



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](http://www.rotaryclubofpearlriver.org)

**Doreen Buonadonna – President – 2017-2018**  
***Rotary: Making A Difference***

*The Rotary Club of Pearl River Weekly Meeting*  
*Bulletin for Thursday, August 3, 2017*

Rotary Club  
 Of  
 Pearl River

**Board of Directors**

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**Pledge:** Doug Ward

**Invocation:** Bob Craig

**Visiting Rotarians:** Rockland D.A. Thomas Zugibe (North Rockland), First Assistant DA James Mellion (Spring Valley)

**Birthdays:** Carole Tjoa 8/5

**Anniversaries:** A busy week! Jim & Barbara Trojan 8/7, John & Doreen Buonadonna 8/9, Joe & Nicole Beckerle 8/9

**Announcements:** Pres-Elect Mike had a few announcements: the first Share Christmas meeting will be held on 9/13 at 6 pm, a guest bartending fundraiser is in the works to support our Club so stay tuned, and Meals on Wheels will be honoring Rockland Rotary clubs at their annual gala on 10/29 (please see Mike or Lenny if you have an interest); Eddie announced that the medical staff at Nyack Hospital recently honored Dick Kohlhausen; Frank N. announced that two scholarship received adjustments due to change in school, and that the Scholarship Foundation will be again pay for dictionaries this year; Pres. Doreen: reminded everyone that we will be collecting donations of school supplies up to and including the 8/17 meeting for the “Back to School with Dignity” program. See Ray Pucci e-mails for a complete list of what’s needed. The STEP BBQ will be held on 8/16 at Stony Pt. Bay Marina from 4-8:30, Jim Murphy has extra tickets for anyone who’d like to attend, his treat! Otherwise it’s \$25 pre-paid, \$30 at the door. The first Club night meeting was held last Thursday 7/27 and was a success- a reminder this will be held the last Thursday of the month at Aqua Terra (6 pm). First board meeting of Pres. Doreen’s term was held Monday 7/31. The first Half RI dues bill will be paid, Ann and Jaya are now “Attendance Optional” due to the Rule of 85.

**Jokes/Quotes and Fun Facts:** This week, George W picked a quote out of the bag: “Momentum is what gets you started, habit is what keeps you going”

**Queen of Hearts:** Yours truly picked the 5 of spades after my lucky “table for 4” won the drawing.

**Special Presentation:** Pres. Doreen a two-sapphire Paul Harris pin to Ed Grant, who received a hearty round of applause from all, congrats Ed!

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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?

**Happy Bucks:** Andy Marchfeld graciously did the honors this week. Chief Nulty threw in happy bucks for becoming a grandfather...on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Nice round of applause. Sad bucks from George W. who lost a neighbor far too young. Many happy anniversary bucks for the three celebrating couples, and happy bucks welcoming our two visiting Rotarians.

**Program:** Ed Reynolds introduced our program speaker, none other than Rockland County D.A. (and visiting Rotarian) Tom Zugibe. DA Zugibe oversees 30 prosecutors and deals with many types of cases, including welfare fraud, tax evasion and many others. But he was here to speak to us today about the ongoing opioid crisis/epidemic. Some of the statistics he shared were simply staggering. Even though the US is only 5% of the world's population, we represent 90% of the world's opioid prescriptions! There was a fourfold increase in opioid prescriptions from 1999-2010 and a similar increase in opioid deaths. And sadly, these numbers show no signs of stabilizing.

DA Zugibe puts much of the blame at the feet of the pharmaceutical companies for using deceptive marketing and claiming these drugs were not addictive. Indeed, Rockland has now joined several other counties in a lawsuit against companies that made or sold these drugs in an effort to recoup skyrocketing costs associated with dealing with the crisis. The DA's office works closely with the DEA and the FBI to stop illegal opioid distribution, including electronic monitoring of websites and emails dealers may use. One shocking revelation from DA Zugibe was that drug dealers rarely see the inside of a (state) prison cell! State judges are pressured to keep prison sentences low for fear of overcrowding. Federal laws are a lot tougher. The use of Narcan has been a big help with heroin, but unfortunately does not help with fentanyl which is a growing problem. DA Zugibe shared the success of "drug courts" in Rockland County. This is a treatment court program designed for nonviolent, drug-using offenders. Prison time can be avoided if a treatment program is followed. If you fail out, you go to prison. And recurrence rates are low.

The current area of focus is prevention, and on two fronts. First, is spreading the word to kids and their parents about the dangers of opioids. Second, and most important according to DA Zugibe, is re-training doctors. Now, before a doctor prescribes, they must check a registry to see if another doctor has prescribed. There is a continuing crackdown on stolen and forged prescriptions.

DA Zugibe also shared his thoughts on other topics, like medical marijuana and also the "border wall". Most of the opioids are coming through by way of truck so a wall will only do so much. As always, there were many thoughtful questions and contributions and some debate from many of our members- Kathy, Frank N, Eddie, Jonathan, Jim Murphy and Dorothy to name just a few. Thank you DA Zugibe for an eye-opening program and to Ed Reynolds for bringing it to us!

**Next Week's Program:** the "who's who" guest list continues with a visit from our County Executive, Ed Day!

**Four-Way Test:** the new proud grandpa, Chief Nulty

**Bulletin Editor:** Doug Ward