

Program: Annual Meeting, Elections and Report of Sciencetech Foundation activities

Speakers: President Rick Whitener, Sciencetech Foundation President Jeff Rasley, and Sciencetech Foundation Vice President Benny Ko

Introduced By: Rick Whitener

Attendance: NESC: 75, Zoom: 22

Guest(s): Rod Reid

Scribes: David Culp, Jeff Rasley, Benny Ko

Editor: Carl Warner

View a recording of today's Zoom presentation at:

www.sciencetechclub.org/zoom/1850.mp4

The following was received from Sciencetech Club Secretary David Culp:

The Sciencetech Club Annual Meeting - December 11, 2023

The meeting was opened at 12 pm by President Rick Whitener. He gave the welcome and thanked Gonz Chua for the paintings (by Gonz) that were on each table and which were won by the person at the table with a red dot on their chair.

Guests were introduced and cashiers thanked.

The slate of Officers and Board members for next year was presented:

Officers:

President Andy Ratermann

Vice President Marty Meisenheimer

Secretary Joyce Mallette

Treasurer Doug Gettelfinger

Past President Rick Whitener

Board members:

Dave Knoll, Tom Lauer, Jo Ann Todd, Linda Karwisch, Karen Bumb, and Joann Davis.

Also, Randy Strate was appointed to fill out the remaining time (one year) of the term of Marty Meisenheimer.

Rick called for the vote to approve all candidates and it passed.

Next, Rick reviewed the past year of the Club, particularly the program highlights. We have gained 47 new members this year, and our average weekly attendance is [REDACTED]20.

Karen Bumb presented Rick with a plaque and thanked him for his service.

Jeff Rasley gave a report on the Sciencetech Foundation. He started by showing research that giving to a good cause gives health benefits to the giver. The Foundation's total revenue (including donations, interest, and dividends from investments) for 2022 was \$236,431.00. The grants given out in 2023 were \$241,243.00. Ninety Sciencetech Club members donated to the Foundation in 2022 and so far in 2023, thirty-three members have donated, but many may be waiting to give at the end of the month. Many members have indicated that they plan to donate to the Foundation in 2023.

The members of the Foundation Board search out and find potential grantees. In 2023, the grantees were:

Jordan YMCA Preschool Stem program
Stout Field Elementary School
Lawrence Township Schools
Marion University
Link Observatory
Earlham College
Indianapolis Art Center
Girl Scouts
IU School of Science
Indiana Audubon Society
Girls, Inc.
Starbase Indiana
Riley Children's Foundation
Coldspring School
Stem Connection

In response to questions, Jeff stated that Planned Investments is the company that manages the Foundation's investments. Most individual scholarships have been eliminated except for 7 college's "Most Improved Students" Scholarship. More grants are now given to group programs rather than to individual students. More grants are being directed to groups for younger students, elementary and preschool students, as we are trying to reach them and get them interested in science at a younger age.

The Foundation transitioned from a Private Charity to a Public Charity. Doug Gettelfinger did most of the work on this.

Benny Ko recognized Jeff Rasley for his leadership of the Foundation.

There being no further business, the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm by Rick Whitener.

Respectfully submitted
David Culp
Secretary

Shown below are some of the former and new officers and board members who were in attendance and remained long enough for a photo:



Pictured left to right: 2023 President Rick Whitener, 2023 Board Member and 2024 Vice President Marty Meisenheimer, 2023 Vice President and 2024 Board Member Karen Bumb, 2024 Secretary Joyce Mallette, 2024 Board Member Jo Ann Todd, and 2024 Board Member Linda Karwisch.

Editor's Note: Not knowing what to expect in the Secretary's report, this editor made prior arrangements for written statements from the Foundation speakers. Those statements have been included in their entirety below. You will see some overlap between the three.

The following was received from Sciencetech Foundation President Jeff Rasley:

Jeff Rasley, President of the Sciencetech Foundation of Indiana, provided financial information about the Foundation's investment portfolio, the amount of income from investments and donations, the amounts of grants given and the STEM programs supported. Other members of the Foundation's Board described some of the educational programs supported by the Foundation in greater detail. Treasurer Doug Gettelfinger reminded the attendees that donations from IRAs and donor advised funds may now be received, because of the transition from private charity to public foundation. Vice President Benny Ko urged members to make a donation before the end of the year, so those funds can be used in determining the amount the Foundation can give in grants in 2024. Rasley urged Club members to visit the Foundation's new website at <https://sciencetechfoundation.org/> through which donations can be made. Checks can be mailed to: The Sciencetech Foundation of Indiana
c/o Doug Gettelfinger
505 Lexington Blvd.
Carmel, IN 46032

The following was received from Sciencetech Foundation Vice President Benny Ko:

Jeff Rasley, president of the Sciencetech Foundation of Indiana, gave an annual report on the state of the Foundation.

He informed the Sciencetech Club members how a professional investment company handles the Foundation's finances with the earnings and interests generated to fund the various STEM educational programs we support across the State annually. Grant applications submitted to the Foundation are reviewed by the entire board for approval. Each grant has a sponsoring board member who in turn acts as a liaison with the recipient and reports on its activities.

The Foundation has been approved by the IRS to become a public charity. That status is granted on a probationary basis during the next five years and shall confer new tax benefits both to the donors and to the foundation. It will also allow the foundation to solicit donors beyond our club membership. The foundation has constructed a new website on which donations can be made electronically.

Jeff then introduced the [*Foundation*] board members who were in attendance.

Following that, Doug Gettelfinger, the treasurer of the Foundation, further elaborated on the financial requirements the Foundation has to comply with for our public charity status to become permanent. In short, we need more members to donate. He, along with Jeff and any other Foundation board member will gladly answer questions regarding donations and donor's tax benefits. Donations can be made electronically through the website and can also be sent as a check to Doug, and his address is:

505 Lexington Blvd., Carmel IN 46032