



Rotary Club of Pearl River, P.O. Box 252, Pearl River, NY 10965
District 7210 - Region 8 - Zone 32 - Club #4982 – Charter Date December 12, 1935

www.rotaryclubofpearlriver.org

John Buonadonna - President - 2012-2013
"Peace Through Service"

Rotary Club
Of
Pearl River

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Ex Officio
PDG Jeffrey
Keahon

Rotary Meeting
Greenhouse Cafe - Pearl River, New York
Date:

Pledge: Andy Marchfeld....And a Big Welcome Back!

Invocation: Raj Mehta. Very timely, sobering and inspiring.

Visiting Rotarians: No Visiting Rotarians

Guests: Grace Raffa whom Mom Kate introduced as lovely (She's right)...

and proof of the benefits
of mixing up the gene pool.



First
daughter
Nicole
Buonadonna.
Frank
Neeson's
guest Charlie
Richardson, outgoing Finance
Director of the Town of Orangetown.



Birthdays: Bruce Schweizer – August 18

Chris Kormusis – August 19

Danielle Doyle – August 22

Anniversaries: Gene and Marty Erickson – August 21

Kirk and Jennifer Flynn – August 21

Ed and Judy Chesler – August 22

Brian and Nancy Quinn – August 22

Announcements:

PDG Jeffrey reminded us that the Ed Bouton Golf Tournament is on September 20th and that we are still looking for players and Tee Sponsors

The **FOUR WAY TEST** of things we think, say, and do: 1. Is it the **TRUTH**? 2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOOD WILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**? 4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Jeffrey also reported that the Membership Committee met to discuss member attendance and would be monitoring our performance. He also acknowledged unhappiness by many over how long it has taken to approve new members. Jeffrey then reviewed the process. Briefly: Ask Jeffrey or Secretary Dorothy for a New Member Proposal form and complete it expeditiously. After that, the Committee is working on procedures to reduce the "paperwork" and approval time to a minimum.

Secretary Dorothy announced that the Membership Dues notice has gone out and encouraged quick response.

Bob Simon announced that Army Reserve unit in Orangetown would be deploying on August 18th for Texas and then Afghanistan. There will be a departure ceremony at the Armory.

President John announced that a brief Board meeting would be held immediately after the lunch meeting.

Queen of Hearts

Grace Raffa drew from the deck, representing her winning table. Alas, a Seven of Clubs.

Happy Bucks

Many "Welcome Back Andy" bucks. And "Good to see you, Rick Irrizary" bucks.

Past President Andy announced – with great pride and satisfaction – the engagement of his daughter Allison.....Rumors are there are pictures of the happy couple circulating in the media....

Best wishes for Jaya's husband Anjan Bhattacharyya who will soon be undergoing knee replacement surgery.

Plenty of birthday & anniversary and "welcome back" best wishes. Otherwise, Happy Bucks moved right along and we were treated to a healthy portion of table conversation.

Program:

Finance Director Charlie Richardson, after announcing he was taking a Community College position up in Schenectady, painted a rather bleak financial outlook for the Town – and County. Without editorializing, here are some facts he shared:



- The Pfizer tax settlement has reduced the tax base by 10%
- This has made the 2% State mandated tax cap a severe challenge to meet.



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- State mandates, for things like pensions, binding salary arbitration to the Police, health insurance, etc. further reduce flexibility.
- We have dipped into the Town Reserve Fund to meet current obligations, reducing it by 1/3..
- Our current spending rate significantly exceeds our current income.
- This is the equivalent of putting some current expenses on a credit card, which debt – at interest – must be paid off in future years *in addition* to projected expenses that are already projected to exceed revenues *without* those debt payments. (OK. I admit it – the italics were editorial....)
- In addition to all this, difficulties at the County level are creating additional costs above our current “run rate” for things like election costs and out of county community college tuitions.
- Our Police Department costs are about \$25 million part of total costs of \$65 million and the golf courses are running are a deficit

There was a very spirited Q&A session, with Evelyn Beckerle – who serves on the Town Golf Course committee – providing useful detail on that issue. Former Town Councilmen Fisher Bergman and Fisher expressed relief that their tenures are behind them



Town Supervisor Andy Stewart showed fearlessness by stopping by towards the end of the meeting. Showing that he is a deft politician, he sidestepped the energetic exchanges to urge us to extend our thanks and best wishes to Charlie Richardson for many years of dedicated service under difficult conditions. We, being the fine Rotarians that we are, responded with a sincere and rousing round of applause, adding to the spirit of good will and better friendship all around.

Four Way Test: Rafael Castro

Note: Many private editorial conversations commenced around the room and spilled out into the parking lot when the meeting was adjourned.

Bulletin Editor- Jim Murphy