

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY
Lunch Meeting, August 6, 2018

As the month of August greets us, so have those sizzling “dog days of Summer” befallen us as well! Twenty-five members, plus three guests, gathered for our Noon Meeting, and did our best to keep cool on this sultry day! President Jack opened our meeting, as we joined him in saying The Pledge to Our Flag. Just as Jack was about to ask him, John F. broke out with God Bless America, and we all “chimed in”, as this is a fairly easy song to sing for all of us! Susan gave The Blessing, and she thanked The Lord for giving us, in our various roles as Rotarians, the ability and means to serve others. Our guests were introduced, and that included Shirley, Mark, and Andy, our program presenter.

Jack went on to share the Mailbag Items with us. There were just two pieces of mail today. First, we received a Thank You from The Rotary Foundation for our support (\$400) of Rotary’s polio eradication efforts. Second, a note from Deb Boggs expressed her thanks for our donation to The Blood Drive, in order to help with supplies. Her note mentioned that she received the donation from Joan and Jim. Also, Jennifer, from Hospice House, wished to impart her thanks for the donations of groceries, as they are getting started. Supplies of breakfast items and non-perishable goods are always welcome at HH!

John F. took the floor next, to tell us about the 2019 Version of the Naples Rotary Community Calendar. This year, Sherry will be handling this project, and she passed out individual household calendar order forms and packets to each of us. We are expected to get all updates completed, and have our paperwork back to Sherry by Monday, August 20th. Please see Frank if anyone wants to put in an ad, as there are some spaces available. Our 39th Calendar Edition should be in everyone’s hands well before Thanksgiving according to John! We have been encouraged to sell at least two calendars apiece in order to exceed our goal, so let’s shoot for it friends!

Penny spoke about Operation Build-Up, which involves fixing up cars for Vets. By doing so, our Vets are enabled and encouraged to meld into everyday life, and to acclimate to the changes therein. This week, one of the vehicles went to Our Karen’s own son, Joey! We are very pleased about that!

President Jack gave us some dates to put on our calendars. Here are the Rotary dates for the rest of August and September: Next week, 8/13, is an Evening Meeting, with Bob Green, representing the Ontario County Safety Committee. New members will do their bios on 8/20. Heather Manley, representing MOPS, will be with us on 8/27. On 9/3, there is no meeting, as it is Labor Day. The Steak Dinner will be on 9/10. Jessica Witherow will talk about Massage Therapy on 9/17. And, of course, Our Grape Festival is the weekend of 9/22-9/23!



Empowering, encouraging, and exciting might be the way to express The Walden Project, which was presented by our special guest, Andy Webster, at today’s meeting. Andy has been in the Naples Area for about 11 years, and has taught in public schools in the past, but now he is an instructor in a new type of classroom environment... the great outdoors! The Walden Project, as it is known, was begun in Vermont in the year, 2000, and it is based on the teachings of Henry

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David Thoreau. The focus of this educational alternative is the natural world, and the students who participate are able to learn while escaping from the “confines of the classroom”. For some students who find learning in the conventional way, this setting provides the perfect learning environment, according to Andy. In connecting with nature, the students are able to learn more about themselves and others in a unique way, and they are more likely to attend college, Andy told us. The students spend four days learning about subjects such as Math and Science, from a different perspective, and on the fifth day, they are involved in service project(s). The program thrives on fundraising and community support. Students are able to earn school credit from having had this experience. The goal for Andy, along with the other instructors, is to emphasize independent learning, and individual success for each of its participants! Thanks to Andy for a very interesting presentation!

Here were Today’s Fines: Missed Meetings- Penny, Steve, Shanna, Bill C., and Deb. Badge- Steve. Vacation- Bill C. Birthday- Jane. Reference to Sherry- John F. “Something”- Jack and Mike. P.S. Bill, I gave you credit for being at last week’s meeting, since you watched the Live Stream!

Here were Today’s Happy Bills: A great many of us were pleased with the Program! Great weather- Roberta. Trip to Maine- Bill C. Opening of Hospice House- John F. Air Conditioning- Warren. School backpacks- Matt. Shopping for the backpacks- Jane and Susan. Family Time- Tom. Our Grape Fest Award-



Mike. Vivienne Rose is 5 months- Jack. Camp O.- Bruce. Joey’s new car- Karen. Shopping for the Elementary kids- Laurie.

The Ace of Hearts: The Kitty was up to \$129! Bo’s ticket, not Pat’s, was selected, and he drew the Jack of Hearts out of the pile.

Our Win-Win today: Jack delved into history, and told us that on 8/7, George Washington gave out the first medal, which was a precursor to the Purple Heart!

Today’s Rotary Moment: Jack shared that Ethan Getner built a trail designation on the newly-formed Maddie Barton Trail, and painted the roof blue...Maddie’s favorite color!

Many thanks to Susan and Jane for getting 28 backpacks for the secondary students! They even had a “designer” backpack for our Superintendent, Matt! Also, Donna showed us the “Best Festival In The Finger Lakes Award” achieved by Naples Grape Festival!

In conclusion, per President Jack, let’s not forget our motto for this Rotary Year, and that is to “Be The Inspiration” to all whom we meet! Keep cool, and we’ll gather for our Evening Meeting on the 13th!