

# Grapevine

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Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Dinner Meeting, March 13, 2017

Twenty-two of us gathered for our Dinner Meeting on the eve of what was to be another “Nor’easter” headed our way. Those among us who are still working, including “retired” babysitters such as Yours Truly, are glad for this Snow Day! I am happy to get The Grapevine out to you all a bit earlier this week! We also welcomed 4 guests at our meeting tonight. Bo started us off, as we joined him in reciting The Pledge. Jack carried us through God Bless America. Pastor Linda volunteered to say the Blessing. She praised The Lord for seeing familiar and “evening” faces, as well as the beauty and purity of the freshly fallen snow upon the earth...as The Lord intended it to be.

Our guests tonight were Dr. Robert Nye, President of FLCC, Katie, Sharon, and Mindy. We also welcomed back Pastor Linda, who has been away for a while. We were happy to see her doing so well. We had a very special celebration this evening. Mindy so thoughtfully brought NY style cheesecakes to honor the 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday of our own Al Mann, who will reach that milestone on March 28<sup>th</sup>! As we savored this delectable dessert, we sang a heartfelt “Happy Birthday” to Our Patriarch. Al, how have you managed to reach such an incredible goal, as turning 102? Many of us believe it’s because of his positive outlook on life. I think we may be right, it’s a great rule to live by, as Al has proven!

Jack introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Robert Nye, President of FLCC. Dr. Nye, who is a relatively new member of the Canandaigua Rotary Club, stated that being a part of Rotary is a dream for him. Dr. Nye, a pleasant and well-spoken fellow, had a bit of a shaky start as a youth, having attended many different schools while growing up. During his college years, he was invited to attend an informal recruiting session that proved to be a turning point in his life. He spent 30 years in the Armed Services, making this commitment to serving Our Country a part of his career. Dr. Nye knew that he wanted to devote his life to serving others, and he knew he could accomplish that goal if he were to be in a leadership position. When the position became available at FLCC, he chose this opportunity over an offering at Lancaster, and he’s very grateful for having made this choice. He says he is able to call The Finger Lakes Area, “Home”! Dr. Nye describes FLCC, a community college, as a place of learning where everyone has an opportunity, and the courses offered are taught by teachers who have a great deal of experience. FLCC, which has locations in Canandaigua, Geneva, and Newark, is a “cultural, economic driver”, as Dr. Nye stated. As President of the college, he has goals for FLCC which include the creation of opportunities for students to succeed. He is currently working on a scholarship program that will be advantageous to students. The college has a low graduation rate, due to many factors such as cultural poverty, but Dr. Nye is trying to find ways to keep students in school despite these challenges. His goal is to elevate the graduation rate, and he hopes that in working with (area) companies, and establishing a Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) with them in regards to the students, he can achieve that goal. We appreciate the time Dr. Nye took to speak with us, and we are sure that FLCC is fortunate to have him as its leader, who seeks to broaden the horizons of its students.

Bill G. spoke next, and he said that a few slots remain for working on the Trout Derby, which is soon approaching. He will E-Mail the completed list to each of us, so that we can be aware of our work times. Bill asked that we try to get our donations to him ahead of time, so that everything will be ready on Trout Derby Day. Alex spoke next. The Maddie Gras Celebration will be this coming Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, in honor of Madeline Barton. There will be a parade at 2:00 p.m. and a Chicken BBQ as well, from 3-6 p.m. All are invited to participate in this event.

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Our fines today were as follows: Al, of course, has a very notable birthday coming up. Brenda and Alex had missed meetings. Skip and Judy had been on a trip to Florida to visit friends and relatives. Steve's cellphone went off. Carrie had a recent birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Adam and Linda didn't have their badges. And didn't Bo forget to mention "Sister" Sharon, as a guest, once again! Many Happy Bills came forth in praise of Dr. Nye's efforts to promote FLCC, and its students. Dr. Nye, himself, was glad to be with us tonight. Jack and Sharon were proud of grandson, Jacob, and his track accomplishments in NYC. John B, Warren, and Brenda, along with the rest of us, are glad for the inspiration Al brings to us. Bo and Pat had enjoyed Monte Carlo Night.

Our Kitty stood at \$276.00 tonight, and Dr. Nye drew ticket #243, which belonged to Bessie. Bessie drew the King of Clubs. John M. had a Win-Win ready for us tonight. The year was 1794, and Suzanna Parrish was the first teacher in Naples. Now, that goes back in time! There will be a Board Meeting next Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45, before the regular meeting. Stay safe and warm, everyone, and have a Happy St. Patrick's Day! May the road rise to meet you! See you on the 20<sup>th</sup>!

