



## May 10, 2023 – In-person & zoom Meeting, 12:15

Pres. Megan welcomed all to the greatest Rotary Club in the universe.

Thanks to **Marion and Harry C.** for lunch

### Program – Club Assembly – Future of Bingo Discussion

Pres. Megan led the discussion, noting the Rotary Club of Dover has a long – 30 yr. history with Bingo as its major fundraising activity. The future of Bingo will depend on several factors:

- The new owner of the Dover Bingo Hall – Dover Gaming, LLC, have initiated a 60-day notice to all 7 Bingo charities to discontinue the current status of bingo in its 4,000+ sq. ft. space by the end of June 2023.
- The Dover owner has offered, instead, to provide 1,500 sq. ft. of space in another area of the building that may also be used for other activities and possibly moving bingo games to daytime hours – this would dramatically reduce the income that sustains many of the charitable organizations hosting bingo in Dover
- A new gaming operation, G2Gaming, is in the process of converting a major portion of the Lilac Mall in Rochester to a large gaming operation to include space for approximately 300+ bingo players
- G2Gaming is a new company, however, its leadership have extensive experience in gambling and gaming operations around the country.
- Due to the imminent end of bingo in Dover, G2Gaming has committed to opening a temporary bingo center in the old, vacant liquor store adjacent to the Lilac Mall for about 200 players until the Lilac Mall Gaming facility is completed next year.
- G2Gaming drafted a one-year agreement to provide this temporary location complete with appropriate furnishings for all 7 charitable organizations currently providing bingo in Dover – this agreement has been emailed to all Dover Rotarians to review.

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

#### Meetings:

**May 17: Vote on Bingo!!!**  
Waterfront Committee

#### Events:

**May 13 & 14:** Durham GB flower sale  
**June 24:** Gundalow Trip

**Guest:** David Barnes, Montana Foroughi and Steve Pappajohn

**Pledge:** Ron R.  
**4-Way Test:** Melissa L.

*Today's newsletter authored by Noreen B.*

## Discussion/questions/considerations

The Lilac Mall is located in Rochester and Rochester has its own Rotary club. Will they be interested in supporting Rotary Bingo? Will Durham Great Bay and South Berwick Eliot Rotary Clubs support this move to Rochester?

Gregg D., Asst. Gov. for all these clubs has received some positive responses so far and there may be other options to create a regional approach to Rotary Bingo – yet to be determined. Jim M. suggested the idea of sharing the proceeds more equally with other clubs would “lift up four communities and spread the wealth.”

Has Sheila agreed to continue as manager? Yes

Cindi I. asked what programs would we disband if we discontinue bingo – how would we replace the \$100,000 in annual revenue to do shoe and boots, milk and eggs, and more? She also expressed concern about staffing and more help is needed.

Nick P. suggested looking closely at the math and how long our investments will last in order to cover required scholarship payments and other commitments.

Will players go to the Rochester location? Will volunteers go to the Rochester location? TBD

Ron R. noted in a conversation with the new company they have plans to provide a family entertainment center at the Lilac Mall with food court, live music, and a large bingo space.

Will we continue to receive revenue from the Poker Room – 10 day commitment? Yes. It is not related to bingo and G2Gaming will give preference to the 7 bingo groups.

Heather noted the Triangle Club has Monday night bingo and they are concerned if they will have a big enough draw at the new center.

What if we want to get out of the agreement before the year is done ? The draft agreement has a 30-day notice for both parties.

Is this a reputable company? Can we check them out? Is the proposed agreement acceptable?

Malcolm M. said we might check with the sweepstakes commissioner, he also noted this a new company, not new people involved. He suggested making the indemnification section mutual.

Kathy F. suggested the club consider hiring help to alleviate the staffing issues.

Cindy I. cautioned that moving bingo, as it has in the past, will take time to ramp up to current levels.

Nancy B. suggested there must be other ways to raise money, recognizing it is not easy. In Pres. Meg’s experience with other clubs in the district, she said our club raises more money in one month from bingo that many clubs raise in one year.

Have we looked at other spaces in Dover? No – takes more than a building to run bingo

Is there food service? Not in the temporary space, but there will be in the mall space.

Dover Rotarians will be asked to vote on the following at the June 17, 2023 meeting:

1. Should the Dover Rotary Club end its agreement with the Dover Bingo Hall, effective June 30, 2023?
2. Should the Dover Rotary Club agree to continue Bingo with the G2Gaming group at the Lilac Mall in Rochester effective July 11, 2023?

### Announcements:

#### **Durham Great Bay Rotary is having their second annual flower sale – May 13 & 14**

They have expanded their flower offerings this year to include three types of lilacs and an option for hydrangea plants as well. Plants are \$50 and can be picked up (or possible delivery) funds raised from this sale will support the scholarship program for high school seniors, a boot & shoe program, and lots of great organizations in the area. You can order Lilac plants and Hydrangeas at this link: [Lilac Fundraiser – Rotary Club of Durham Great Bay \(nhlilacsale.org\)](https://www.nhlilacsale.org)

### Committee Reports

**Bingo Report** - Last week we had 111 players and sold 23 boxes! The May position-based sign-up link is now live:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49AEAF22AAF5C61-maybingo1>

**Scholarship Committee:** Norm H. noted we have 11 applicants and the committee will meet on Friday, May 12 at 7:30 am via Zoom

**Foundation:** Jim M. noted how easy it is to give to the Foundation by using Rotary Direct. The Foundation has given 1100 global grants that are used as “solutions to the world’s most pressing problems.” He also recognized Nancy B. as our club’s most generous donor.

**Rotary Garden Planting – May 20, 9 am – all welcome (needed) to dig in! Henry Law Park, contact Noreen B. for info.**

**Gundalow Trip:** Beth F. thanked Donna and Phil R. for setting up the system to signup for the event on June 24. As part of the Dover 400 Celebration, we invite you to enjoy a narrated cruise by George Maglaras down the Cochecho River, on Saturday, June 24th, 2023, 6:30-8:30 PM Rain or Shine. The maximum number of passengers that can join the sail is 40 so click here

<<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gundalow-cruise-on-saturday-june-24th-tickets-597971367457>> to buy your tickets today!

**Interact Awards Dinner** – May 26, St. John’s Episcopal Church

### Happy Bucks

**Cindi I.** \$1 for Bingo and hopes it continues and \$1 for Ron R. and his comments about 2 white hairs arriving at Bingo – meaning Cindi and Tom D. – Cindi checked with her hairdresser to be sure she was still a blond (with a few streaks of white).

**Gregg D.** for (1) golf lesson, (2) for guests – Dave, Montana and Steve

**Beth F.** for Interact students and Montana’s help at the Joe Parks Garden

**Melissa L.** for joining the Flight Across America group event at Pease and for her new apps for McDonalds and Lickey & Cheweys.

**Peter W.** (via zoom) for the one-year anniversary of his new Rotary club in Florida

**Meg K.** \$5 for acceptance to graduate school at Merrimack – online program in Public Administration and Affairs. Congrats!

**50/50 drawing:** Nick P, picked 5 of clubs – sorry. Pot grows!

**May Birthdays:**

Beth F. May 18

Ute L. May 22

Ron R. May 29

**May Anniversaries:**

Malcolm M. 41 years

Bob R. 34 years

Marion C. 33 years

Betsey AP 23 years

Terrie H. 8 years