

# Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Spring Dinner, May 8, 2017

After days of what seemed like endless rain, the sun finally poured out its glory this past Monday evening. There was, indeed, a certain “glow” among us at the South Bristol Fish And Game Club too, as 49 of us gathered for our Annual Spring Dinner. It was a beautifully-attended event, as 39 of us were Rotary members, and the additional 10 were our guests. Our special guests were: Sharon (Jack), Peggy (Larry), Terry (Gerry), Mindy (Steve), Bob (Lynda), Kathleen (Frank), Katie (John B.), Sherry (John F.), Meg (Mike), and Clayton (Karen). It was wonderful to have so many extra folks to help us celebrate Spring!

President Bo opened our dinner meeting with The Salute to The Flag, that Jack so efficiently produced. We all joined Jack afterwards, in singing God Bless America, and with such a large group, we certainly gave this patriotic song justice! In his Blessing, Jamie thanked the Lord for His Blessings. As this current Rotary year soon draws to a close, Jamie thanked God, also, for all the opportunities we’ve had to serve others both within, and beyond our community.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of The Robert Allen Award, given by our own eloquent Jamie. This award, which is local, honors the memory of Robert Allen, who was the first president of the Naples Rotary. Its Charter Night was May 1, 1939, so it was very fitting that these honors were given on this evening in May. I say

“honors”, because this year, we are celebrating two fine Naples Rotary members. The first one is known for his hospitality, friendliness, and honorable business ethics. He is President of Hospice House and a beer analyst. (That attribute gave it away!) Moreover, though, this gentleman’s engaging personality, leadership qualities, and true “service above self” makes him the perfect recipient of this award. This honor was bestowed upon our own John French, our President-Elect. Our second recipient is Neapolitan-bred. He married into a “Rotary Family”, and has exemplified all of the attributes a true Rotarian should have. He has been on The Board, has been a Past President, and has been involved in Youth Exchange. He has devoted many hours to The Trout Derby and The Lucky Ducky Derby, being an integral part of the success of both events. His genuine and easy-going manner, his personal ethics, and his sense of commitment in all that he

undertakes make him the ideal choice for this honor. (On a personal note, this fine fellow also went the extra mile to get a lovely display board last year, so that our club could participate in the Service Projects Aspect of the District Assembly.) This most worthy recipient of the RA Award was our own Bill Grove. The Naples Rotary Club extends its warmest congratulations to each of you, and sincere congratulations to Sherry and Carrie as well!!



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After we enjoyed a sumptuous dinner prepared and catered by Julie, from Café Sol, we continued with a few more items on this evening's agenda. Skip stated that we need more "duck sales" in preparation for the Lucky Ducky Derby this coming Saturday. Members were encouraged to sign up to help sell LD tickets outside Rennoldson's Market this Friday (5/12). Lee reminded us of the Voce Canto Chorale, which was to be held on Tuesday, (5/9), at Trinity. Bo rang "the dinner bell" again, to let us know that we would dispense with the fines tonight. We did, however, do the 50/50 tonight, and by golly, Karen's ticket, #251, was picked! Bill drew the Nine of Hearts, so on we go. Mike, on behalf of all of us, thanked Skip, Judy, and Julie for all they did to make our Spring Dinner such a pleasant experience. We joined Steve in a hearty round of applause, as we congratulated our Blanche on her recent retirement from the Naples Library. Finally, before calling it a night, we cheered Brenda and Arbor Hill for their generous donation of beer and wine to complement our delicious dinner.

Finally, as I draw to a close, I'd like to end with a quote that I gleaned from an old issue of Country Magazine, taken from their "Rural Pearls" Section. It seems to sum up our Naples Club so perfectly! "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give". So true! Have a wonderful week everyone! We'll see each other at our Noon Meeting on Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup>! P.S. Happy Mother's Day to all of the Moms!