

THE VALE NEWS

May 27, 2009

Vol. 33 Issue No 39

International Conventions & Club Service

Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

June 3 Ken Friedman - Beverly Kehoe
 10 Brian Crandall - Classification Speech
 17 Lorraine Keener-Richard Pitonyak & Kris Merchant on
 Telecommunications - Present & Future
 23 Karl Klein

July 1 Changeover at Dave Koepele Home

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: Anniversaries: none this week

Meeting News

Very unlike-May-weather-day - cold and rainy, at least no frost last night. The usual cheerful crowd with guests: Anna White, Ken Amann, proposed member by Jack Miner, and our 3 speakers from Project Harmony, Charles Hosford, Elizabeth Metraux and Renee Berrian.

Announcements

Donations voted for at the last BOD meeting:

Meals-On-Wheels - \$1000; Boy Scouts Rebuilding Bleachers Project in Moretown \$200, RYLA \$325

Thank you letter from Ron Geren. His tumor is shrinking and he is now scheduled for both radiation and chemo. He would appreciate hearing from all of us, as he needs lots of support to help him thru this trying period.

Dave Ellison reported:

1) Dues for the 2009/2010 club year are due by June 30, 2009. This year's dues are being held at the same level as the past few years. Dues will be:

Individual \$150
Member spouse \$120

If you require an invoice for business or other purposes, please let me know and I shall prepare one for you. Please submit your dues to me (check to MRVRC or cash) and return to me by June 30.

2) Library Event: Volunteers needed for the "Pass-the-books-moving event" on Saturday May 30th, starting at 10 AM. BBQ following the last book passed along.

Duck Race Committees

Leo Cohen said both muscle and brains are needed by the Float Committee - MIT (led by Bruce) follows regular meeting this morning.

Changeover event: Koepeles' Residence - 3400 Center Fayston Rd. July 1, 2009

Cost \$15/person + pot luck contribution. Pay Al Barillaro or Jim Leyton by June 30th. Dress casual. (No ties - Jim Leyton and John Crump please take notice)

Volunteers needed to bring 'finger desserts' such as brownies, cookies, etc. (3 dozen each).

50 pounds of ice needed (Each person bring small bag)

Many garbage bags - 30 gallon size also needed

Finally: 1) Volunteers needed for pick up and set up on Wednesday
2) Clean up, take down and return tent on Thursday

As you can see, this is a big event and all club members needed to make this affair a success. You can't leave it to "George" to do it all as there are no "Georges" in our club.

Mega Bucks over \$450 to winner. Al Molnar drew the 4 of hearts - got \$5.

Happy Bucks

Jack Simko - Good team working on staging the Opera

Carol Hosford - Happy to have Project Harmony team here

Liz Kelly - Glad to be back

Art Conway - Weather perfect for reading today

Ralph -got clean bill of health for his knee

Al Barillaro - Played golf in Connecticut - got longest drive

Dave Koepele - house cleaned up an stained

Jim Leyton- attended DST. Convention at Basin Harbor - excellent program

Monk - went to Conn. last week and glad he did not miss a Rotary meeting

Kathie Friedman - Grateful for help with Opera Festival

Tom Byrnes - ditto

Len - Al B's drive was 142 yards

guests: Happy to be here and discuss Project Harmony

Ken Friedman - only 4 meetings to go (as president)

PROGRAM

Carol Hosford introduced her husband, Charlie, the founder of Project Harmony, which has been an exciting entity.

Charles told us that in 1985, 3 people from the Mad River Valley shared the idea that personal contact between people of the US and USSR could help ease the tensions of the

Cold War. They were committed to finding a way for young people from both nations to meet.

Project Harmony began in 1985 with the exchange of a delegation of U.S. teenagers from Harwood H.S. traveling to Leningrad, Russia. This was arranged after considerable effort on the part of the Americans and the Soviet Attache. After a few years, the Soviets sent over a group of young singers with their chaperons, (inc. 2 members of the KGB) hosted by American families. These host families were the first person-to-person contacts. This exchange proved so successful that people from all over the US were calling Charlie asking how to go about arranging for exchanging groups of students to go to the USSR.

By 1990, the original trio in Vermont had grown into a full-time staff of 6 with offices in Waitsfield and Leningrad. They expanded their scope to study pollution in both countries. Another program researched folk traditions and genealogy and explored each other's culture while doing so.

As the network of U.S. and overseas partners grew, they worked with small business leaders, educators and environmentalists to participate in the civil life and future development of one's community. Programs were started such as Business for Russia, Law Enforcement Exchange and the Domestic Violence Community Partnership.

To reflect the growth and diversity of their work, Project Harmony took on a new name: PH International. Created new program models, and incorporated PH's unique grassroots approach in different geographical regions.

Their Mission is still to build a strong global community by fostering civic leadership, harnessing Internet technology, and facilitating cross-cultural experiential learning.

In 2002, the PH staff grew to 140 members working in 6 countries, currently there are 10 US staff and 62 National staff working in all 6 offices.

Programs in these core program areas have reached close to half a million people via face-to-face exchanges, Internet connectivity and training programs and professional development programs.

Grant funding amounting to over \$75 million dollars since 1995 has been awarded to PH from the US Government (i.e. DOS/USAID) Foundations (SOROS) and Corporations (Microsoft, Intel) etc.

DOTCOM is the newest PH program, designed to inspire civic action thru social media. They are asking us to help them make this program a success.

LOCALVORE COMMUNITY POTLUCK - Sunday, July 12 at noon, Lareau Farm (home of American Flatbread). Bring your favorite dish, invite your friends and join PH for this free event. Live music, drinks available for purchase.

DOTCOM STUDENT FILM NIGHT - THURSDAY, July 23rd at 7 PM, Big Picture Theatre.

Host a student - 30 teens will be arriving in Vermont beginning July 5th and ending July 25th.

Support DOTCOM - \$75 video cameras will be given to all the students. Contribute now to provide a camera and help PH meet this \$2,250 fundraising goal.

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:

President	Ken Friedman
Vice President	Art Conway
President Elect	Dave Koepele
Past-president	Jack Miner
Secretary	Audrey Witschi
Treasurer	Dave Ellison
Sergeant-at-Arms	Lorraine Keener
Committee Chairmen:	
International	Dave Koepele
Club	Al Barillaro
Community	Helmut Hietzker
Vocational	Jack Mansfield
Foundation	Jim Leyton

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