

June 13, 2013

Editors: Tammy Broderick and

Char Luttrell

Meeting Thursdays

at Noon at the

Holiday Inn

Near the University of Michigan

Service Above Self

RCAAN Board

of Directors

*President:*

Laura Van Steenis

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 Bryan Schindel

Presidents’ Night June 27

Send in your paid reservation by June 20 for our 2013 Presidents’ Night at the Eagle Crest at the Ypsilanti Marriott, same locale as last year. Remember, no noon meeting that day.

Another Successful Poker 4-Day

Matt Copeland, our Foundation President and Fundraising Chair, reported that we raised about $2400 at our last poker weekend at the Heidelberg. Thanks to all for volunteering. Our next poker series is September 5-8.

A Shout Out to Ann Arbor Jaycees

Eric Tindall, Jaycee alum, reminded us that the Ann Arbor Jaycees will be sponsoring the annual Jaycees’ carnival at Pioneer High School. Congratulations to local Jaycees president who is now national president!

Invocation and 4-Way Test

Jeff Crause offered this week’s invocation and Vern Hutton led the Rotary 4-Way Test.

B.A.B.E.S.

John Arenz blasted our “B.A.B.E.S.,” Vern Hutton’s club anniversary and Larry Crockett’s birthday, both today, as well as Keith Krings’ club anniversary on the 16th.

50/50

Mary Kay Jeselnick picked the winning ticket, her husband Jim’s! Jim kindly gave his winnings back to our club for Polio Plus.

Visiting Rotarians

Tammy Broderick introduced our guests, Jim and Mary Kay Jeselnick and Anil Kumar, a Rotarian from India!

Happy Dollars

Char Luttrell said she knew why Laura was so happy – only two more weeks of her RCAAN presidency to go! Char also enjoyed volunteering for poker night with Phil Zepeda.

Jeff Crause was happy to have worked with Eric Tindall at poker.

Vern Hutton is proud of his 14-year-old granddaughter and her accomplishments in field hockey. Vern said she’s a natural athlete and doesn’t even have to try to excel.

Matt Copeland’s son Noah received five of six awards at his middle school’s end-of-year award ceremony. Congratulations to Noah!

Laura Van Steenis was happy to hear Phil Zepeda join right in with our singing as he arrived at Rotary while Scott Nelson led us in singing the Rotary North song.

UPCOMING PROGRAM

Next week our speaker will discuss US-Thailand relations.

A Polio Survivor’s Story

Jim Jeselnick, a past Rotary club president and past district governor, told us his story, that of a childhood polio survivor.

Jim contracted polio in October of 1952, when he was just four years old. He clearly remembers walking home from the store and falling down for no reason. As his body became paralyzed, he was placed in the only medical apparatus that could save polio victims at the time, the iron lung. Jim said he did not feel pain while in the iron lung because of his paralysis.

Several children in the small town of St. Mary’s, Pennsylvania, were stricken with the disease, which attacks the neurological system and then the muscles. Jimmy and the others were isolated from their family members because polio was so very contagious. Parents could only see their children by looking through a window. They were not able to touch them or even talk with them.

The people of St. Mary’s turned to prayer for the sick children. Jimmy recovered, but was left with limited range of motion in his left arm. Following a stay at a rehabilitation center (paid for by the Shriners), Jimmy went to see a doctor in Pittsburgh who advised his parents to “throw away the arm brace” and exercise like crazy to regain his strength.

Our speaker’s illness came during the polio epidemic of 1952-1954, during which more than 250,000 people contracted the disease.

Polio had come to the nation’s attention years earlier because President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had been a victim as well. Roosevelt and a businessman created a national nonprofit organization to fight the disease. Their campaign came to be known as the “March of Dimes.” School children and others donated dimes to fund a cure for the crippling illness.

Dr. Jonas Salk developed a vaccine to guard against polio. The largest major vaccine trial began in the spring of 1954 and ended in 1955, with a 98 percent success rate in preventing polio. Jim’s 11 brothers and sisters were vaccinated.

After his recovery, Jim Jeselnick went on to own his own business. He plays golf and swims and is able to lift and carry his grandchildren.

In 1991, Jim was invited to join Rotary. As soon as he learned that Rotary’s international service project was the eradication of polio, he was in!

Further Rotary work took Jim to the 1995 RI convention, where is saw an iron lung in a Polio Plus display. That was his “Rotary moment.” He knew then and there that he had to devote his energy to Rotary’s cause, which was also his cause-- polio eradication. Since then Jim has been to Nigeria and several other countries to distribute the polio vaccine.

He urged us to continue the fight to wipe polio off the map and donated his 50/50 winnings back to our club, with a challenge that we match his gift for Polio Plus.