

# Grapevine

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Rotary Club of Naples, NY  
Lunch Meeting, February 12, 2018

Tonight was our Evening Meeting of February, and we gathered in the large dining room of The Redwood, as 21 Rotarians, plus 10 guests filled three long tables! President John was able to have our meeting “aired” on Facebook Live, thus, some of our out-of-town members, along with unavailable members could still be “a part” of the meeting! We heard from Jack, (and Sharon), John B., (and Katie), Gary and Kat, and Leah. Hopefully, for these folks, it was like “being there with us”!

President John opened the meeting, as we joined him in reciting The Pledge. John, with his equally beautiful voice as Jack, led us in singing The Star-Spangled Banner. Our Invocation was given by Steve, who thanked The Lord for His Blessings, and for giving us the energy to serve others. Our special guests this evening included Phoebe Neubauer, our outgoing exchange student, her parents, Melissa and Karl, and her younger sister, Frazey. Phoebe’s grandparents, Margaret and Tom Fagnoli, were present too! Kathleen Duserick was guest of Frank, Lauren Maynard was guest of John and Sherry, and Mike Ball was guest of Steve. Another special guest visiting us this evening was Jean McMillan, from the Wayland Rotary Club, who is the Assistant Governor for Area 3.

Before going on to The Mailbag, we sang a hearty round of “Happy Birthday” to Our February Friends, and that included John F., Billy, Brenda, Bo, and Steve. Warm wishes to each of you as you celebrate your special day! Then it was on to The Mailbag! Warm greetings came from Jamie and Bessie, who are currently in Cambodia. “We’re never far from Rotary!” said Jamie. The Canandaigua Rotary is holding a “Bowl-A-Thon” to help build scholarship funds. It will be on 3/11, at 4:00, at Roseland Bowl. Interested members are encouraged to form a team. Calendar-wise, don’t forget about the Special Meeting on 2/26. Carpooling is probably a good idea on that day. Once again, The District Conference is May 4-6 in Saratoga, and The International Conference is slated for June 23-27 in Toronto. Billy, who is in charge of the Tout Derby, said that even though April 1<sup>st</sup> is on Easter Sunday, the Derby is “a go”. He will soon have the sign-up sheets available for us to choose work times. John reminded us that dues are due. See Susan to handle that matter.

Last Saturday, (2/10), the District Oratorical Semi-Finals were held here at the Naples High School. There were seven students who participated; three of whom were Naples students. Two of the contestants who were selected were from Naples. Elizabeth M. placed third, and Felicity H., who was sponsored by Prattsburgh Rotary, placed fourth, and will serve as an alternate. Congratulations to these two young ladies. All seven students were quite poised and eloquent, and each of them spoke about timely and meaningful subjects. Many thanks to Joyce, Skip, and Judy for all their involvement with the Oratorical Contest, and to Kendall Wilt, who coached our Naples speakers. Thank you to Bo for keeping time during each speech, and finally, our thanks to Matt for your ongoing support of our students!

Next, it was Jean’s turn to take the podium. She joined us this evening to talk a bit about the “Friendship Exchange”. There is a group coming from Australia to visit during the week of June 11-15. Housing is needed for 3 couples and five single females. Essentially, this would be a “bed and breakfast” set-up, as these folks need a place to sleep, and a bite of breakfast in the morning before beginning their day’s activities. Jean told us that this a wonderful opportunity to meet and make new friends, to learn about their culture and customs, and to extend a warm Rotary welcome to these visitors. Jean’s hope is that a few of us might be able to offer some help, and share our homes with these guests.

Miss Phoebe Neubauer, our outgoing exchange student to Austria for 2018-19, was our special guest speaker tonight. Phoebe shared with us some of the reasons why she wanted to spend her junior year

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abroad, and why she chose Austria. This country is very dear to her heart, as her grandfather hails from this beautiful country, and she has relatives who live there. Phoebe said that her family visited Austria over the Summer, and it was then that she became determined to study abroad. She told us that Rotary has had much influence on her, and that she hopes to learn much about her family background as she experiences her year in Austria. She is planning to immerse herself in the German Language while there, and she hopes this experience will enable her to one day reach her goal of becoming an interpreter, or a linguist. She sees herself as “a finished product in the making”, as she embarks on this new chapter in her young life. Phoebe is a bright, well-spoken and charming young lady, and we’re certain she’ll be a wonderful ambassador of Our Country! We wish her well in all that she plans to do!

Our Friends who have February Birthdays paid fines tonight. Missed meeting fines were paid by Brenda and Laurie. John F. had his cell phone ring, and nearly missed introducing guest, Jean! A multitude of Happy Bills filled Karen’s basket in praise and support of Phoebe, and her excellent presentation! Many were pleased to have seen so many Rotarians at Vintage, Vines, and Valentines over the weekend. Many were pleased, also, about the nice outcome of the Oratorical Semi-Finals.

Carrie’s ticket, #2457, put her in line to draw the Ace of Hearts. She picked an Ace, but it was the Ace of Diamonds!

The question for our Win-Win tonight was in two parts. Part One was that the first Rotary Exchange was in 1927. Part Two was that 9,000 students from 80 countries participate annually! Wow!!

Carrie did our Rotary Moment. She had Frazey in second grade, and it was then that they learned the story of The National Anthem.

On a more serious note, Our Rotary Family extends our heartfelt condolences to Katie and John, Tom, and Sherry and John, on the passing of their dear brother-in-law and uncle, Darryl Braun. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sally, and all your family at this time.

Have a good week, all, and we’ll see each other for our Noon Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>!