

Crystal Cogs



Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Corning NY

Chartered 1921 District 7120 CorningNYRotary.org

President: Bill Boland
President-Elect: Ted Goldwyn
Vice-President: Brian Klotz
Secretary: Scott Bloor
Treasurer: Wendy Daines
Past-President: Buddy Cutler
District Governor: Tom Rogers

Thursday 12:10 p.m.
Vol. 88 No 44

Radisson
103 Members

NEXT WEEK

May 11, 2017
Steuben County ARC

Bernie Burns

IN THE WINGS

May 18, 2017
Meeting @Radisson

Special Breakfast

Jun 01, 2017
Sister Cities Project

Brad Sweet

Jun 15, 2017
Rotarian and Ovarian Cancer Survivor

Susan Evans

THIS WEEK

The Club met for its regular lunch meeting in the Cayuga/Seneca Room of the Corning Radisson. **Dick Pope** was the greeter. **Jim Hudson** did his usual outstanding job at the piano.

Dick was also selling 50/50 tickets. **Jim Webb** was our photographer and **Ernie Danforth** was the Cogs editor.

President King William I rang the bell. The club sang 'My Country tis of Thee', and recited the pledge. **Gerry Wolfe** delivered the invocation.

Prior to lunch, **Paula Smith** issued a challenge to each of the tables to contribute to the STEPS walk scheduled for Saturday May 20th.



GUESTS

After lunch, **KWI** called upon **Dick** to introduce our guests and visiting Rotarians. There were no visiting Rotarians, but Dick did have a guest, Tamila Aaron, President of the John Jones Museum. Although **Dick** was unaware of it, **Ernie Danforth** had a guest, Al Gerth a former colleague from CCC and the father of Tina Gerth who was our Rotary Exchange student in Chile a couple of years

ago. **KWI** decided **Ernie** should be fined because he did not inform **Dick** that he had a visitor. **John Brown** agreed to pay **Ernie's** fine because **Ernie** had donated so much money to the STEPS walk. In the end, **John** was fined \$5.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phylis Jensen announced that there will be a clean-up day at the Veteran's Memorial Park on Saturday, weather permitting.



Les Rosenbloom announced that members of the Paul Harris committee are accepting applications for next year's Paul Harris awards through the end of May. **Dick Pope** called on his guest, Tamila Aaron, who announced there will be a fundraiser for the John Jones Museum at the Clemens Center on Saturday, June 24th. **Dick Pope** will be the Rotary contact.



Paula Smith announced that she had collected \$878 from the Rotarians at lunch today and that **Lucas's** table contributed the most money. **Ted Goldwyn** made an announcement concerning up-coming meetings. Of special note is May 18th which will be a special breakfast meeting. Be alert for sign-ups for the breakfast.

LUCAS' TIME

Lucas again had a hard time remembering the past week. He did remember going to the trampoline park last Saturday. Yesterday he cut grass. He enjoyed the grass-cutting machine. He announced that his birthday is May 29th and he will accept gifts.



PRESIDENT'S TIME

President KWI used his time today to hear some stories from the members. Today's theme was childhood memories. He started with a story he learned about **Ted Goldwyn**. **Ted** told him a story about going away to band camp. He was having a wonderful time. He called home and his mother. She asked him how he was doing and he was great. **Ted** then talked to his sister. His sister asked **Ted** how he was doing and again he said great. **Ted's** sister then told him that his dog had died; heart attack in the back yard. Oops!

Francis LaLomia was then asked to tell us what he had learned about **Dick Perry's** childhood. Dick's fondest memory involved being hit by a car and spending six months in the hospital. Ouch!

Gail Hostuttler was called upon to tell us what she had learned of **Stacy Ward's** childhood. **Gail** proceeded to tell us that from the ages of 10 to 12 **Stacy** had multiple surgeries to have 13 pins inserted in her body to deal with a hip displacement.



Elijah Baity was called upon to tell us what depressing story he had learned about **Gerry Wolfe**. In elementary school **Gerry** was a very good speller. She won the spelling bee every year except one. One year she was asked to spell Halloween. She got all of the letters correct, but she neglected to say "capital H" and was eliminated. Sounds like a Charlie Brown story.



Jim Webb reported on a depressing memory of **Deb Joseph**. **Deb** went to summer camp only once. The one year she went she returned home with a tight hair weave that created many tears for her and her mother as she tried to get the weave out.

To continue on this path **Ted Goldwyn** related that **KWI's** childhood memory was as a little leaguer of age 11. He had the dugout collapse on him. He was saved by the water cooler.

John Brown related that **Mike Platt** was born in northern England, but grew up near

London. In fact he grew up no more than 200 feet from the train station. Finally a happy memory.



Melissa Colacino was asked what she had learned about **John Sirianni**. **Melissa** admitted she thought there was nothing to share, but she did learn that as a youngster growing up in Pa, his younger brother Dave hit **John** in the head with a rock. **Melissa** realized that this explained a lot!



PROGRAM

Moving along to the program, **Ted Goldwyn** introduced our speaker Sean Lukasik. Sean is the Creative Marketing partner and visionary behind the Urban Corning blog. As part of an April Fool's joke in 2016 he and Dave Rochelle posted a fake news story claiming a new direct commuter rail line from Corning to New York City would begin service soon. 40,000 people read the blog, but many not to the end. Many believed the story.



Unknown to Sean and Dave people and organizations have been working on this since 1970 when the last commuter train passed through Corning.

Sean explained that no commuter train lines can be self-supporting. All commuter lines must be subsidized to be viable, but studies show that for every dollar of government support \$3 is returned to local economies.

The current goal is to fund a feasibility study to see where rail stations might be located, to determine if the existing rail lines could be used.

Sean noted that increased commuter rail traffic would be good for local industries that make and refurbish rail cars.

He noted that Steuben County gets requests all the time from groups in or around New York City who want to come visit the area. When it is revealed that there is no rail service to the area, the conversation is over.

One aspect of Sean's fundraising efforts is 'crowd sourcing,' where thousands of people would contribute small amounts of money to advance the feasibility study. Sean noted that there will be a launch party on June 8th at the Radisson. The goal is to have a totally nonpartisan feasibility study and the estimated cost for the study is about \$100,000.

If you want to contribute you can donate online at:
Communityfund.org or

Mail a check to
Community Foundation
301 South Main St.
Horseheads, New York 14845

The presentation was followed by a lively discussion including supporters and skeptics.

Thank you, Sean for a stimulating presentation.

50/50 The \$10 prize was won **Wendy Daines** table

PHOTOS: Jim Webb

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