



Happy New Year, 2019, to each of my fellow members in the Naples Rotary Club! After a two-week hiatus, it seemed so good to be gathering again, for the weekly meeting! As the brand-new year unfolds, may we each continue to “be the inspiration” to all those whom we meet along the way! Twenty-seven members, plus five guests, filled the room this noon, as we convened to rekindle our friendships, and learn something new...a perfect way to begin 2019!

At 12:05, we rose to say The Pledge, as President Jack opened the first meeting of 2019. We then joined John French, as he led us in singing God Bless America. Alex gave The Blessing, asking The Lord to “help us be the best that we can be” as we strive to serve others. The special guests today were Linda Almekinder and Matt Martin, as well as Mike Ball, from Naples Ambulance, Mary Kay, guest of Suzanne, and Sharon, wife of Jack.



Pres. Jack gave an overview of the Club Calendar for the months of January and February. Here are the plans for the next eight meetings, (including today): 1/7 Naples Ambulance with Linda Almekinder and Matt Martin, 1/14 Part 2 of I’m Not Dead Yet with Tom Hawks, 1/21 Club Assembly, 1/28 Senior Resources with Tina Bloom, 2/4 I.C. Unit with Chris Mahan, 2/11 Wine Or Not with John Brahm, 2/18 Getting To Know You featuring new members, and 2/25 Invasive Species In Forestry. This appears to be an interesting couple of months!

Here is an update on The Mailbag. The check in Odell Scott’s memory for the Naples N.Y. Rotary Foundation has been deposited. Just prior to vacation, there had been an E-mail about the Oratorical Contest. Jack had discussed this with Matt, and the decision was made to forgo this year’s contest. Jack told us that next year, we’ll prepare for this event well in advance.

One of the Rotary Avenues of Service is Community Service, and today’s program aligns with that goal in every sense of the word. Linda Almekinder, AKA “Alvaro’s Newest Mom”, along with Matt Martin, spoke to us today about Naples Ambulance, which is officially known as Naples Ambulance Inc.



The Naples Ambulance, which is no longer a part of the Fire Department, became an independent agency, so they could bill, we were told. The N.A. is now housed in the building formerly owned by the Schneider Family. Linda gave thanks to the Hawks Family for their early donations.

Linda, who has devoted 41 years of service to the N.A., has witnessed many changes over time. The Naples Ambulance is now certified, and there must be an E.M.T. on board. N. A. can still use people, Linda told us. They are hoping to still have volunteer drivers. Linda said that the Naples Community has been very generous and supportive.

Matt Martin told us that drivers need to be certified in CPR. He shared some additional facts with us also. The vehicles must meet specific standards. The N.A. covers a total of 122 square miles; the largest coverage in Western N.Y.! Matt said that he tries to respond to every call, and that there are "many options to meet many schedules" in terms of being a volunteer. Tom shared a poignant moment when he told us that three years ago, he was taken care of by the Naples Ambulance, and that Mike Ball comforted and reassured him all along the way. In summation, if Woody Hawks wouldn't mind my using his words, the Naples Ambulance "keeps the milk of human kindness flowing"! Many, many thanks for all that you do to help others!



Once again, the Fines and Happy Bills were combined. Frank, Penny, Brenda and Alex had missed meetings. John and Sherry had been on a trip, as had Alex and Penny over the Christmas Holidays.

Our guest, Linda, appreciated those who were instrumental in starting up the Naples Ambulance, - Clawson Brothers. She is also enjoying Alvaro! Matt appreciated Jodi's involvement with the Christmas Dinners, as did Penny. It surely doesn't come as a surprise, as I counted nearly every single one of us who put a Happy Bill in the basket in praise of the Naples Ambulance! Many members shared personal experiences of being helped by the Naples Ambulance as well!

The Ace of Hearts was up to \$74.00 today! Guest, Linda chose Ticket #9203, which happened to be that of John French. Sherry, (who has a new magnetic badge), picked the King of Diamonds! Bill Cooper came up with a Win-Win for today. How much does it cost to run the Air Force I for an hour? The answer is \$202,000!! Alex came up with an impromptu Rotary Moment! Evidently, she spotted someone in the airport wearing a Rotary pin of sorts, but whoever it was escaped her!!

Remember, next week, for the Evening Meeting, we shall be gathering at the VFW. We will do this for the Evening Meeting in February too. As the New Year stretches out before us, I want to wish everyone and their families many blessings! See you on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

P.S. In reference to Operation Build-Up, Penny told us that there is another family in the community that is in need. It is a family with young children ranging in age from 6 months to nine years of age. They could use some furniture, specifically beds for the kids, clothing and hygiene items. Thanks in advance for any help that can be provided!

On the following page, you will find some help to locate your badge in a new expanded box to be introduced at the next meeting. The slots have been color coded, using the electronic industry standard, i.e. 0=Black, 1=Brown, 2=Red, 3=Orange, 4=Yellow, 5=Green, 6=Blue, 7=Violet, 8=Grey and 9=White. Pat's badge # is 21, or Red+Brown. The decade number is on the dividing walls and the units on the slots. (I expect Bo to pay a hefty fine for this!!)

0	Reserved	30	Diane Parker	60	Woody Hawks
1	John Brahm III	31	Steve Richards	61	#N/A
2	Jill Gordon	32	Bruce Richardson	62	#N/A
3	Bill Cooper	33	Andrea Rohr	63	#N/A
4	#N/A	34	Jane Schenk	64	#N/A
5	Susan Doty	35	Karen Schenk	65	#N/A
6	#N/A	36	Donna Scott	66	#N/A
7	Frank Duserick	37	Lee Scott	67	#N/A
8	Matthew Frahm	38	Dan Maynard	68	#N/A
9	Jack Fredericks	39	Martin Gordon	69	#N/A
10	John French	40	Joan Slating	70	#N/A
11	Gerald Giacomani	41	Judy Foster	71	#N/A
12	Bill Grove	42	Bessie Tyrrell	72	#N/A
13	Carrie Grove	43	Jamie Tyrrell	73	#N/A
14	Roberta Jordans	44	Blanche Warner	74	#N/A
15	Warren Jordans	45	Shanna Williams	75	#N/A
16	Michael Joseph	46	Tom Hawks II	76	#N/A
17	Brenda Keith	47	Gary Smolinsky	77	#N/A
18	Alexandria Leto	48	Jodi Simons Caruso	78	#N/A
19	Larry Letteney	49	Suzanne Schwartz	79	#N/A
20	Bo Lysell	50	Nancy Linehan	80	#N/A
21	Patrice Lysell	51	Sherry Brahm-French	81	#N/A
22	#N/A	52	#N/A	82	#N/A
23	Vicky Martin	53	Leah Friends	83	#N/A
24	Judy Miller	54	Debra Lindbloom	84	#N/A
25	Skip Miller	55	Penny Punnett	85	#N/A
26	John Murphy	56	#N/A	86	#N/A
27	Adam Northrop	57	Robin Lostetter	87	#N/A
28	Kayc Jo Northrop	58	Lauren Maynard	88	#N/A
29	Laurie O'Brien	59	Bill Shepard	89	#N/A
	Reserved		Reserved	90	#N/A