



Mar. 6, 2024 – In-person & zoom meeting, 12:15
Pres. Kathy welcomed all to the Rotary Club of Dover.

Thank You

Pres. Kathy read a thank you note from Stacy at the Seymour Osman Community Center for Rotary’s Back to School program and from Recreation Director Gary Bannon who shared pictures of the fully installed, Rotary-funded pavilion structure at the Skate Park. The Rotary Board will discuss mounting a plaque on the structure.

Program: Brian Nolen, NH4Ukraine

Brian Nolen is the founder of NH4Ukraine.org, a Bedford-based, all-volunteer non-profit started in March 2022, shortly after Russia’s unprovoked invasion. NH4Ukraine uses donor funds to provide humanitarian aid to people in the hardest-hit areas of Ukraine. At their own personal expense, they’ve made six 1-month trips to Ukraine, and Brian is gearing up for a longer 6-month solo trip in April (with his springer spaniel). All donor funds are spent inside Ukraine to purchase wholesale food and hygiene products which they personally deliver to towns and villages in eastern Ukraine.

Brian showed photos and videos from his (so far) six trips to Ukraine. He rented a van in Poland to transport supplies but could not go beyond the Ukraine/Poland border on his first trip because of Avis rental restrictions on the van. For trips following, he has borrowed vans for transport. His organization has raised \$330,000 to date, with no overhead. All money is spent on supplies.

Brian displayed maps of the villages and towns he’s visited so far, mainly in eastern Ukraine which has seen the most devastation from Russia’s scorched earth policy, intentional missile strikes, and disregard for civilian targets. Outside of large cities, Ukraine is largely poor and agricultural. Kiev is relatively safe due to a Patriots missile air shield defense system, but Kharkiv in the northeast is more dangerous.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings:

- Mar. 13:** Pope Memorial
- Mar. 19:** BOD Chamber 12:30-2
- Mar. 20:** Dover RESET
- Mar. 27:** Meeting at the Brunch Club

Events:

- Mar. 7-9:** NEPETS Newton MA
- Mar. 19: Together on Tuesday,** Cinco's Cantina, 6-8 pm

- Pledge:** Nancy B.
- 4-Way Test:** Nick P.

Today’s newsletter authored by Cathy B.

Ukrainians are always happy to see Americans. Many soldiers have both Ukrainian and American flag patches on their uniforms. The daily van trips each disperse about \$2,000 worth of food (e.g. 800 eggs) and hygiene items (e.g. 30,000 diapers thus far). Items are often left with church groups to distribute.

Brian explained the \$60 billion aid package, still waiting for approval in Congress, is not money being sent to Ukraine. American artillery, tanks, and weapons of older vintage (90s) are being sent to Ukraine. These are being replaced by newer systems built by defense contractors in the U.S. Of the \$60 billion, it is estimated that 70-75% of the money will stay in the U.S. to pay American manufacturers.

Brian publishes a monthly newsletter and posts often on Facebook. Please go to the website: www.NH4Ukraine.org to subscribe or find more information.

Questions:

Nancy B. recalled her 1982 trip to Ukraine and noted that the Ukrainians wanted to be free of Russia even then.

Nick P. asked if Brian uses a translator? No, just Google Translate app! Only 10-15% speak English.

Kevin Q. asked about flight and apartment rental costs? Flights (to Poland) \$1400--\$1800, but furnished apartments are only \$300-\$400/month in Ukraine. Brian likes to raise about \$60,000 before each trip.

Gregg D. asked if his group worked with Rotary Clubs in Poland or Ukraine? No, they have a different niche and a different location. Rotary in the west; he is usually in the eastern part of the country.

Brendan M. asked if battles had slowed? No, still heavy fighting and active combat. Russian losses top 400,000.

Harry C. asked if it's difficult to cross the border? No, the police are great everywhere. At military checkpoints, they pass out Snickers bars to the soldiers, and their van has an American/Ukrainian flag on the front grill. They pass easily through the country. Everyone is happy to see them.

Harry C. also asked if Starlink sat phones were passed out? A couple went to the soldiers, but mainly everyone just uses cell phones and apps. There is advanced technology everywhere and Internet service is good. Can pay for goods with Apple Pay in most places.

Cate R. is in awe at the program and asked how did it start? Initially with help from a Ukrainian couple from Massachusetts and then everyone pitching in.

Announcements:

Together on Tuesday---March 19 from 6-8pm at Cinco's Cantina in downtown Dover.

Lunch meeting at The Brunch Club---Wednesday, March 27 at 12 noon. Menu and cost TBD.

Bingo---Cate R. reported 154 players last week and 31 boxes sold. The deposit was almost \$17,000. We need help with ticket counting Wed. (today) and Thurs. afternoon in the Back Room at the Bingo Hall.

Happy Bucks:

Gregg D.---\$5 for Harry C. @ PETS this week; for Phil's help with new bank accounts @ Profile; and for a Zoom call with Polish Rotary clubs he'll be visiting.

Cate R.---\$3 for Cindy Imbro and Mike Bolduc vouching for her to be a JP for her niece's wedding; and for today's presentation.

Nick P.---\$2 for today's presentation and for the Amy's Treat Comedy Show at Cara's upcoming.

Doug L. --- \$5 for today's presentation

Nancy B. ---\$5 for today's presentation and for her good fortune in being able to travel the world.

Harry C. ---\$5 for today's presentation; for Portsmouth Rotary's reconditioning a building for a Connections Peer Support Group; and for Partners for World Health in conjunction with the Portland Satellite Club for collecting hospital supplies for worldwide distribution.

Melissa L.---\$7 for attending first UNH hockey game with little sister; for Rotary Comedy Night; for Cathy at the Exeter Rotary Club; and for 4 more sleeps until she goes to Puerto Rico.

50/50 Drawing: \$238 in the pot. The winning ticket was Brendan M.'s but the 9 of Hearts was not the winner. Pot grows!