

# Grapevine

---

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Dinner Meeting, April 10, 2017

Tonight was our Evening Meeting of April, and you would've thought it was a Summer's Eve, as temperatures reached 80 today in various places, and the Spring sun shone warmly upon us. We had a very nice turnout of members, 26 of us, along with 7 delightful guests. They included Sharon F., Cheryl S., Kathleen D., Kendall W., Lisa Q., and our special guests, Alicia Quarterman and Claire Radak.

President Bo opened our meeting, as we joined him in saying The Pledge. (In light of the Yankees' recent win), Jack led us in a very patriotic round of God Bless America. In her Invocation, Joyce asked the Heavenly Father to, indeed, bless Our Country, and all that we do as Rotarians.

Before our program began, there were a few announcements. Carrie stood in for Bill, and reported on our recent Trout Derby. Here are some of the "stats". There were 334 anglers. Overall, 52 fish were caught, and there were 12 catch and release(s). Approximately \$3000 was raised. That sounds like a very successful Derby! Thanks to Bill for spearheading this event, and to all who helped!

Next, Warren, standing in for Skip, who is away this week, passed around the Spring Dinner Sign-up Sheet. That event will be held 5/8/17, at the South Bristol Fish & Game Club. Those planning to attend may give their payment to Skip when he returns.

Jack spoke next, and shared Celeste Arlie's feedback from her visit with us last week. Evidently, on the Community FB Page, Celeste had expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to speak to us about her Community Composting. She felt very welcome, and we enjoyed learning about her worthwhile program.

Jamie concluded the announcements by providing us with Nominating Forms for the 2017 Robert Allen Award, and the Paul Harris Fellow Award. Each of us was asked to nominate up to 3 individuals, (from the list of potential recipients), for each award. We turned these in to Jamie at meeting's end.

...And then it was time for "the frosting on the cupcake"! Joyce introduced Kendall Wilt, our local coach for our oratorical contestants. Kendall, having taken a course entitled "Presentational Speaking" in Syracuse, was the perfect mentor for our students. They were eloquent! Two of our local contest winners, Claire Radak, and Alicia Quarterman came to speak this evening. Maeya Yeatman, our 3<sup>rd</sup> local winner, will come and speak to us at a later date. Claire and Maeya were sponsored by Naples, and Alicia was sponsored by Red Jacket. The students' speeches were to be based on the Rotary Four-Way Test, and each of these young women wove that "Motto of Living" into their talks.

Alicia, who was first to speak, began with the age-old adage, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." She cleverly used that statement as a springboard to lead into the theme of her talk. She described how, over the years, via Social Media, this idea, (of saying nice things), has declined. Using the most recent example of post-Election comments, through Social Media, she went on to prove her point in saying how negative comments can be very harmful. Alicia stated that if people were to think before they spoke, and if they tried to follow the guidelines of the Four-Way Test, it would lead to much kinder, more positive communication between us all.

Claire told us how last Summer, she attended the Youth Leadership Camp. She had participated in two different presentations. One left her feeling a bit bad, while the other made her feel inspired. She said the difference was in the way the presenters communicated with the participants. This personal example led

# Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Dinner Meeting, April 10, 2017

into Claire's theme of effective communication, and of course, she integrated the Four-Way Test with her theme as well. Using another example of her soccer experience in school, she recalled how important she felt it was to build others up; especially if they were newcomers to the team. "Uplifting words are important," said Claire. Rather than saying "don't", say "try" instead! Thank you to both girls for your inspiring messages, and thanks to your parents and families for their inspiration too! Finally, thanks to Joyce and Kendall for giving your time and talent(s) to our young people!

I'm really very verbose today! I'll try to wrap things up quickly! Bo said that the application for the District Simplified Grant (for the outdoor classroom in the Atrium) has been sent. There were hardly any fines paid today, but I'm willing to bet that nearly all of us submitted a Happy Bill for those fine speeches! The Kitty was at \$394. Kendall drew Steve's ticket, #588, and Steve, in turn, drew the Queen of Hearts. John M.'s Win/Win today was about our little community. In 1795, it was known as Middletown, and in 1808, it became Naples! Have a Happy Easter, everyone! See you on the 17<sup>th</sup>!

