

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Lunch Meeting, February 27, 2017

There was a nice turnout of members at today's meeting, as the Springlike weather seems to have continued in our beautiful valley. Twenty-five members, plus 3 guests, gathered for a very informative and enjoyable program. I'm glad that Bo and I "pushed on" so that we could make it back in time! Bo started us off with The Pledge, Jack led us in God Bless America, and Jamie gave the Invocation. Jamie asked The Lord to bless us "good-hearted" Rotarians, and to help us continue to serve our community and our world. Our 3 guests were introduced. They were Mike Kenyon, from the Canandaigua Rotary Club, Gary Smolinsky, and Gregory Eisenhut, who was our program presenter.

Bo read a Thank You letter from Judy Schwartz, representing Building Minds In South Sudan. They were very appreciative of the monetary support we have given them toward the construction of schools in that area. Bo also said that Naples Rotary had received a newsletter update from Budding Readers. Bill G. then talked about the Trout Derby, (a sure sign that Spring isn't far away)! Bill says that there is an early run of the trout this year. He will get a sign-up sheet together, and he would welcome any further ideas or suggestions. Bo also announced that the next Board Meeting will be on March 20th.

Jack introduced our guest speaker, Greg Eisenhut, who like Jack, hails from the Mohawk Valley. Greg, who has been active in many organizations in that area, and who has been involved with youth sports, came to talk to us today about Mercy Flight Central. MFC is a non-profit organization which is devoted to providing immediate help to people who are in need of serious medical attention. Currently, MFC is being challenged by for-profit organizations, however, MFC is remaining steadfast at this time. Begun in 1992, this year, 2017, marks the Silver Anniversary of this vital organization. "We are your hometown company", said Greg, as he offered us a chance to glance at some of the testimonials he brought. These documents were evidence of the wonderful help MFC provided in these persons' lives at a critical time. MFC has 3 bases: Canandaigua, Marcellus, and Rome. They are connected to all hospitals within the 18 county area in which they serve. MFC is comprised of 12 pilots, 4 mechanics, who are Vets, paramedics, flight nurses, and volunteer directors and medical directors. MFC generates its revenue through insurance and donations. Its goals include adapting to a 3 base structure, promoting fairer reimbursement, and securing a vision for the future. Keeping safety and speed in focus, Greg concluded by saying that MFC is making an impact in the lives of our neighbors.

Before collecting Fines and Happy Bills, we sang "Happy Birthday" to Steve. Brenda's Birthday is 2/28, so Best Wishes to you, too, Brenda! Al paid a fine for having his picture in the Rochester paper for being the oldest Eagle Scout in NYS! Missed meetings were paid for by Bessie, Jamie, Lee, Blanche, and Gerry. Jack will miss the Trout Derby this year. Pat, Bo, and Billy were on trips. Many Happy Bills were given in appreciation of the program. John B. says that for the next 9 Fridays, there will be classic movies at Brew and Brats. Marian mentioned her life story. John F. had been to NYC. Jack's grandson, Jacob, has qualified for The Nationals. Greg will meet his 6th grandchild, due in June. Frank and (I think) John B. had matching shirts. Bo and Pat appreciated John F.'s and Jane's help last week.

Steve selected ticket #6102, belonging to Pat and Bo. Bo drew the Queen of Clubs. Our Win-Win today was from Jamie with the saying, "Crazier than dune grass!" Bessie mentioned that next week, she will have bunches of Spring flowers for sale to help support Canandaigua Hospice. Our first meeting of March will feature an Eagle Scout Presentation. Hope you're all enjoying this warm weather! See you on the 6th!