

THE VALE NEWS

May 12, 2010

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Spring Conferences

Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

May 19 Trish Hopkins - Classification Speech
26 Dave Ruane - Dr. Corin Bauer
June 2 Manny Apigian Classification Speech
9 Helmut Hietzker
16 Win Smith- Sugarbush Resort
23 Dinsmore Fulton
29 Changeover Party (Tues. 6 PM) Hogan's Pub
30 No Meeting

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.

Birthdays: none

Anniversaries: none

Meeting News

It was cloudy, but at least no rain or snow this morning, however there was some scattered frost out there beating up the May flowers. Vermont weather is always full of surprises, never boring! The forty+ attendees included guests: Nicholas (Peter's son) and Don George the CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Announcements

Duck Race

Doug Stoehr heads the committee for sponsors. Please inform him if you know of any individual or business that is willing to be a sponsor for any amount over \$200. He needs to know within the next 3 weeks as this info becomes part of the marketing process.

Jack Simko - looking for people willing to host musicians (for the opera) from June 13 - 21 and the make-up person from June 11 - 21. Call Doreen at 496-4759 or e-mail Dajas@gmavt.net

Trish Hopkins - selling Raffle Tickets for the MRV Chamber- drawing June 5th at Farmers' Market. Tickets \$10 each - several prizes awarded. Tickets available at Farmers' Mkt., and General Wait House.

Attention Golfers! Randolph Rotary Club is having a Golf Tournament on June 5th

Carol Hosford - Still asking for your on-line VOTE to help Waitsfield win a grant for an orchard at the Flamer Field. The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation will award 5 grants each month for the next 5 months : We are in 5th place now. Need your votes to stay there.
Please visit <http://www.communitiestakeroot.com/plant/index> and vote as often as once a day between March 15th & August 31st. We are in 10th place and need a lot of votes to remain in the top 10. A lot of votes are needed this month.

We received a thank-you note from the Harwood Graduation Project.

Discussion

Our BOD has agreed (with the club's approval) to donate \$5,000 per year for the next 4 years to the MRV Health Center to help finance their expansion on the first and second floors. The money will come from our charity funds.

Dave Ellison explained that the center lost a major tenant on the 2nd floor and needs expansion of the facilities to attract another tenant.

They also want to get a 2nd doctor and this requires more room on the first floor. The mental health division requires a 3rd office.

They also want a room for community groups such as the Cancer Support Group, Health Seminars, etc. There will be a large sign on the back wall of the new room listing MRV Rotary as a contributor.

MRV Rotary general giving amounts to 25- 30 thousand/year.

Bruno was concerned that the Medical Center BOD did not inform us before they planned this expansion, as we are a major contributor, and voted against the proposal, but almost everyone else voted for it.

Megabucks: \$499. Betty drew the 3 of clubs.

No Happy Bucks today as the discussion of the donation to the MRV Medical Center took up so much time.

Program

Adam Greshin introduced Don George, the CEO for Blue Cross Blue Shield, Vermont.

Don told us that he grew up in Barre, Vt. and at present is visiting Rotary Clubs and hopes to speak to all 41 of them. BCBS is a local nonprofit organization, not connected to any national organization.

Vermont is a small state, where people know each other throughout the state. BCBS takes in nearly 1 billion dollars in revenues and pays 92% in benefits. In spite of the economic turndown, they had a good 3rd and 4th quarter last year.

The National Health Care Reform doesn't affect their local organization. Health care insurance needs reform. The major change is that all Vermont is covered. Consumers need to be protected. BCBS always put members interest first and helps guide consumers thru the system.

Their staff is taking courses in personal relationships. The Health Care reform has a thousand changes and their secretaries must interpret and implement the new law.

BCBS has 80 million \$ in reserve to cover liabilities.

They pay hospitals for diagnostic treatment and services.

He answered questions about his own coverage and said he has the same benefits as any BCBS employee (no special treatment)

In the future they expect a lot more subscribers which will lower the premiums.

In the past the cost to small businesses increased every year, thus the employers could not pay 100% anymore and require employees to pay a portion.

He understands the cost of health care is hurting business and is working to control costs.

Don stayed after the meeting was over to answer more questions from our members.

THE FOUR WAY TEST

...of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the Truth?
- 2) Is it Fair to All Concerned?
- 3) Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- 4) Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

The Vale News
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Club Officers

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