

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Lunch Meeting, August 28, 2017

It was a pleasure to return to Rotary today, and not only find so many friendly faces, but a great new set-up for the meeting as well! Among the 29 of us in attendance were two guests, and our newest member, Judy Schewe, the new director at the Naples Library. In addition to a new physical arrangement, we have a new TV screen to enhance our meetings also! Many thanks to Jack for helping to get this new feature in place!

Our new President for 2017-18, John French, got our meeting underway, as we joined him in saying The Pledge. Joyce gave a beautiful invocation, as she asked The Lord to bless our Rotary efforts in serving others. Since there were so many of us present, a hearty rendition of God Bless America ensued! Our guests today included Sharon, wife of Jack, and Mike Ball, guest of Steve.

I like the way President John refers to the sharing of announcements and upcoming events as “The Mail Bag”, and there seemed to be plenty today! Our Annual Steak Roast is Monday, September 11th. The Social hour is at 5:30 with Dinner following at 6:30. We will gather at the VFW, and we’ll each bring a dish to share if we plan to attend. Skip passed out reminders to us, so be sure to let him know if you plan to come! That event is always a nice “kick-off” to Fall for us! There is no meeting on Labor Day. Mike has talked to Bill C. and he is currently doing well, which is good news. On September 16th, there will be a Membership Seminar, and on September 30th, there will be a District Membership Development Seminar. Alex will attend this with John F. As John pointed out, this event should present an excellent opportunity for fellowship connections. Regarding the Grape Fest, Donna is looking for someone to monitor the Wine Valet Tent. We have a foursome for our Rotary Golf Tournament on September 8th—Jack, Adam, Bo, and Pat. (Thank goodness we’ll have Jack and Adam on board! Bo and I are a little rusty after being away all Summer!) Many school supplies have been donated, and continue to come in. Susan wishes to thank us all. Susan will also try to get in touch with someone (Rotary) from Rockford, Texas, to see what we can do to help. Evidently, this area was hard-hit by Hurricane Harvey. Dues are now due. Many thanks to John F. from “The Golfers” for the Rotary golf balls! Hope they’ll bring us good luck!

Warren introduced our guest speaker for today. We were pleased to meet Penny Punnett, the owner of The Vagabond Inn. Warren and Roberta recently had a pleasant experience at The Vagabond Inn, resulting in Penny’s willingness to come and do a program for us. Warren referred to her as “a talented young lady”, and that, she is! Penny described herself as “a Marine at heart”, and told us that she takes everything “head on”. Growing up as part of a needy family, she said that her teachers and community were very supportive of her. She had lived in various places such as Florida, Oklahoma, and Michigan. After her experience in The Marine Corps, she worked on finding her niche. Becoming an author was a realization, as she has published three books! Her husband’s family had built in the area, and somehow, she found herself in “the bed and breakfast mode”. The B and B Business took over, and she has become very involved with school as well, since her son has had a very positive experience at NCS. Penny, whose focus is on kids, had some great ideas to share with us. She is looking for property to open a “Rec Center” for NCS kids as an after school place to go. She is thinking about having a fundraiser to help donate to needy kids at school. She’d like to start a running club (for girls?) to help build confidence. She’d like to find ways to help provide healthy snacks for the kids who go to the Naples Library after school is out. These ideas outline some of her goals for our Naples youth, and they clearly show that she is devoted to the children! Many thanks to Penny for sharing

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her excellent ideas with us! Thanks, also, to Warren for arranging her visit to Naples Rotary! Afterwards, President John, using our new screen, showed us a video on Polio Eradication. Our Rotary goal is "Let's Drop To Zero!"

FINES: Jack was a bit late. John F. and Steve had cellphone calls. Joyce had been camping. Judy S., Steve, Lee, Bo and Pat had missed meetings.

HAPPY BILLS: Practically everyone put in a Happy Bill for the program. Matt was thankful for the school supplies. John F. appreciates the staff at Brew and Brats. Mike's daughters are off to college, and he's glad the GF will be over in 4 weeks! Joyce had a nice camping experience. Frank was thankful for Bruce. Judy S. joined the Voce Canto. Steve was glad to have some vacation and the Camp O. Summer Session went well.

TICKETS: Frank's ticket, #058, was selected. Frank drew the Jack of Clubs.

WIN-WIN: President John had one for us today! Who had introduced singing in Naples Rotary? It was Harry Ruggles at Rotary International!

ROTARY MOMENT: This was courtesy of Jack! He recently did a make-up meeting at the Victor-Farmington Club at Ravenwood. You can imagine he was delighted to find out that the guest speaker at the meeting that day was our own John French!!

On a personal note, Bo and I are delighted to be back after being away all Summer. I'd like to thank Jane and Joyce for filling in for me during my absence as well. You both did a great job! Hope you all had a nice Labor Day Weekend! See you at the Steak Roast!