

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Lunch Meeting, January 23, 2017

Today's meeting was comprised of a slightly smaller number of members. There were 18 of us, including Marion, plus three guests. After having had such a glorious weekend weather wise, I guess we didn't mind returning to the gray skies of Western New York today! Being treated to 60 degrees outside on Saturday was indeed, a bonus in January! Bo opened our meeting, having us join him in reciting The Pledge. Next, Jack led us in singing The Star-Spangled Banner. Bo had called upon Warren to say The Blessing, and in thanking Our Heavenly Father for the opportunity to serve others, Warren also asked that Our Country's Leaders and the New Administration be blessed as well. Excellent thoughts, Warren! Bo introduced Sharon, (who has had pretty good attendance lately), and Jack introduced our program presenters, Rick Jaws, our School Resource Officer, and Petrea Rae, Coalition Coordinator of Ontario County.

Our program today, entitled The Heroin Epidemic, was very informative, enlightening, and yet very sobering at the same time. Officer Jaws spoke first, starting with some fairly mind-boggling statistics. Last year, alone, there were 28 deaths due to drug overdoses in Ontario County. He said that figure had tripled since last year. "It's here in the Naples Community," says Officer Jaws, who has been working closely with Matt Frahm, our School Superintendent, to get information out to the students regarding the harmful effects of certain drugs. Through the use of a program entitled "The Truth About Drugs", he has endeavored to make our young people become more aware of the harmful repercussions incurred from using some of these specific drugs. He also talked about the Drop Boxes, which are intended to be a collection site for unused or outdated (prescription) drugs. Currently, a secure place in Naples is being sought out as a possible location for one of these boxes. These boxes, which are bolted to the floor or wall, heavily monitored, and kept locked up at night, serve to prevent accidental poisoning, according to O. Jaws. Drop Boxes are located in Bristol and in Rushville at this time. Regarding heroin use in Ontario County, O. Jaws said that its availability has increased, and that its use has increased as well. Actions such as burglaries occur more often in order to support such a habit. Officer Jaws said that he tries to get out "beyond the school" to establish awareness throughout the area.

Petrea Rae was next to speak, and as mentioned earlier, she is the Coalition Coordinator for the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Ontario County. "This is considered a community-wide problem", stated Petrea, who told about a Four Strategy Program that will be implemented this Summer. The goal will be to work around drug abuse within Ontario County, and "to get young people to understand that they're at risk", as she claims. Drug habits can be connected to many undesirable activities such as stealing to keep the habit(s) going. Subtle things going on at home should be carefully monitored, such as missing items, says Petrea. When asked what factors bring on the use of (harmful) drugs, she said that often, childhood trauma, and very often, genetic components play a major role in the development of such habits. "As is true with alcoholics, drug addicts face a lifelong battle", says Petrea. The Coalition's goal is to help these people stay in recovery. If they can help even one child, their goal has been met, according to Petrea. Core values need to be set up at home as an avenue of prevention also. Ways to become involved with this program were listed in the handouts that we received. Thanks to Officer Jaws and Petrea for presenting an excellent program today, and to Jack, for making the arrangements.

Our Fines today were collected from Joan, Matt, and Vicky for having missed meetings. Many Happy Bills were garnered today in appreciation of the program. We were 100 percent glad to have Our Vicky back

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with us! Welcome back, John F., who has returned from a trip to St. Croix. Vicky was glad to be back. Bill C.'s wife, Kit, took part in The Women's March in Seneca Falls. Bo received a little bottle of rum from John F. Pat and Bo had done a bit of golfing on Saturday, when it was so warm. Jack remembered listening to Wilbur Mills speak many years ago, when he (Jack), was involved with FLACRA. Bo's ticket, #936, was drawn today by Petrea, but Bo didn't draw a card today. Pastor Linda was unable to be here today, so we weren't "playing with a full deck"! Patrice had the Win-Win for us today. In addition to President Trump's wife, Melania, being from Slovenia, one other president in U.S. history had a wife from another country. It was John Q. Adams. His wife, Louisa, was from England. Congratulations to Matt, who knew the answer! That's all, folks! Have a great week, and we'll see each other on the 30th! Goodness! Where has January gone?