



BING

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF DOVER,
NH SINCE 1924

.MEETS WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15 PM
GOSS BUILDING 121 BROADWAY, DOVER, NH

April 15, 2020 - Rotary Club Zoom Meeting

Submitted by Noreen B.

Pledge: Phil R.

Rotary Minute: Quote from DG Andy (thanks to William James) "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

4-Way Test +1: Peter W.

Welcome: Guest speaker Jeffrey Hughes, COO, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital

Program: WDH & Covid-19 Readiness, Jeffrey Hughes, WDH

BIO: Recently appointed as Chief Operating Officer at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Jeff has over 35 years of professional experience in health care strategy and clinical business development. He has a long history of community involvement, currently serves Chairman of the Board of the Greater Dover (NH) Chamber of Commerce, and as Vice Chairman of the New Castle, NH, Historic District Commission. Jeff received a Master's Degree in Public Health from the Yale University School of Medicine, and a Bachelor's Degree with honors from Boston University. He is board certified in healthcare management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Planning for the coronavirus pandemic at WDH has been unlike anything anyone has experienced before, according to Jeff Hughes. He began his talk with a quote from Charles Dickens in a *Tale of Two Cities*. The novel opens with, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." Jeff added his own take on the times and repeated it often, "so far, so good."

Based on current forecasts, the anticipated surge in Covid-19 patients has moderated and the Wentworth-Douglass Hospital Health System, Jeff said, "is in a good position." To date the hospital has tested 1,200 patients, 96 were positive and currently are caring for 4 Covid-19 inpatients. In mid-March they opened their Incident Command Center to focus on evaluating and treating patients, social distancing, protecting staff and preparing for a possible surge. They constructed two respirator care clinics outside the ER to triage patients with suspected Covid-19 thus reducing stress on the ER and they opened a nursing hotline which handles an average of 35 calls per day.

Initial testing delays have turned around dramatically from over 10 days to less than 24 hours thanks to the hospital's association with Mass General. Supplies are have been carefully resourced, again thanks to Mass General, pre-planning and

cautious use. Scheduled surgeries have been postponed. Physician practices are visiting with patients virtually and employee day care needs are being met both at the hospital's day care center and at The Works while it is closed to fitness clients. Non-patient care employees are working from home and all employees, vendors in the hospital are required to wear masks, regardless of their positions.

WDH's intensive care unit has 11 beds and the system has made plans to expand to 31 intensive care beds if needed. The hospital is also prepared to open an additional 78 inpatient beds, if needed, pending state approval. Although a surge of Covid-19 patients is not expected but possible, the hospital continues to monitor area nursing homes and prisons where infections can escalate rapidly.

While WDH's main focus is caring for patients and keeping staff healthy, covering increasing costs and decreasing surgical revenue is another area of concern. They are off budget projections by about 40%. Fortunately, WDH is part of the Mass General/Partners Health System and will fare better than other independent hospitals. The hospital has received \$6 million in federal funds and is applying for state and other sources of grant funding.

Jeff is confident in WDH's ability to care for patients and "so far, so good."

Announcements:

Board of Directors will be meeting on Tues., April 21, 2020 via Zoom at 12:30 p.m. Melissa noted Board members have been checking-in with Dover Rotarians during this unusual and stressful time.

Community Action of Strafford County (CAP) meals program support: Betsey AP thanked Rotarians, Jim V. and Ron R. for assistance with meal pick-up and delivery from First Parish Church and Liberty Mutual. Ron R. added that Jim V. has agreed to coordinate volunteers for pick-up. Betsey also mentioned CAP has received a grant from NH Charitable to build a shower facility in Dover for the homeless and she thanked D.F. Richard for donating the propane. Kathy F. asked if they will accept donations. Betsey thanked her for the suggestion and directed her to CAP's on-line portal. Ron R. also noted the Rotary trailer is available at his home for future use if needed.

Bingo report: Jerry D. said the club has created a "nifty banner" and will hang it at the bingo hall whenever we have bingo again.

Golf: This year's tournament has been cancelled instead of rescheduling due to difficulties with so many tournaments trying to move to the Fall. Ken P. was also concerned about asking for sponsors this year due to lost jobs and closed businesses.

Mental Health Alliance: Gregg D. noted the group has a logo and a new FB page.

Next week: Meeting at 12 noon. Guest Speaker - District Gov. Elect Peggy Belanger

Birthdays: April
Tom D.

Michael F.

Rod B.

Perter W.

Anniversaries: April

Ken P. - 12 years

Ted M. - 1 year

ROTARY'S 4-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 & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.