Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY Lunch Meeting, December 4, 2017

One would have thought it was a fine Fall day today, and not the beginning of December, as sunshine and mild temperatures greeted us for our first meeting of December! Twenty-four of us gathered for our noon meeting, and it was a pleasure to see the front dining room so well-filled! President John opened the meeting, as we joined him in saying The Pledge. Our regular song leader, Jack, was in Penfield today, with Grandson, Jacob, so our Voce Canto Soprano, Judy, was asked by President John to lead us. Judy did a fine job leading us in The Star-Spangled Banner! Steve gave the Invocation. He thanked The Lord for His blessings upon us, and he asked that we may be ever mindful of the needs of our community, especially during this season of giving. Today, we welcomed our special guest, and program presenter, Wade Sarkis.

Here are some items for the calendar. We sang "Congratulations" to our members with December birthdays and anniversaries. Karen (Clayton), and Gerry (Terry), each have an anniversary, and Kayc Jo has a birthday this month. Best wishes to each of you! Skip gave a "last call" for the Annual Christmas Party, which is next Monday evening, December 11th, at the Naples Hotel. Skip also did a check-over for Operation Santa deliveries, which will take place on Saturday, December 16th, from 9-12. This Wednesday, December 6th, the Eastern Cities Fellowship Dinner will take place at the Riverside Convention Center. The program for December 18th will be Lagom Landing. The program for January 8th is the Naples Valley Karate. Our Santa Book Delivery will be at the Elementary School on December 22nd, at 9:00. "Santa" and "His Elves" are eagerly awaiting this special event! Bill C. gave us an update on Al and Fran. Al is doing okay, but Fran is not coming along quite as well. They may possibly go into assisted living. President John suggested that we get a "group photo" taken at the Christmas Party to give to Al and Fran to help him keep in touch. Great idea! John also mentioned that December is Rotary Disease Prevention and Treatment Month.

As mentioned earlier, our guest speaker was Wade Sarkis, owner and manager of the Canandaigua Financial Group. Wade, however, was not with us today to discuss financial matters, instead, as President of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, he was here to give a "State of the Lake" report.



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Wade attended Naples Central School and graduated from Cornell University. He moved to Bristol Harbour, where he and his wife Joselyn, of 30 years, raised three sons. Wade explained that Our Watershed has 34 "subwatersheds" and the entire area is comprised of 12 major municipalities. We were able to clearly see this area, as Wade used helpful visuals, such as maps and charts to accompany his presentation. He explained that the primary Watershed land use is 45% forest, 26% agriculture, 10% residential/community, and 5% wetlands. Our area economy is driven by the lake, Wade explained, and examples of this are tourism, fishing, and real estate. There are, however, some existing threats to the Watershed, such as bluegreen algae, whose growth is promoted by hot, sunny weather. Other threats include invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels. Wade stated that local municipal regulations are necessary to maintain properly functioning systems within the Watershed. Other various initiatives include land protection, municipal partnerships, education outreach, and periodic testing of water clarity. The CLWA is a non-profit organization whose goal is to preserve, protect, and promote this vital area. Ways that this is being done are Watercraft Steward Program, Invasive Species Monitoring, Wetland Restoration Initiatives, and Watershed Pollution Initiatives. At the conclusion of his program, Wade entertained questions. The CLWA 2017 Annual Report, and 2018 Membership Form were available to all those interested. Many thanks to Wade for a most informative program!

Weekly Fines: Bo's cellphone rang a couple of times! Tom, Lee, Frank, and Karen had missed meetings. John B. had been on a trip to visit the grandkids. (Jane also reminded John that there was an article in the paper about the "Steak Wagon"! Perhaps John F, submitted a fine for this reason as well!

Weekly Happy Bills: The collection basket became full of dollars in support of the excellent program! Nancy's granddaughter has excelled at soccer. Bo was glad to have Wade with us. Alex will meet her grandson, Sutton, for the first time this week. Many of us were pleased with the talent displayed by our musical Rotarians at the Community Concert on Sunday.

Ace of Hearts: Well it was either Warren or Bo who had the "right" ticket! As it turned out, it was Bo who drew the Nine of Spades! Perhaps Warren should've given it a try! He might've had better luck!!

Win-Win: President John, in conjunction with today's program, asked if we knew how many Finger Lakes there were. I think we all knew the answer to this one! Eleven!

Rotary Moment: Steve had recently been in Strasburg, Virginia, and being the friendly, outgoing guy that he is, didn't he strike up a conversation with another Rotarian!

That's the Rotary News for this week! Take care, one and all! Hope to see many of you at the Christmas Party next Monday!