

## THE VALE NEWS

Vol. 34 Issue No. 30 (MARCH - ROTARY & INTERACT MONTH) AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
PROMOTE SERVICES TO YOUTH & ADULTS MARCH 3, 2010

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### Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

2010

March 3 Bob Grant - Classification Speech

10 Art Conway

17 Dave Ellison - Sue Frechette, president of the Mad River Valley Health Center Board of Directors. She will present an overview on what is currently happening regarding the Health Center.

24 Wini Thorsen - John Lynch - Driver Education

April not assigned yet

Editor's Note: Please inform Wini (496-6710) of the name of your speaker at least 2 weeks in advance. If you can't get a speaker for that date, please try to trade with another person on the list.

No Birthdays nor Anniversaries for the first 2 weeks in March

### Meeting News

Cloudy weather but no snow nor rain encouraged 36 people to attend our meeting today including guests: Gail Hietzker, Sandra Grant, Manny Apigian, Virginia Scarpato, Bill McDonnell, Anna & Benjamin White.

### Announcements:

Short BOD meeting to follow regular meeting this morning.

Last week BOD voted to give: \$1,000 to the Waitsfield Library; \$500 to help autistic kids ride horses (we gave to this program last year) and \$500 to the Green Mountain Cultural Center.

The Rotary Leadership Institute. Guy Babb urges our club to get at least 2-3 or more of our members to attend the upcoming sessions either at Rutland on March 20 or Lebanon on March 27 (or both since there are three levels) Call Dave K. if interested (see e-mail for details)

The Russian GSE team will be coming to Vermont this summer. We need a leader and a committee to host them and plan the activities.

Jon Jamison (496-2080) needs help getting sponsors. Jon has donated \$500 and has a list of former donors. Please call him and volunteer to solicit

more sponsors.

The Rotary Challenge Ski Race will be held this Friday, March 5th at Bolton Valley Ski Area. This event supports the Vermont Heating Assistance Program and is organized through the Richmond-Williston Rotary Club. When: Friday March 5th, 2010, Registration: 3:30, Race begins: 5:30, Dinner: 6:30 Main Lodge, Awards: 7:30 Main Lodge.

Registration Fee: \$45 includes race, ticket and dinner. Dinner only: \$30.00 and could use some help from us.

Heli has lined up 2 teams. (8 racers, total ages 560 years) Also, You can come watch the race, have dinner and sell YBYI tickets. Pay at the door.

EREY - Jim Leyton. - Program still alive.

Gail Hietzker announced that MARY KERR, AUTHOR of the book A Mountain on Sunday March 7, 2010 for a reception and book discussion Free but reservations suggested. (496-3913),

Ice House Raffle - A new and improved Gene today, (pacer has new battery) showed us more improvements to his executive office. The underside of the toilet seat shows the smiling face of John Basile and grab bars were added next to the seat for Wini's benefit.

Gene thanked Art Conway for running the show last week. A lot of money was received this morning but Gene has not had a chance to count it yet.

Gene's wife has been promoted from a deputy to a 2 star general as she is doing everything while he recovers his strength.

Dave warned us that the pond is deeper than last year, will be harder to recover after it sinks.

At the mini BOD meeting this AM, the Board approved the proposal of:

Manuel (Manny) Apigian by John Hale for membership in our club. If no written objection to the proposal is received by the board from any member of the club within 7 days, Manny, upon payment of dues shall be considered elected to membership.

MINI Bucks - \$275 to the winner. Art Conway had his ticket drawn by Gail. When a new deck was located and a joker inserted, Art did not find the joker this time, but was awarded \$5 for the 3 of spades.

HAPPY BUCKS

Lorraine Keener - Home again and Seeing mom on Sat NK, NH

Jack Mansfield - 2 best grandchildren in the world visiting

Ken Amann - Glad that Gene is rewired

John Crump - Glad to be back and saw daughter sing in show  
Art Conway - Happy deck of cards found  
Betty - Hoped that Art would find the joker  
Gene - 1)Happy that John Basile's son recovered 2) doesn't need bifocals  
Monk - Back from Colorado  
Carol - Glad her husband won seat on Selectboard  
John Basile - Thanked everyone for their support  
Al Barillaro - going to BIG Sky, Montana and good to see Joe Koch  
Dave Koepele - Perfect grandchildren  
Stan going to Ca to see perfect grandchildren  
Henri - Glad to see so many happy people  
Brian Crandall back here again

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## PROGRAM

Today was Bob Grant's turn to tell us about himself.

He was born in a small town, Bristol, Va. located in the corner of Tenn., Va., and No. Car., an area similar to the Green Mts.

He was born in Townsend, Mass., where his father was the sales mgr. for Eastman Chemical. Townsend was a mill town, home to the largest cooperage that made barrels from hardwood.

He attended a small local business college, as he worked 30 hours/week in his father's factory and left in his 3rd year to work full time.

When he was 17, he stopped at a small restaurant for lunch and fell in love with the waitress. Several years later they were married. They are still married after 36 years, no children but have 3 dogs. Sandra earned a master's degree in education and taught elementary and junior high school for about 10 years. From that point on, she worked for Bob until they both retired in 2008.

Bob has been self employed all his life except for a few years when he worked for his father. He worked in the factory making plastic toys and learned the operation. While in his twenties his father's health failed and Bob assumed all management duties and discovered the company was bankrupt.

His father offered him ownership of the business if Bob could save it. He considered it an impossible task, given his age and inexperience, but somehow by a Herculean effort on his part, including learning engineering and mechanical skills and at the same time run the operation, he added new lines and completed a turnaround making it a profitable business. It took 5 years but it worked.

At this point he was 30 years old and although his business was debt free,,

he could see trouble on the horizon from foreign competition and needed another plan. The transition took about 3 year, involved purchasing land, building and moving to New Hampshire and he became the general contractor for the industrial building and dealt with all the subcontractors.

Getting started in a new business, meant taking the jobs no one wants, or that no one can do successfully. This is the type of work that came his way and he had to make it work to turn a profit.

Over time the new business grew. At its peak they ran 24 hours/day, 5 - 6 days/week and had just under 100 employees. Over the last 15 years produced about 75 million pounds of various plastic products.

During this time, the rise of China caused whole industries to move off shore. In 2008, he decided to quit. He liquidated the assets, paid off all the suppliers, gave the employees severance pay packages and retired.

Now he is retired, he can do what he loves best - spend time outdoors in Vermont and enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the Valley. He considers himself Lucky to live here and be a member of our Rotary Club.

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The Vale News

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