

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY
Lunch Meeting, November 27, 2017

Things looked very festive, and the Christmas Season has been ushered in at The Redwood, as today, we gathered for our last meeting of November. Twenty-four of us met at noon today, and we welcomed three guests. Sharon was the guest of Jack, Tad was the guest of Jodi, and Jack introduced our special guest, Kelly VandeSande, who was our speaker. We started our meeting by joining President John in reciting The Pledge. Jack chose to lead us in God Bless America. John called upon Alex to give the invocation. Alex thanked The Lord for the many blessings bestowed upon us, and she asked The Lord to continue to bless us as we strive to serve others. We concluded our opening “ritual” by singing a hearty round of “Happy Birthday” to Tad.

Our speaker, Kelly, who is our Elementary School Nurse, was on a “tight shift”, so we reversed the order of things, and we had her speak to us next. With all the pretty Christmas decorations strewn about, it seemed perfectly logical that Kelly talk to us about Operation Santa 2017.



This is the second year Kelly has served as moderator of Operation Santa. As chairperson of this wonderful program, which has been in existence for over 70 years, Kelly has a group of about 30 high school students

who are working under her guidance. This year, around 42 families and about 100 children will benefit from the efforts of Operation Santa, and the generosity of the Naples community. The H.S. students shop for the gifts, and wrap them individually for the various families. The items are delivered, with the help of Rotary, in big black bags, to ensure that the kids are surprised when Christmas arrives! Following her talk, Kelly entertained some questions and suggestions regarding purchases for the elderly. According to Kelly, everything will operate out of the Elementary School this year. The canvassing will take place on December 6th, and the actual delivery of the Christmas gifts will be December 16th. Thank you for reminding us what this season is all about, Kelly! President John presented her with a check for \$100, to show our support from Rotary.

Now it was time for our Mailbag! There was a request from Operation Santa for some monetary support. We're all set! John read a note from Judy, thanking us for our generosity in helping to provide benches for Building Minds In South Sudan. John shared a Thank You Note from Phoebe Neubauer. Phoebe will be our 2018-19 Rotary Exchange Student, and she will be going to Austria! She is very appreciative of our support!

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Calendar Items: Skip is taking reservations for the Christmas Party at the Naples Hotel on December 11th. Wade Sarkis will coming to visit us on December 4th, to talk about the Canandaigua Lake Watershed. The Eastern Cities Fellowship Dinner is December 6th. The District Conference in Saratoga will be the first weekend in May. The Rotary International Convention is in June. After December 15th, the cost rises.

Foundation; John showed us a short film that showed how our giving to the Rotary Foundation has helped with prenatal care in developing countries.

Dictionaries: They will be distributed to the third graders today at 1:30 at the Elementary School.

Music In Our Lives: Jack reported that the Ecumenical Christmas Concert will be held this coming Sunday, December 2nd, at St. Januarius at 2:00. The Trinity Bells and the Voce Conto Chorale will a part of the concert. Jack says that additional music can be added at this point, as well. Also, Light Up Naples will be December 9th.

Rotary Friends: Blanche told us that Brenda had her knee surgery, and that everything went well. She is convalescing at Thompson Continuing Care. If anyone would like to send her a card, she is in Room 136. Bill Cooper gave us an update on Al. he and Fran are currently in rehab at Clark Meadows. I'm sure they'd appreciate hearing from us too! Bill will keep us updated on Al's progress. It was so nice to see Sherry back today after a brief illness. We enjoy her sense of humor! Congratulations to Roberta on her recent retirement! Hopefully, we'll see you at the Noon Meetings!

Fines: Bill C., Steve, Donna, Mike, Sherry, and Lynda had missed meetings. Jack didn't have his pin. Bo had been on a trip. Roberta wasn't sure! Warren had given her a dollar for something!

Happy Bills: Many had had a nice Thanksgiving, and thus, wanted to put a dollar in Karen's collection basket. We all enjoyed Kelly's program as well! Jodi was happy to have Tad with her today. Bill C.'s great-granddaughter is performing in a rendition of The Nutcracker. Warren is glad that Roberta has retired. Jack is hoping to squeeze in a game of golf if it warms up! Joan had a house full of family for Thanksgiving. Donna and Susan are glad for Roberta. Sherry's parents are going to see Tina and family. Husband, John, "tied the turkey"! Pat and Bo were happy to have visited their kids in Massachusetts.

Ace of Hearts: Jodi's ticket, #697, was pulled. The Kitty is at \$230! Jodi drew the Jack of Spades!

Win-Win: John showed us the name, Clement Clark Moore on the screen. Of course, our librarian, Blanche, knew that that was the author of "The Night Before Christmas"!!

Rotary Moment: Bill Cooper offered us "An American Flag Story" today. Apparently, there was no flag available at a Rotary Meeting in Arizona. Everyone was asked to turn and face Bill, as he was wearing a strawberry pink jacket, and that was as close as they could get to The Flag!

In Conclusion: As we enter into the month of December, though the days are shorter, and the nights are longer, let us not forget how Winter's arrival can give a chance to warm up to family and friends in the very best of ways! Take care, all! See you on December 4th!