledge by the SLMC towards the cost of building the school gymnasium.
* With that being said, Mr. Ortiz, with the assistance of the Chairman of the Benevolence Committee, Ralf Meneses, called forward the recipients to receive their awards. There were 31 St. Luke Parish Organizations and 29 Community Organizations listed to received SOG Awards; four of the latter organizations were unable to attend and will be contacted regarding receipt of their particular award. In addition to these organizations, Mr. Ortiz recognized several Out-of-Cycle recipients whose requests were approved during this past year, each receiving limited financial awards.
* At the conclusion of these presentations, Mr. Ortiz reflected on the 59 year history of the Club and the continuous joint effort of past and present members who work together to contribute to improving the general welfare of others. He thanked all who labor daily to make our community better, adding that preparations and planning are underway for next year’s WGD. He asked for prayers and support for a successful outcome. The SOG Banquet came to an end.
* In closing, Mr. Ortiz entertained a motion from the floor for adjournment. Peter Binkley so moved, and Mike Lutz seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous “Aye”. The meeting was adjourned.
* Larry Fuentes, SLMC Chaplain, closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

John A. Martinez, SLMC Secretary