



Nov. 2, 2022 – Broadway & Zoom Meeting, 12:15

Past President Jim M. welcomed members, guests, and speakers to the greatest Rotary in the universe!

New Member Induction: Theresa Robison

Welcome to Theresa who was officially admitted by Past President Jim M. and pinned by next year’s president Kathy F. We’re delighted to have you, Theresa, especially as we celebrate our 100th Rotary Year next year in 2024. Lots of projects coming up, including Rotary Garden clean-up this Saturday at 9am, and a shopping trip for items for the homeless at Ocean State Job Lots on the 19th.

Paul Harris Presentation: Gregg D. +2 pin

Jim presented Gregg D. with a very special Paul Harris +2 pin, in recognition of Gregg’s donations to the Rotary Foundation of \$3,000 over the past several years. Thank you, Gregg! The Foundation currently has a project in Poland which assists Ukrainian refugees with housing, food, and clothing.

Thanks to Doug L. for picking up the pizza lunch.

Program: Erica Thoits, Director of Community Relations & Suzanne Lenz, Director of Development for CASA of NH.

Erica’s PowerPoint explained the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) organization and its work. CASA recruits, trains, and sustains a statewide network of volunteers (currently 642) who advocate for children who’ve been involved in abusive or neglectful family situations. Each advocate meets at least once a month, usually more, with the child to determine the best recommendations for that child. Their highly detailed report is supplied to the judge who will decide on placement for the child.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings:
Nov. 9: Friends Forever
Nov. 16: Dist. Foundation Chair Dave Underhill
Nov. 23: No meeting

Events:
Nov. 5: Garden Cleanup 9am

Pledge: Noreen B.
4-Way Test: Kathy F.

Today’s newsletter authored by Cathy B.

This may result in family reunification (the ultimate goal), adoption, guardianship, relative placement, or fostering. The advocate also meets with any others who may be involved in the child's life: foster parents, biological family members, teachers, medical professionals, and counselors. The objective is a safe, permanent, and nurturing home where the child can thrive.

CASA is a national organization in 49 states (not N.D.) with 900 programs in place. It is statewide in NH and began in 1989 with 10 volunteers in just two family courts. Thanks to the efforts of its founder Marcia "Marty" Sink, CASA is now in every family court in NH and state law mandates that judges contact CASA before paid Guardians ad Litem. Due to the fentanyl crisis and the pandemic, over 80% of cases are now related to substance abuse. Cases are now more complex, more severe, and often uncover horrific circumstances. In FY22, CASANH served 1,538 children in 946 cases. Dover alone had 70 cases.

CASA volunteers are not lawyers or social workers, just everyday caring citizens who want the best outcomes for a child. CASA aims to break the cycle of abuse, to reunify families where possible---resulting in fewer foster placements, and to achieve better educational outcomes.

Questions were asked about how to become a CASA volunteer. Erica explained that there is an application and interview process, a background check, then 40 hours of initial training plus 12+ hours of continuing education training every year. Volunteers usually have just one case and may follow it for 1 or 2 years, if necessary. There are mentors and support groups for volunteers as well. CASA's homebase is Manchester, but they do have an office in Dover. There are 6-8 current volunteers from Dover. See casanh.org for more information.

Donation: The Rotary Club of Dover was then pleased to announce our donation to CASA in the amount of \$2,000, the approximate cost of training a new volunteer for case work. Jay S. presented the check to Erica and Suzanne.

Announcements:

Shoe and Boot---Nick P. reported that the Board has raised the budget for this program to \$7,000. He is working with Red's Shoe Barn to evolve a quicker redemption process through a gift card program, to be distributed by school guidance counselors.

Social---Kathy F. reported that 20 Rotarians (and her parents!) will attend the Sunday matinee of "Bye, Bye Birdie!" at the Johnson theater at Paul Creative Arts Center at UNH. Please park behind Parsons Hall or in Lot B. Show is 2pm; please pick up your tickets in lobby by 1:45. Food and libations to follow at Ciao Italia on Main Street. Please pay Phil \$15 per tickets if you haven't already!

Garden---Fall clean up is this Saturday at 9am at the Rotary Garden Pavilion. Annuals to be pulled and perennials cut back. Noreen B. asks for volunteers to help!

Festival of Trees: Noreen also mentioned that Rotary will again sponsor a tree at the Festival of Trees on December 2. Shopping for tree ornaments and trimmings will be November 12 (time TBA) and crafting/assembly will be November 26 at Noreen's house.

Bingo--- There were 90 players, and 27 boxes were sold. Expect donation to Polio Plus from the night's receipts will be more than \$5,000.

Happy Bucks:

Nick P: Happy Buck for being happy to be here! And to Amy's Treat Pub Crawl on Saturday.

Cate R.: \$1 for being happy to be here and \$1 for great fun playing a dead person (Abbie Sawyer) in last weekend's "Voices From the Cemetery" event for the Woodman Museum.

Jim M.: \$1 for our new member Theresa.

50/50 Drawing: \$558 in the pot. Winning ticket was Nick P.'s but his 9 of Spades draw was not the winner.

October Birthdays:

Gregg D. Oct 05
Doug L. Oct 07
Gary D. Oct 10
Joe L. Oct 10
Phil R. Oct 11
Noreen B. Oct 14
Melissa L. Oct 18
Tom D. Oct 26
Julie H. Oct 31

October Anniversaries:

Hemant D. 5 years
Cindy I. 16 years
Cater R. 12 years
Dave D. 13 years
Ed. H. 31 years
Tom D. 38 years