

April 9,2018

Weekly Rotary News

**Next Meeting April 16,2018
1812 Room Wolfeboro Inn**



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President Bob Cain started us off with a song and a prayer, followed by the pledge and four-way test.

Guests Shelley Laing and Troy and Jennica Lucas were introduced. Dick Mosher won the raffle drawing. Dave Alessandrone collected the Happy Dollars. Howard Zimmerman was happy he has atee time lined up for later in the week. Even though the season has barely started and it is meaningless at this time several Happy Dollars were given for the Red Sox. Sadly, some dollars were also given for the Canadian junior hockey team that lost many members in a bus accident.

Bob Cain reminded us all it was John Stark Day, for the founder of our Live Free Or Die state motto. The whole quote he noted is "Live free or die. Death is not the worst of all evils".

The monthly Board meeting had preceded the Club meeting and Bob announced that the Board has approved a change in the By-Laws based on the results of an email survey of Club members to change the waiting period for new member approval from 30 to 10 days.

Also based on the results of an email survey of members to which 19 responded, the Board discussed and has approved a change in our meeting structure to twice a month, on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The effective date will be announced at a later time. Because only about half of the members responded, to be sure that everyone received the survey and has a chance to provide their input.

Bob announced that he will send another email to give those who didn't respond additional time and at next week's meeting time will be set aside at the end for anyone else who wants to provide input about going to two meetings a month.

A final announcement was a reminder that the Board is looking at a change in membership dues for July 1. This is necessitated by a number of factors, including the financial implications to the Club of going to two monthly meetings and the increase in dues we are assessed by Rotary International. Further, the Wolfeboro Inn has informed him that regardless of how many times we meet, because attendance has been so low the Inn must begin charging us for a minimum of 20 people per meeting (at \$8 pp this is a minimum charge to the Club of \$160 per meeting). The Club also covers the cost of speakers' meals and certain guests. We have only averaged 16 paying attendees per week this year (since July 1) and 13 paying attendees per week since January. Bob noted that all Club members need to share in the operating costs of the Club. He also noted and everyone agreed that the Inn has been very good to us, with good service and good food. The Board is looking at the dues structure and he will keep the members informed as we go forward.

In other business, Mark Montross noted that due to the low attendance we are falling behind on our goal of \$2,500 for Polio Plus for this fiscal year which ends June 30. We collect donations at each meeting and currently have \$1,460. **Mark announced that he will match the amount donated by members in the Polio Plus jar at the meeting on April 23.**

Our speaker for the evening was Troy Lucas, owner with his wife Jennica of Lucas Roasting Company on King St. in Wolfeboro. They are a wholesale supplier of specialty coffees. Troy's interest in brewing coffee started as a hobby 15 years ago when they were living in Virginia. After three attempts to move back to Jennica's home state of NH they finally made it to Wolfeboro and by then his specialty coffee brewing had become a full time business.

Troy gave a very detailed explanation of all that goes into getting a cup of specialty brewed coffee from the ground to your table, including the growing, picking and processing of the beans. From the time it starts as a little cherry in which the bean grows it takes nine months of processing to get it to your table. The coffee's flavor depends very much on the region where it is grown, in places like Costa Rica or Brazil. He has visited coffee farms and selects his beans at coffee tastings, which operate much like wine tastings. One of the differences in specialty coffees is that the beans are all hand-picked. Lucas Roasting gets their beans to roast from all over the world. Their business emphasizes the farm to table relationship. They make sure farmers in growing countries get paid equitably and he noted the Lucas' business philosophy is very similar to Rotary's four-way test. The company's goal is to bring premium, specialty, high grade carefully selected coffees to Wolfeboro as an alternative to the commercial grade coffees. Their services include office accounts, custom blending for businesses, private labels, coffee bars at private events, educational seminars, private tastings scheduled at their office and retail sales. They invited everyone to stop by their cafe/office to try a fine cup of coffee, or tea if you prefer.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Please begin your solicitations for the Golf Tournament.

Pictures are on Rotary Website!!!

Editor's Thanks to Barbara for Notes & Jaime for Pictures