



Jan. 11, 2023 – Broadway & Zoom Meeting, 12:15

President Megan welcomed everyone to the Rotary Club of Dover

Thanks to Doug L. for picking up lunch.

Scholarship Recipient Megan Fitzgerald thanked the club for the Megan DeColfmacker Scholarship award. She is attending UMASS Amherst as a nursing student and she spoke to the club about the transition from Dover High School to college. She has adjusted well and is carrying a full load of academics as well as participating in intramural sports and other activities. She will begin her nursing studies next semester and plans on studying a variety of nursing areas as part of her journey.

Program: Donnett Sackie – New Journey Academy

Donnett Sackie is a success story. As a five-year-old he left his homeland on Liberia during the 1989 civil war along with his mom and four siblings. His journey took him to Sierra Leone, then on to Ivory Coast and Ghana before migrating to the United States. Donnett became a standout soccer player and played college ball in Utah. He was recruited by UNH and received a full scholarship to play for the Wildcats. Donnett received his bachelor’s degree in Communications from UNH and has made New Hampshire his home. As an Uber driver, he had gave a ride to a person who, upon hearing his story, introduced him to Steve Kniaz of the Durham-Great Bay Rotary. Donnett joined this past year.

Donnett spoke of growing up in a refugee camp in Ghana following a search for safety through the United Nations which led him first to the Ivory Coast and then to onto Sierra Leone. He told of making bracelets from clothesline and selling them to get money to help feed his family. Through a United Nations contact named Max, he played soccer on a refugee soccer team and learned the love of the game. Through another United Nations worker, Megan, he was able to gain admission to Wasatch Academy, a private boarding school in Utah. While Donnett was enrolled as a junior, he discovered his previous education only put him at an eighth-grade level. He worked hard on his education, and he excelled in soccer. He became the student body president and graduated in 2014. His plan was to return

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings:

Jan. 18: Margaret Joyce, President Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce

Guests: Megan Fitzgerald
Rotation Guests: Tom Boisvert, President Durham-Great Bay, Steve Kniaz, Donnett Sackie

Pledge: Cate R.

4-Way Test: Nancy B.

Today’s newsletter authored by Gregg D.

to Liberia; however his accomplishments led him to college in Utah and finally to a soccer scholarship offer from the University of New Hampshire.

Donnett learned discipline at UNH and discovered it was as important to understand not only what we can do, but also why we do it. He declared his graduation from UNH was the highlight of his life. He wanted to give back and started the New Journey Academy to serve children in Liberia. The school is located in a very poor area of Monrovia with little access to education, food and housing. Water access is also limited and people have to travel far just to get fresh water. Donnett purchased a plot of land and began building a school to serve children. The structure is complete except for a roof. Other necessities including water, sanitation, school supplies and food are still needed. Donnett has funded this himself, but Rotarians in Durham and Liberia are now looking to help. Donnett stated that New Journey Academy will focus on a foundation. He is using his story to encourage children to learn, set goals and gain an education. Many come because of soccer, but they must attend school to be able to play. Seventeen children are currently enrolled.

While they have not yet been opened, The Rotary Club of Sinkor in Monrovia, is the prospective applicant for two global grants to help achieve Donnett's vision for the school. Durham-Great Bay Rotary has stepped forward to be the international partner for a grant.

Announcements

The Warming Center is still in need of volunteers to help prepare food. Please let President Megan know if you can help.

Thank You letter was received from Betsey A.P. and Strafford County Community Action for the Dover Rotary Club's support this past year. Our club supports SCCAP in many ways throughout the year and our help is greatly appreciated.

Foundation: Foundation Chair Jim M. noted that global grants like the one discussed today are made possible through generous contributions made by Rotarians. Our district has supported numerous global grants and we have made a difference in the world. Any giving can help, and online giving makes it very easy to donate to the Rotary Foundation. He urged our club members to continue their generosity. He reported that the Board of Directors has voted to match any foundation gifts up to \$250 through the remainder of this Rotary year. Those gifts and match will count toward Paul Harris points.

Shoe and Boot: Nick P. reported that the shoe and boot fund has issued 20 vouchers to Red's Shoe barn this winter and Red's has provided \$200 in discounts. Children have winter footwear because of our program.

Milk and Egg: Cate R. reported that the price of eggs has created a hardship for many families in our community. We increased our budget to \$18,000 this year and we may need to increase the amount again due to price increases. She said that the workers at CAP cheered her arrival when she brought a new batch of vouchers to them this month.

Bingo Committee: Ken P. has asked that we have a Bingo Committee meeting next Wed., after our club meeting. Bingo continues to be very busy. We hosted 112 players last week and we sold 29 boxes of tickets.

Happy Bucks:

Teresa R. happy that her husband officially retired today.

Cate R. for friends Tom and Steve from Durham-Great Bay visit and for our speaker.

Jim M. happy to see Nancy B. and has taken up guitar.

Noreen B. for Tom and Steve, buddies at Bingo and fellow Wildcat Donnett.

Nick P. thank you to Donnett for his efforts.

Jim V. for Dover 400 celebration with new swag and for presentation today.

Jay S. for Christmas and New Year's in Tennessee with family and safe house on a cliff.

Nancy B. happy to be back and thankful for many things including speaker.

Steve K. for Donnett's vision and future endeavors.

Tom B. for connection with our club and opportunity to present.

Gregg D. for Durham Great Bay visitors, Bingo success and Ken P. return.

Megan K. for Kathy F. pinch hitting last week, visit to NYC and Harry Potter store.

50/50 Drawing: Jim M. drew chance. No luck this time.

January Birthdays:

Dick C. Jan. 4

Ken P. Jan. 6

Megan K. Jan. 8

Nathania S. Jan. 10

Cate R. Jan. 29

Dave K. Jan. 30

Jonathan N. Jan. 30

January Anniversary:

Jay S. 31 years