

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY
Lunch Meeting, October 23, 2017

Today's meeting was "chock-full" of interesting items, including a triple delight program, brought to us by three of our newest members. As there is much to cover from today's meeting, I am using a slightly different format in reporting this week's happenings. Perhaps it may please many members, as I'll try to be a little more succinct!!

Opening Items: We had 27 members in attendance today. President John led us in saying The Pledge. John also carried us through The Star-Spangled Banner. Alex led us in The Blessing, asking The Lord to bless us as we continue in our efforts to serve others. Our guests were Tom Pawluk and Mike Ball.

Mailbag: John read a note from Michael Miyazato, thanking us for our assistance with his Eagle Scout Project. There is a "perpetual slide" urging us to attend this year's District Conference in Saratoga Springs. Today, Gary, Deb, and Sherry were our program presenters. Next week, Leah and Nancy will tell us about themselves. World Polio Day will be on 10/24/17. (Many of us observed this event via a live stream at Brew and Brats.) Regarding the Walk of Life, we applauded Mike, Jodi, and Tom for all their efforts in making this event a success. A check for \$3000 plus went to Tom, (Margery Pawluk Cancer Fund), and a check for \$15000 plus goes to Hospice House. Each of these checks were from the proceeds from the Walk of Life. John gave a brief recap from today's Board Meeting. Alex gave an update on the Community Calendar Fundraiser. She still needs help with sales, at this point.

Today's Program: Three of our newest members each gave us a "peek into their pasts" as they shared their experiences, goals, and aspirations with us. Judging from their presentations, it is clear to see why each of these fine members will be an asset to our Naples Rotary.



Gary Smolinsky was first to take the podium. Born and raised in Johnson City, near Binghamton, Gary had attended Broome County Community College. Gary's affable, easy-going nature was evident as he spoke, and told us how he eventually found his way into the Finger Lakes area, coming to enjoy "country life", and meeting his "soulmate", Katharine. They have been together 9 ½ years! Gary had met Steve, Skip, John, and Sherry along the way, and somehow, these new friendships had inspired Gary to want to "give back" to the community, thus his interest in joining Rotary was sparked! An avid lover of sports and the outdoors, along with a sense of commitment to others, will certainly make Gary a vibrant member of our

Rotary Club. Welcome aboard, Gary!!

Deb Lindbloom was our next speaker, and here is a gal of many talents! Deb has lived in the Naples area since 1999, and she has two children, Caitlin and Matthew. She has later met and married Frank. Deb told us that she had always had a fear of flying, and it was her daughter, Caitlin, who had helped her to overcome her fears, by accompanying her on visits to some European countries. Public speaking also presented itself



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as a challenge to Deb, as she claimed, yet she was absolutely eloquent! Deb had worked as a secretary at Bristol Mountain for many years, and eventually became Operations Manager. Deb also shared her creative strand with us. She is very accomplished at stenciling and has done oil painting on canvas as well. Deb, too, was interested in becoming involved with “giving back” to the community. Back in June, she came to a meeting, and no doubt, she felt that becoming a Rotarian was the right move. Tom Hawks sponsored her, and we are so pleased to have her become a part of our Rotary Club! Welcome, Deb!!



Our third presenter was Sherry Brahm-French, who grew up in Naples. Sherry's background through her education and work experience formed a foundation for her, and gave her the impetus to become involved in retail, as she is today at Arbor Hill. Sherry shared with us how her involvement with Operation Santa, as a high school student, gave her a sense of what it means to “Do unto others”. Her poignant talk conveyed to us what a loving and caring person she is! Growing up in a “Rotary Family”, along with her family hosting a Rotary exchange student, have given Sherry a true taste of “Rotary Life”, and the many facets that being a Rotarian encompasses. In addition to being married to John, her hobbies include “Sugar” and “Lady”, their pups. Like Deb, Sherry, too, is very crafty. Sherry, your talents will be a welcome addition to Naples Rotary! Many thanks to these three outstanding new members for your wonderful presentations, and for all you will bring with you for the good of the club!!

Today's Fines: Al and Mike did not have their badges. Missed meetings were for Brenda, Warren, Andrea, Donna, Lee, Steve, Matt, and Gary.

Happy Bills Today: Many, many members appreciated our three wonderful presentations. Bill C. has great-grandchild #13! Lee, for his son. Warren, for a trip to Florida. Donna, for Nancy, and “wrapping up” the Grape Fest. Tom P., for the MPCF. Matt, for the Boys' Sectionals. John F., for the Voce Canto starting up. Gary, for being with us. Jodi, for the WOL and Scout Trip. Deb, for being with us.

Fifty-Fifty: The Kitty was at \$135. Joan drew ticket #420. It was Coop's! He drew the Ace of Clubs!

Win-Win: John M. asked us if any of us knew some of the various uses that The Memorial Town Hall had in the past. Answer: Shoe Factory and Furniture Factory!

Rotary Moment: John B., “our energy miser”, said that when they hosted Vera, the Rotary Exchange Student, she liked to leave the window open all the time, even during chilly weather!! Also, being that it was a bit of a “culture shock” coming to the Naples Area for Vera, she wondered when the next train would be coming to take her shopping!! How we wish!!

Our next meeting at noon, on 10/29, will feature presentations by Leah and Nancy. Have a great week everyone! See you then!