



Rotary Profile

Volume 70, No 29

February 8, 2017

LITTLETON ROTARY CLUB

Club #6418 ~ District #7850

Chartered July 1926

www.LittletonNHRotary.org

*Meets at 12:15 pm on Wednesdays at
the Topic of the Town Restaurant
25 Main Street, Littleton, NH 03561*

Officers 2016-2017

President	Bob Muh
President Elect	Chris Tyler
Vice President	Amanda Simino
Secretary	Richard Bielefield
Treasurer	Shannon McKee
Past President	Tina Lunderville

Directors

Kevin Low	Russ Gaitskill
Heather Porter	Chris Knapp
Ray Dionne	Joe Ransmeier

Sergeant-at-Arms *Rusty Talbot*

Rotary International President

John F. Germ Chattanooga, TN

7850 District Governor

Jay Polimeno
Jamie Milne, ADG

The Rotary Four-Way Test

*Is it the **truth**?*

*Is it **fair** to all concerned?*

*Will it build **goodwill** and **better**
friendships?*

*Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?*

PROGRAMS

February 8th

"International Education South of the Border," Littleton Superintendent of Schools Steve Nilhas & HS student Sofia.

February 15th

Jill Kimball, Classification Talk

February 22nd

Karl Stone, Marketing Director, Team O'Neil Rally School

Visitors and Guests: Ofc. Frank Silye (Chris)

February Rotary Club Anniversaries:

Mike Claflin (2001)

Member February Birthdays:

Tina Lunderville (6th), Steven Nilhas (8th), Barbara Ashley (15th), Chad Stearns (15th), Tonya St. Cyr (20th), Russ Gaitskill (26th).

Community Announcements, Brags/Senior Moments & Happy Dollars:

Proudly serving Bethlehem, Carroll, Dalton, Easton, Franconia, Landaff, Lisbon, Littleton, Lyman, Monroe, Sugar Hill and Whitefield.

Too late by the time you read this, but more evidence of our vibrant community -

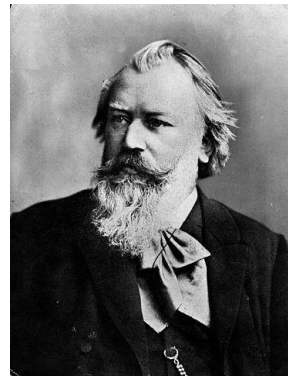
Schuyler offered his personal invitation to attend a special evening of community fellowship in the form of Littleton's deliberative session examining the town budget and warrant articles: 6 - 11 pm at the high school.

Kathy suggested that everyone get ready for Valentine's Day and help out the Littleton Studio School fundraiser by stopping by Mill Street on Saturday morning for their 9th Annual Love & Chocolate event:



Mike encouraged everyone to take advantage of an early Valentine day by visiting the 99 Restaurant this evening from 5-9. Enjoy a delicious dinner and AHEAD will receive a donation for each meal served.

On Sunday afternoon take advantage of the calm before the storm and enjoy the North Country Chamber Players Winter Concert at the Sugar Hill Meeting House. Arrive at 1:30 and learn about Johannes Brahms, German pianist and composer of the Romantic period.



Brahms, b1833

Kevin wanted it clearly understood that he did not lose faith in the Patriots on



Sunday.

Rotary Business

Everyone is welcomed to attend a Board Brain Storming Session March 6th at 1 pm hosted by SNS. **Bob** noted that lunch will be provided.

It is now easier to hoist a few in memory of Carl Hilgenberg. His legacy included a generous supply of hefty engraved Rotary tumblers (liquid not included) that **Kathy** distributed to potentially thirsty members.

PROGRAM

Ray Dionne introduced Littleton Rotarian Dr. Steve Nilhas, Superintendent of SAU 84, and his daughter Sofia Mendez-Sanchez, for a presentation on

"International Educational Perspectives" focusing on Steve's experiences as an educator/administrator, and those of Sofia as a student, in two venues in South America: Asuncion, Paraguay and Cartagena, Colombia.

Steve prefaced his remarks with a brief update on Littleton school budget issues. The school board's principal focus at the moment is on Lakeway Elementary School. Steve would consider it "a great accomplishment" were the town able to muster the public support and financial wherewithal to replace Lakeway within a five-year window. The Board is concerned with the \$1.77/thousand increase in the school component of the tax rate during the current year. This increase was due in part to the drop in valuation, mostly from the Moore Dam valuation. Proposed reductions totaling \$600,000 would have dropped the school share of the tax rate by \$.83/\$1,000 next year providing the valuation remained at least at current year levels. At the SAU 84 deliberative session, an alternative budget amendment to restore \$302,000 to the reduced proposed budget passed by a 44-40 margin. This will entail some reduction in programs. Priority 1 is providing a high-quality education to our children, but taking care of the people who make that education a reality - teachers and support staff of every description - is exceptionally important as well. Separating out that which is sustainable from that which is not is a continuous process.

On to South America. After reaching the age of 50 without residing outside of Kansas, Steve (who, as you may recall, was engaged in farming with his father for a

number of years before turning to education) accepted a position as the principal of an American school in Asuncion, Paraguay. There are about 192 American schools worldwide, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State. These schools provide an American high school type education to children from diplomatic families, other U.S. government agencies such as DEA, and multinational corporations. Other foreign nations - particularly British, German and Japanese - often have similar programs in capital cities. There are however, not nearly enough students in the categories enumerated above to sustain most of these international schools, so a very large proportion of the students - and the lion's share of the financial support - comes from the parents of children in the host country, who tended to be from powerful and wealthy families - "an interesting dynamic". (Steve recounted the story of a student he encountered sitting outside in a mango grove and when he inquired why the student was not in class, the young man explained that he had asked to be excused from class because the class was studying his great-grandfather, the despotic Paraguayan dictator Alfredo Stroessner.) Parents enthusiastically pay the cost of placing their children in the American schools, where they receive a first class education, with ample Advanced Placement opportunities, and learn to speak impeccable English. This positions the students for admission to virtually any college in the United States, to include the Ivy Leagues, Duke, NYU and USC, a fact of which Steve was justifiably proud.

In Paraguay, Steve met and married his wife, Elena, and eventually, with Elena's daughter Sofia, they moved on to Cartagena, Colombia, a seacoast nation on the Caribbean Sea, where Steve took the helm of another American school. This school, like the school in Paraguay, had a modest American enrollment and was primarily locally supported in the absence of any state funding for education.

Steve then introduced his daughter Sofia, a very bright, charming and engaging 10th grader at Littleton High School. In Paraguay, Sofia first attended a private school, then the American school, where there was a greater emphasis on English, although she had to learn the pre-colonial language Guarani to obtain a Paraguayan diploma. In contrast to her later experience in Colombia, she found the Paraguayan school more aristocratic, even snobby, and it was more competitive. Sofia found the transition to school in Colombia more dramatic than her eventual move to Littleton - the school itself was not too much different, but she had to adapt to a very different social structure and struggled to make herself understood, finding Colombian Spanish "baffling". Cartagena was a very beautiful seaside locale, but difficult to live in because of its overwhelming focus on tourism.

Of Littleton, Sofia said, "I love it here" but there is an element of culture shock because she has never before lived in a small town. She finds the academics easier and she particularly enjoys civics. Her extracurricular activities include athletics, chorus, and drama; she plays the trumpet and is trying out for the pep

band. She regularly Skypes with friends back in South America. As far as life after Littleton High School is concerned, she is disinclined to become a teacher like Steve and Elena, nor is she likely to follow in the footsteps of her physician father in Paraguay.

Worth Repeating

- Everyone is reminded and encouraged to contact **Ray** with ideas for speakers.

In case you missed it:

Welcoming the club's newest member, Jill Kimball.

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services ☹️.

Classification Talk 2/15.



Lincoln, NH 2017 District Conference
June 2nd - 4th Registration is Now Open!!





Visit:

<http://7850conference2017.org/>



Social Media Addicts consider whether this new dictionary word applies to you:

Verb: humble-brag

To make an ostensibly modest or self-deprecating statement with the actual intention of drawing attention to something of which one is proud.

"Uggggh just ate about fifteen piece of chocolate gotta learn to control myself when flying first class or they'll cancel my modelling contract"

