**St. Luke Catholic Men’s Club Minutes of the GENERAL MEMBERSHIP Meeting Sharing of Gifts Banquet Monday, July 15, 2019 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 each year by the SLMC. The following are the recorded highlights of this event.

* SLMC President Gilbert Ortiz called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mr. Ortiz greeted and welcomed all attending with special recognition given to the recipients, spouses and guests, noting that this July General Meeting is typically 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 to the Flag was led by Mr. Ortiz. He thanked Troop 405 for their patriotic tribute to our great Nation.
* Subsequently, Mr. Ortiz entertained a Motion from the Members to dispense with the normal meeting agenda. A Motion was made by Todd Shannon, and seconded by John Martinez. The Motion carried by a unanimous “Aye”.
* Mr. Ortiz recognized Fr. Eric Ritter, Pastor of St. Luke Catholic Church, and invited him to come forward to give this evening’s invocation.
* Before the dinner commenced, Mr. Ortiz took time to introduce the SLMC Membership to the guests beginning with the four (4) Elected Officials, the 14 Executive Board Members, the Wild Game Dinner Chairman and his Co-chairs, the Benevolence Committee and its Chairman Ralf Meneses, and the Sharing of Gifts Banquet Chairman, Matt Mora and helpers. The General Membership was subsequently introduced noting to the guests that many of these men have themselves been Club Officers, while also noting to them that an elite group of Members among them are wearing a Special Club Medallion known as the “Lifetime” award for their extensive and significant service to the organization. Of particular recognition is the Club’s Christian Services Officer Wallie Fields who tirelessly works with the Club’s sick and suffering to visit with them and bring them the Eucharist, of particular interest is the fact that Wallie and his wife Janelle are themselves also sick and suffering medical issues, but he is faithful to performing his duties while managing through his debilities.
* 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, offer discounts and monetary support each year to complete the Club’s charitable mission of service and help make the Distribution of Funds (SOG) possible. Some of these Business Partners highlighted were Outback Steakhouse-Mike McClellan, Schott’s Meat Market-Mike Schott, Sysco Company-Carlo Escamilla, and SWBC-Debbie Gray.
* Dinner proceeded, and at the end of the dinner Mr. Ortiz related that the dinner, dessert and coffee were provided by the Outback Steakhouse located at IH 10 and De Zavala Road. Mr. Mike McClellan, the site manager, was acknowledged and thanked for his special gesture to cater this event. He was presented with a token of appreciation from the Club for his service, support and friendship. The presentation of the “Gifts” ensued.
* Mr. Ortiz prefaced this year’s presentation of awards by noting that these “gifts” were made possible through the financial success of this year’s 45th Annual Wild Game Dinner (WGD) held in March 2019. This year $76,942.00 was netted for distribution to parish and community charitable organizations. He added that since the Men’s Club began distributing these funds, a total of $1,251,854.15 have been distributed to the Parish Ministries and the numerous Community Charitable Organizations.
* 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. Notably, there were 32 St. Luke Parish Organizations and 35 Community Organizations listed to receive SOG Awards, not all were in attendance. Those recipients unable to attend will be contacted to make arrangements with the Club to receive their particular award.
* In addition to these organizations, Mr. Ortiz recognized several Out-of-Cycle (OOC) recipients whose requests were approved during this past year, noting that each received a limited financial award pursuant to Club By-Laws. These OOC recipients were Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Life Skills for Living, St. Luke Fall Festival, Boy Scouts Eagle Scout Program, St. Luke Fr. Jim Barlow Memorial Luncheon, St. Luke Young Adult Ministry Mission Trip, and Casa de Nazaret Orphanage in Mexico across Eagle Pass, TX.
* At the conclusion of these presentations, Mr. Ortiz reflected over the Club’s 60 year history and the continuous joint effort by past and present members who work together to contribute to improve 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. Rudy Martinez so moved, and Paul Biever seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous “Aye”. The meeting adjourned.
* Larry Fuentes, SLMC Chaplain, closed the meeting with a prayer.

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Respectfully Submitted,

John A. Martinez, SLMC Secretary