

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Lunch Meeting, May 15, 2017

As the saying goes, "There is strength in numbers", and that maxim certainly seems to be proving itself to be true when it comes to attendance at meetings! Today there were 30 of us on board, plus two guests, and that made for a nice turnout of members to hear our speaker, and to enjoy the program. May had teased us a while back, with some summery temps, but today a slight chill ensued. Nevertheless, our lively conversations 'round the table kept things warm inside.

We began today's meeting by joining Bo in reciting The Pledge. Afterwards, Jack carried us through The Star-Spangled Banner. Warren's words in his Blessing were quite fitting, as we close in on our Rotary Year 2016-17. "Heavenly Father, thank you for having the opportunity to serve others," he said. Bill G. introduced his guest, Ethan Mapes, and Jack introduced our guest speaker, Jerry Ludwig. Alex stood in today for Linda, as acting sergeant at arms.

Skip spoke next, as he described the overall success of the Lucky Ducky Derby this year. Around 240 "Ducks" were sent out, and it was a "sell-out"! He thanked everyone for their help. We even had some winners among us...Bo and Jamie won some cash, and Warren won a gift certificate! He also reminded us that the Gavel Dinner on 6/19 will be at Brew N' Brats. Julie, from Café Sol, will cater for us again. There will be a different menu this time. I think we were all glad to hear that she will be cooking for us again! The lovely meal she served us at last week's Spring Dinner got raving reviews! John M. told us that the Naples Historical Society's Spring Dinner will be on June 4th at 4:00. The cost is 15.00 per person, and from John's description, this meal, too, sounds like a dandy! Alex is currently working on a scrapbook, thus, she asked that we save any clippings and/or news items about Naples Rotary for her. She is hoping to put news items about Naples Rotary in local papers as well. Great idea, Alex!



Jack introduced our guest speaker, Jerry Ludwig, whom one would describe as a home improvement columnist. Before Jerry "took the podium", Jack gave a very descriptive overview of his (Jerry's) rich background. Jerry extended his thanks to Jack, and to Al, who also was a longtime friend. He had had a Summer place on Walton Point, therefore, Naples has been a part of his life experience. Having an interest in home restoration and preservation, he contacted the D. and C., asking if they would like to have a weekly housing column. Jerry said his pet peeve is "historic preservation", and he gave us some excellent pieces of advice regarding living in an older home. "If you happen to buy an older home, do no harm," he said. "As with cars, avoid inappropriate modifications." "Live in the house one year before making changes."

Jerry went on to tell us that should one want to make some changes, one should hire someone who knows "sensitive design". "Don't get caught up in T.V. programs!" Jerry admonished. Further tips that he provided were to seek the help of architects, and landmark people who were in the know. He concluded his talk by telling us to remember that there was no such thing as a maintenance-free house. That's for sure!!! In closing, Jerry welcomed many questions from the group, which made for a lively discussion.

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In the “Fine” area today, we had Bill C., Bill G., Bessie, and Mike having missed meetings. Bruce, Jack, Steve, and Pat were without their badges. Many Happy Bills were garnered in appreciation of today’s program, the success of the Lucky Ducky Derby, and the enjoyable Spring Dinner. Some of our golfers, such as Jack and John F. were glad that Golf Season is “in full swing”.

Alex, our stand-in sergeant at arms, said that 45.00 worth of tickets were sold today, and that the balance was 83.00. Jerry drew Ticket #437, which was Frank’s ticket. Frank fished the Jack of Diamonds from the pack.

John M. had a three-part Win-Win for us today! The first grapes were in 1848. The first winery was Maxfield in 1882, and Widmers’ was established in 1888. Bill G. piggy-backed on these historical tidbits by asking us to estimate how long it took for the ducks, once they were dumped, to cross the finish line. The answer was 3 ½ minutes!! On that note, I hope it will be “smooth sailing” for everyone this week!