

Payette Lake Progressive Club Membership Meeting  
Banyan's On the Green Restaurant  
October 8, 2019

The club enjoyed a potluck lunch and our guest speaker's presentation from  
12:00 pm - 1:15 pm.

#### GUEST SPEAKER

Verla Brown introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Phil Schoensee, who has been serving as the Principal of Heartland High School and as the Director of Special Programs for the McCall-Donnelly School District since the 2017-2018 school years. The Special Programs Department includes special education, gifted and talented students, and English learners. Prior to moving to McCall, Mr. Schoensee was the Special Education Director and Assistant Principal at Rolling Hills Public Charter School in Boise. He also served as Assistant Principal, Dean of Students and Dean of Activities at San Luis Obispo High School before moving to Idaho. Mr. Schoensee gave a passionate presentation about the opportunities presented to students at Heartland High School in McCall.

Heartland High School is an alternative high school program available for students in grades 9 through 12. The program combines learning in academic and social skills using a different class schedule than a traditional high school program. Heartland High School runs on the quarter system with classes meeting every day. They are a fully accredited Idaho High School requiring 3 core classes each quarter. The student body fluctuates between 25 to 30 students per year. They operate in conjunction with McCall-Donnelly High School sharing library, counseling, and extracurricular resources. The school's mission is dedicated to helping students overcome adversity and providing a quality educational experience. There are a variety of reasons why students choose Heartland High School such as students who have had trauma in their life, those short on credits to graduate, students with a child, those with legal difficulties, and those with social, health, attendance, and academic challenges. Mr. Schoensee often refers to himself as the Principal of "Outside the Box", helping those who do not fit into the traditional school. Heartland High School started with portable facilities and with the help of community investments, a new school has been built. The newly constructed buildings provide a secure family style environment to help students feel safe. Mr. Schoensee shared some moving stories about students who have benefited from the programs and support of Heartland High School. Heartland High School works closely with the community to provide job opportunities and internships for students wanting to learn a trade and/or gain experience in the workforce.

The business portion of the meeting was called to order by Club President, Penny Williamson, at 1:15 pm. Guests were introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Camilla Switzer, Vice President, reported on the status of our membership. There are nine new members since April bringing our total membership to 104.

**MEETING MINUTES:** The August 13, 2019, membership meeting minutes were emailed out prior to the October meeting to all members. There were no corrections to the minutes. Jennie Tunnell made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Linda Pool seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Gail DiBenedetto, Club Secretary, read a thank you note from scholarship recipient, Rylie DeLuna. Gail also shared thank you notes for PLPC grants from the Awesome Board of Directors detailing how the club's donation helped their program, from Toby's Place thanking us for the ability to purchase a square for sales, and from the Donnelly Farmers Market for providing access to fresh food and to help foster healthy and nutritious eating habits for the Donnelly and Cascade areas.

A special thank you from the Progressive Club was given to member, Kathy Menten, for her \$250 donation to help support the PLPC efforts.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treone Cooley, Club Treasurer, reported on the financials. She noted a balance of \$32,000, with one grant currently unpaid. Treone stated that there was a \$5000 shortfall in the Philanthropic Budget due to the oversight of reserves earmarked for our second year scholarships. Treone is working on updating the budget and will email it to all members prior to our next meeting.

**FUNDRAISING REPORT:** Penny Williamson reported that she and Linda Hallock are making efforts to solicit repeat donations from the PLPC major donors. Letters are being sent to major donors and some cold calls will be made. Linda suggested a new membership category such as "honorary memberships" for donors to the club. Individuals donating would be recognized on our website and on posters at our events. This was discussed at the last executive board meeting. She suggested having different levels of honorary memberships based on the monetary value of donations. Examples discussed were Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

## NEW BUSINESS – FESTIVAL OF TREES

Nicole Musgrove chaired the Festival of Trees Event for the last 3 years with the McCall Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has asked the Progressive Club to take over the event and Nicole has volunteered to Chair the PLPC Festival of Trees Committee this year. She gave an overview of the event and an update on the status to date. The event will include holiday art and craft vendors with a fee of \$50 per vendor, and donated holiday trees, wreaths and décor to be entered in a silent auction. The Shore Lodge has offered the Pavilion Room for the event at no charge. Set-up for the event will take place on Friday, Nov 29, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm in the Pavilion Room. The actual event will take place on Saturday, November 30, from 10:00 am – 7:00 pm. There will be a cocktail party from 5:00 – 7:00 pm for members and guests. The announcement of the auction winners will be done at the end of the cocktail party. Santa will be at the event for the children, and Cram the Van is anticipated to set-up to collect items for those in-need. The club is also contacting local bakeries to enter professional gingerbread houses for auction. The board has approved the expense for a banner to be hung across Hwy 55 promoting the event. There will also be posters placed around town and advertisements in the Star News among other promotions for the event. Previously the donors of auction items received 50% of the proceeds. The Progressive Club will now receive all proceeds from the auction which will go directly back into the community through our grant and scholarship programs. Nicole distributed a brief overview for members and a list of volunteer opportunities. Please tell your friends and family, ask businesses and associations for auction donations, tell craft vendors about the opportunity, help plan and decorate the PLPC tree, help hang the poster, sign-up for a shift on set-up date or festival day, bring a friend to the cocktail party, or help clean up. The support from members for this event has been great!

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 pm. Jet Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail DiBenedetto, Secretary