

Fundraising – where do we go next?

Fork It Over is now complete. Financially it was one of the most successful events we have held, with a net profit for the club of over \$48,000. Our survey indicated that the event was well received by members and guests. The only discouraging note on the survey was the request for members to serve on the committee for the next event. This received commitment from only a few members, not enough to hold an event like this. At our next business meeting, we will discuss fundraising for 2024-25, and ask you to consider options for fundraising over the next few years. Should we:

- Rely primarily on casino funds for project funding
- Host an event like Fork It Over every two years instead of every year
- Consider one or more smaller, less expensive events like a breakfast or a pub night
- Consider a walk-a-thon or golf tournament
- Consider other types of fundraising such as selling the grocery store gift cards or holding a 50/50 on-line auction
- Significantly increase the cost of member dues and meals
- Ask all members to make a charitable contribution of \$X to our Charitable Society and not do any fundraising other than working a casino
- What is your great idea?

So that everyone is fully aware of where we currently raise our funds, here is a breakdown:

Casino: Between every 18 and 24 months, we are awarded a casino for two consecutive days. By filling approximately 30 shifts, we can raise about \$75,000-\$80,000. The payout for working a casino is high, but the downside is that there are restrictions on the use of gaming proceeds, which could impact our ability to fund our desired projects. For example, programs like our Buski-Lakhani bursaries cannot be funded from gaming. Our East Africa medical program can only be funded if we have a Canadian non-profit to which we can direct funds as a donation.

Fork It Over: Fork It Over has been hosted as a dinner and auction for many years, and typically raises between \$25,000 and \$40,000 per year. These funds are un-restricted, which means that we can spend them on any project we choose. As an example, last year we directed some funds to support a colleague of Mariam who had been in a severe traffic accident. This could only be funded using un-restricted funds.

Member Dues and Meal Charges: Member dues and meal charges raise between \$10,000 and \$15,000. These charges are used to fund some of the cost of operating the club, including RI and District Dues, meal expenses and other such charges. The charges assessed covers less than half of our admin costs, which is one of the reasons we need access to some un-restricted funds. If we were to give up a large fundraiser like FIO, we would need to increase annual fees by 50-60%.

District Grants: Each year we apply for and receive about \$3,000 in district grants which offset the cost of the project to which the grant relates. Currently we ask for \$2500 for Brightview

nutrition program and \$500 for scholarships. While the club does not need to contribute to the Foundation, our individual donations result in this money coming back to the club over time.

Donations: Most of the donations received through our Charitable Society are donated specifically for a project and must be used for the purpose intended by the donor. Any donations not so designated can be used for projects. Typically, we only receive a few thousand dollars per year that are un-specified. Donations are a great way to make the most of your dollars, the club gets 100% of the funds in a restricted format, and you receive a charitable donation receipt to reduce taxes.