



Hope that everyone had a nice Thanksgiving weekend. There was a slightly smaller group of members in attendance at today's meeting...22 of us to be exact. The visit by five young and talented NCS students, plus NCS Librarian, Colleen Betruss, rounded out our group to 28. President Jack commenced the

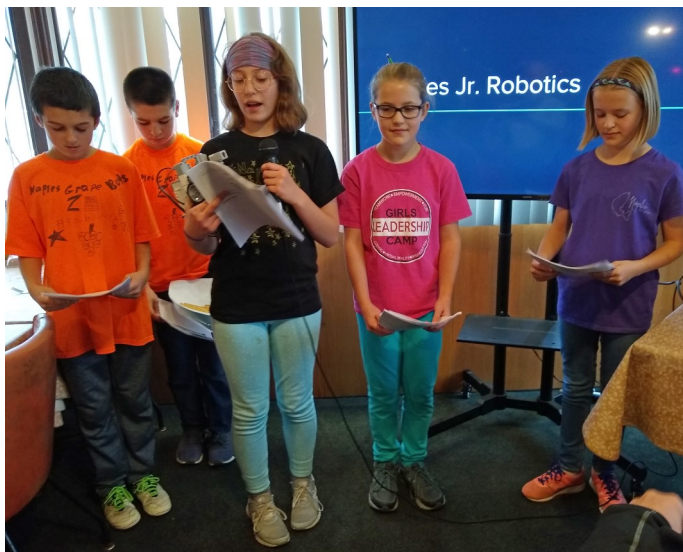
meeting, as we joined him in saying The Pledge. Jack then asked Larry to say The Blessing, and Larry's words thanked The Lord for the many ways He helps us to serve others. Our guests today included Colleen Betruss,

and students, Iris, Sophie, Mahina, Landon, and Jake. Colleen was representing Jodie Schwartz, who is the moderator for the Naples Junior Robotics Team.

Since the students were taking some time off from their regular school day, the Junior Robotics Team presented their program next. The JRT is based upon three specific areas: creativity, problem-solving, and the ability to work together as a team. Each of the students was introduced by Colleen, who is their research coach.



The JRT challenges students between the ages of 9-16 to think scientifically, but as we learned from each of the five youngsters, there is much more to be gained from this experience!



As they learn to problem-solve, they learn about persistence, inclusion, respect for one another, the ability to work as a team, and the pride earned from success in accomplishing their goals. Five teams from Naples were represented at a recent Tournament in Penfield! The teams work for 10 weeks on their project to ready themselves for the competition. This teamwork involves building a "robot" out of Legos. The kit is provided, the programs are downloaded, and the kids do the research themselves. Mahina brought an example of one of the robots that their team had constructed, and we all had an opportunity to inspect their creation! A second component of the program is that the students find a problem, and then they attempt to solve it.

Talking to NCS Grad, Eric Burke, who is connected with NASA, the kids were able to collaboratively find ways to address such problems as: the lack of fresh food in space, social isolation in space, and health problems in space. After each of the youngsters spoke, a short video of their competition was shown.

At the conclusion of the Junior Robotics Team's presentation, Matt spoke briefly, thanking Naples Rotary, (and other donors), for their support of such a worthwhile program at NCS. Matt also pointed out how the skills these students are learning are skills that will serve them well throughout their lives! Thank you, Iris, Sophie, Mahina, Jake, and Landon for taking time from your busy school day to come and tell us about this exciting program of which you are a part!!

The only "Mail" that there was today were two sets of thank you letters from Mrs. Fitzpatrick's and Mrs. Meteyer's classes. The children's well-written notes focused on how much they appreciated receiving the dictionaries.

There was special recognition for one of our dearest members; Joan Slating! Joan has been a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for 65 years! She had a lovely certificate to show us, and, of course, we gave her a hearty round of applause! (Joan was ready with a fine!!)



Jack quickly reviewed the December Calendar: 12/3 - Woody Hawks- Stories From Yesteryear, 12/10- Naples Rotary Christmas Party, and 12/17- Naples Valley Visitors Association.

Lately, our Fines and Happy Bills have been combined, and this has seemed to work out well. Fines for missed meetings were Larry, Mike, and Steve. Nancy had a "windfall" last week! Brenda had been to NYC to visit her son. John F. was a tad late, and his phone rang. Bo and Pat had been to Massachusetts to visit their kids. Bill C. had been to Connecticut to visit family. Laurie got a new vehicle! Everyone seemed to have enjoyed today's program, and Shanna, (Mom of Mahina), appreciates our support of the JRT!



We started anew this week with the Ace of Hearts! The Kitty was at \$18, and Ticket #9035 was selected. It was Shanna's, and she drew the Ace of Diamonds!

Quick-thinking John French came up with a Win-Win! Did you know that the smallest city in the USA is Vergennes, Vermont? Our Winemaster, John Brahm, added some interesting details to this bit of information as well!!

The Rotary Moment was when Pres. Jack showed us a video about Polio Eradication, which our Internet Wizard John F piped in from the Rotary International website. Change has been brought about thanks to Service Above Self!

Jack also reminded us that the Community Christmas Concert will be held at St. Januarius this Sunday, 12/2, at 2:00. (It will be at this time that the Voce Canto will perform.)



That "wraps up" this week's report! I'm thinking that we're all looking forward to Woody's "Stories From Yesteryear" next time we meet! Until then, have a great week, everyone!