

**Friends of Danang**  
December 13, 2007  
Enrico Biscotti Co.  
Strip District

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome to Guests:**

Alexander Costello, Roger's 12 yr. old son

**2. Silent Reflection:** individual reflections

**3. Financial Report:**

There was a reported balance of \$6,410.35 in the administrative checking account as of November 30, 2007. At the November meeting \$160 was collected for the Larry Lagattuta Fund.

During the month of November, \$1125 was collected for the Roger Costello Book Fund.

Our goal to build the Hoi Yen Bridge is \$55,000 and so far we submitted \$41,374.02 to the East Meets West Foundation. **A complete report is enclosed.**

**4. Spaghetti Dinner:**

Judy Lorigan presented the Friends of Danang, a check for \$5700! The money is a sum of funds collected by Rotary Clubs in the South Hills, a matching grant of \$1000, a donation of \$1000 from the Bethel Park Rotary, \$1000 from the Swissvale Rotary.

FOD made \$1,573 profit on the Spaghetti dinner, of which \$1,400 was from selling raffle tickets. This is less than we sold in the years past. Tony expressed gratitude and significance of the relationship between Bethel Park Rotary and the Friends of Danang.

This amount will bring us close to meeting our goal for the bridge. Roger offered his book fund money to make up the difference if needed. T.J., Dan, and Tony will be meeting with Bob Luffy, and they may ask him for the remainder of the funds.

**5. Veteran's Day Breakfast:**

Tony went to the Westin to check on the 11-11-08 date for the breakfast. There may be a conflict in scheduling. T.J. will check the Convention Center. The Marriott is guaranteed for 2008 and 2009. Possible candidates for keynote speakers were discussed.

The 2007 Veteran's Day Breakfast Financial Report was reviewed. As of 12-10-07, our net profit was \$13,239.02! It is included in this packet for your review. Next month an updated one will be provided. **A complete report is enclosed.**

**6. Jewelry Show:**

No report at this time.

**7. Website Development:**

Every page has been touched. Ed has some new ideas that he will bring to the next meeting.

**8. Trip to Vietnam 2008:**

The next trip is schedule to depart Pittsburgh on Friday, March 28, 2008 and return on Tuesday, April 8, 2007. The flight itinerary is PIT to Charlotte to LAX to Taipei to Saigon. Travelers will spend 8 nights in Saigon and 4 nights in Furama.

Friday, April 4 is the date scheduled for the dedication of the bridge. Thanh will ask Foreign Affairs how many veterans from VN will attend. As of this meeting, 17 people have made a commitment to go, but there are 35 seats blocked. You must talk to Thanh if you think you may want to go.

The cost is \$3385/double and that amount plus \$275 for a single. The price includes air transportation, city tour, English speaking guide, all meals, and a trip to the Mekong Delta. What may not be included is some ground transportation beyond 100km. That depends on the site(s) that World Vision may take us. If the road conditions are such, you may be riding a motor bike at some point.

Thanh has the VISA application, but she must have a photocopy of your passport along with two passport photos. Also, she is asking for \$1500 by January 10, 2008 and the balance by February 28, 2008. You can bring them to the next meeting or mail them to Thanh. If you have any questions about the trip, the itinerary, or the finances, please contact Thanh at [thanh@penn.com](mailto:thanh@penn.com) or call her at 814-653-2129.

We need to take gifts with us for Hoa Son School, veterans at the bridge, and individuals at Foreign Affairs.

Thanh reported that she can get FOD back packs for the students at Hoa Son School for \$5 each. We may consider the expense depending on our finances.

If you are going, or not going, there are items that we can collect and will be sent on the trip with our members. Please consider collecting the following:

- ✓ Toothbrushes

- ✓ Sample size toothpastes (That's a big hit and there is a dental clinic there)
- ✓ Sample soaps and shampoos
- ✓ \$1 reading glasses (the kind you can buy at the dollar store)

Ed Mihalacki has offered to get pens/pencils for the students at Hoa Son. T.J. is going to try to get calculators.

#### **9. Open Discussion:**

Judy Lorigan's 14 year old granddaughter, Carly Zalenski, raised \$50,000 to build a school in Vietnam and the funds are matched by the Vietnam Children's Fund. Judy and her family are featured in the September 2007 edition of the *Rotarian*. It is the most publicized rotary magazine. A copy of the article is included. For those of you who get the minutes via email, I will send that story electronically.

We have others who need to be recognized too! Dr. Ed Kelly was nominated for the Jefferson Awards for his work with Catholic Charities helping the medically uninsured. There was an article in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette on January 1, 2008. That article is also included in this packet.

Tony Accamando, George D'Angelo, and Jack Gannon were recipients of the Mind, Heart, and Spirit awards from Duquesne University. Tony's was for his work with the Friends of Danang; George and Jack were recognized for their work with the International Day of Peace.

One of our newest members, Joe Dunlap of Winterville, NC sent Tony a very moving letter. That is included in this packet.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 10, 2008** at Enrico Biscotti Co. at 7:00 pm.

See you there.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb

