



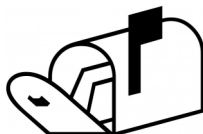
Although it was a blustery, wintry day, that didn't seem to stop an excellent number of hearty members from showing up at today's meeting; the last one of February. Twenty-four Naples Rotarians, plus six guests, nearly filled the front dining area to capacity! I understand there were some members who tapped into the meeting online as well! Bo and I did this last week, and we were happy to be able to hear all about Suzanne and Bill S.! Now we feel that we know them a little bit better!

We joined President Jack, as he led us in saying The Pledge, while John French chose to lead us in the singing of God Bless America. In her invocation, Bessie asked The Lord to please guide us in making the right decisions, as we strive to help and serve others. We were honored to have two members from the Bath Rotary Club join us for lunch today. That included DG Mike Slovak, and Joanne Sheehan, RF Chairperson for our area. It's always a pleasure to have you visit us! Also, we were glad to welcome Jill, friend of Nancy, and Sharon, wife of Jack. The program presenters, Corey Figueiredo and Brice June completed the guest list.

A big "Welcome Home" to Jamie and Bessie, who have been in Cambodia for the last few weeks. We have enjoyed following you on Facebook, seeing all the pictures of the wonderful work you are doing there!

Before delving into The Mailbag, Pres. Jack asked DG Mike if there was anything he wished to say. Mike said that Naples was one of the top five active clubs in the area, and that he is hoping to see more reservations come in for the District Conference in May.

Jack asked us to keep Mike J. and family in our thoughts and prayers. A "Thinking of You" note or two would always be appreciated.



There was a note from the new Cubmaster of Pack 40, thanking us for our donation. With that money, the Cub Scouts plan to purchase new T-shirts, and some of the funds will go towards events also. Eventually, we'll be getting the Cub Scouts in to speak to us. Next, there was a note of thanks from the Naples Ambulance. There was a note from Chris Mahan, who spoke to us recently about the ICU at Thompson. We will be sending a donation to them.

Now here was a sign of Spring! Bill G. reminded us of the Trout Derby on April 1st. He will be sending out a sign-up sheet. Jack thought, due to his excellent location, of setting up a "Coffee Vat" behind his home! Now that would be a welcome sight!

As mentioned earlier, Jamie and Bessie have recently returned from Cambodia. Of course, Jamie brought back something special for Pres. Jack!



Jamie said that 2019 is the Chinese Year of the Pig, so that prompted him to bring Jack a clay lantern that resembled such! It was very lovely! Jamie and Bessie brought back greetings from the Phnom Penh Rotary, where they learned about a new procedure to treat a birth defect, specific to the region. They also saw the "inmate elevating" chairs that we donated!

Looking ahead, here is the Club Calendar in review in terms of programs and events. The Opioid Crisis will be featured on 3/4. Marty Gordon will talk about Forensic Criminology on 3/11. We'll enjoy seeing the Dental Health Posters, the kids, and Doc Chanler on 3/18. John Murphy will talk about the Naples Historical Society on 3/25. The Naples Community Resource Expo will be on 3/30.

At the district level, the PETS for President-Elect Tom will be from 3/15-3/16. The District Training Assembly is on 4/6. The District Conference is from 5/3 to 5/5. The International Conference is slated for 6/1-6/6. The District Change-Over Dinner is on 6/28. The voting for the Leadership Ballot for 2019-2020 will take place at the March Evening Meeting.

Corey Figueiredo and Brice June presented today's program which was entitled, "Invasive Threats To Our Forests". These invasive species, which include insects, plants, and certain wildlife, can pose a threat to our trees, communities, campgrounds, and parks; all of which are at risk. Brice June (shown below) from the DEC started.



Two insect varieties which have posed a threat to the environment are the Asian long-horned beetle, and the emerald ash borer. According to foresters Brice and Corey, "They take a niche, and become out of control."

Before and After pictures of communities were displayed to show (us) the effects of these species upon trees, bark, and branches. It was noted that since the woods in our area are diverse, this is a good thing, however, the tent caterpillar and the gypsy moth have been a problem in certain areas. We were told to "be on the alert" for another pest, the spotted lanternfly. Evidently. This species will suck nutrients from trees.

Oak wilt fungus is another concern, with the red oak being more susceptible than the white oak. Some overpowering (plant) species are the autumn olive, honeysuckle, and multi-floral rose. Chemical and biological control is being done to help alleviate some of these conditions. It was a very informative program, and we learned a great deal. Many thanks to Brice June and Corey Figueiredo (photo below)!

I have attached copies of their business cards on page 3, should you have any concerns on your lots.



It was Fine and Happy Time next! Many were pleased with today's program. Bill G. and Steve had been on a trip, as had Matt, who had missed a meeting. Nancy was glad to have Jill with her. Jamie was glad to be home. Jack is getting a new car, and he enjoyed Woody's addendum to Corey's and Brice's presentation! None of us were too keen on the power outage, but for the school folks, it made a snow day!

The Ace of Hearts: Since Bill's "big win" last week, The Kitty was at 29.00. Jill drew Matt's ticket, #7556, and Matt drew the Ace of Clubs.

Win-Win: John F. informed us that the Dutch Elm Disease arrived in the USA in 1928, and it came in on imported lumber!

Rotary Moment: Bessie told us that the Phnom Penh Rotary has done much to eradicate birth defects!

Please keep Sweet Marian (Clawson) in your thoughts, as she is at Thompson. She, too, would enjoy hearing from us! We understand Al Mann continues to improve! Many thanks to Jane for covering for me last week while Bo and I were away. I think she did both the Regular Meeting and the Board Meeting, and I really appreciate her being so willing to do this! It's always good to come home, though! We'll gather again on March 4th!



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