

The Buzz

February 19, 2021

HOORAY!!!! Some of us chose to attend in person at Chandler's while still offering a virtual option to those who prefer meeting that way. For those of us who chose to come to Chandler's, it was fabulous to be able to sit at a table and talk to people face to face. That said, this BUZZ writer will apologize ahead of time for any misquotes or omissions because the men (yes, it was all men) at the back table were so excited to see each other that they talked at regular volume throughout the meeting, so it was difficult to hear what was happening and what people were saying. This is the truth and I don't believe the incessant talking was fair to all concerned.

Guests: The always lovely Lisa Crocket was the guest of her handsome husband today.

Wes's Good News:

- Archeologists have found what is believed to be the oldest musical instrument found to date: And it still works. It is a conch shell with three holes found in a cave in southern France. He played the video of someone blowing the shell and it sounded just like a Shofar.
- A Canadian candy company is advertising for people willing to be paid \$30/hour to taste-test candy. (Gee, and I have been paying the candy companies for that same privilege my entire life-what was I thinking???)
- A group of Chicago moms joined a nationwide effort to make pans of lasagna and deliver them to families in financial need. So far, they have delivered over 17,000 pans. Thatsa lotta pasta.

Who's Happy?

- Brian B. was happy that both of his parents have received the COVID vaccine
- Don C. was happy to be meeting at Chandler's
- Roger announced that he had spoken with Debbie S. who is sad to miss Rotary but happy that she has been working hard and putting vaccines into arms
- Nancy was a happy and proud grandma announcing that her granddaughter has raised over \$10,000 for the St. Baldrick's charity and was ranked as the 112th in the country in fundraising
- Pat was happy to that the ACE mentor meeting was held on Thursday evening and thanks to Tom G. and the POC's Terry K. mentors and mentees have met and are starting their relationships. Good luck to all the ACE Grant recipients.
- Ted G. was \$10 happy for assistance from Allen, \$5 happy for the emailed Birthday wishes, \$5 happy for the card from Pat G. which arrived in the US Mail
- Terry was happy to say hello to all via WEBEX
- Eileen was ecstatic that Lou will be able to get the vaccine on Monday. She suggested that anyone with a Northwest Community Hospital MyChart account, check it to see if there is a message for you about receiving the vaccine.

Announcements:

Nanette announced that silent auction prizes are still needed for the Classic. Due to the virtual nature of the event, the donated items will be kept at the donor's home until after the auction. Pick-up/delivery options are in the works. If you have an item, email, or call Nanette with the description, take a photo using a black or white background if possible and email that photo to Nanette as well. ALL items must be received no later than Sunday, March 7!

THREE WEEKS until the Classic! Congratulations to our top ticket sellers: Nancy-43, Loren-41, Allen-18, Rosemary-11, Glenn – 9 and Barry-9. We REALLY need to buy/sell more tickets. Please see the email sent by Rosemary this past Wednesday for additional information. Classic tickets are now available online, please see the club home page for more information.

George gave a sponsorship report. Please check his email for specifics. He will collect paper tickets and checks at Friday meetings for those who choose to sell by that method.

Jim F. announced a RYLA Trivia Night that will be run virtually. He will send the flyer with additional information. It is \$100 per team. Despite brainstorming how to hold RYLA this year, it has been decided that it isn't feasible. Jim will be resurrecting the NCAA Drawing. 64 participants at \$100 are needed: more information to follow.

Wes awarded a Paul Harris plus 4 to Bill L. Congratulations Bill!

Eileen read a lovely thank you note that Holly received from the Kenneth Young Center. The letter told of the pleasure felt by those who benefitted from the Rotary's generosity. Eileen thanked Holly for buying and delivering 28 cases of Protein Shakes to KYC that were given to nutritionally challenged seniors. The rest of the Adopt a Family donations were used to provide \$195 gift cards to POC and HOC families, additional Senior Saturdays at the Schaumburg Barn and \$780 to purchase even more shakes for KYC. This program just keeps on giving. THANK YOU, ROTARIANS,

QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE: Tom took it on the chin because he mistakenly thought there was a new Queen of Hearts board stored at Chandler's. Obviously the last board was done due to Wes' big win last week. Tom ordered a new board as soon as he realized his mistake. That said, there was no drawing today. Names will be transferred to the next week. Emailed tickets are preferred (using the 10:00a.m. Friday deadline) but Tom will sell a limited number of tickets at Chandler's as needed. ALL tickets will need to be purchased by 12:15 so he has time to add them to the raffle board.

The money from the pot is divided as follows: 50% to the big winner, 25% to the club and 25% to the next raffle's pot thus the current pot is \$1600 plus what was purchased this week.

Tom showed a video recapping the 2020 Classic giving this writer a few minutes to eat.

Fun and Frolic: The always interesting Allen!

The usual fines were observed: \$2 for no pin, badge or being late. If you matched Rotary attire with Allen, you were absolved from paying fines for the day.

- Tom didn't receive a fine for not being familiar with how to split the raffle monies, however all former club treasurers were fined because they didn't help him out.
- No guest at the meeting-\$2
- If you were online without a pet on your lap-\$2
- No response to this week's question-\$2
- Brian received a scathing letter from Rotary International (WHY??) so, all former District Governors were fined \$2
- Ted was fined \$15 and he knows why
- Terry was fined \$5 for his derogatory comment about Allen's hair-Allen felt that anyone who still has dark hair at Terry's age shouldn't comment on other's hair
- Haven't sold a Classic ticket-\$4 (see the pattern here?)
- Jim F. was fined \$2 for his response to the weekly question.
- Bob F. was fined for being the first response and for his response of missing NOTHING, NOTHING, NOTHING! About the quarantine.
- Vince was fined because Allen believes he had to be kidding, right?
- Glenn was fined for his response of ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY NOTHING
- Sarah was fined for hating working the front desk but stating that she will miss talking to the international flight crews while working said front desk. She even plans to visit some of them when this is all over.

- Bill K. and Mary S. were fined \$2 for wearing work clothes on top and nothing on the bottoms while attending ZOOM meetings. By nothing we HOPE they meant p.j.'s or something. Business on top and Party on the bottom indeed.
- Jodie was fined for missing sweatpants and no make-up
- Barry was fined for drinking entirely too much wine
- IF by chance you didn't get fined today, \$2.
- All answers to the weekly question are attached to this BUZZ.

PROGRAM:

Mary Jo introduced Eva Barbra Remnosia of the Gigi's Playhouse in Queretero, Mexico in the central part of the country.

Eva explained that the Mexico Gigi's is the only one outside of the USA's borders. Mexico is in desperate need of their services as the culture of the country as concerns people with disabilities is quite different than that in the USA. In Mexico children and others with Down Syndrome or other disabilities are often left at the hospital after birth or abandoned on the street. If the child is taken home by the family, they are kept hidden and receive no schooling or medical services. The government has no programs for people with disabilities. In fact, doctors sometimes refuse to see patients with disabilities.

The parents and children who attend this Playhouse sometimes ride a bus for three hours just to get there. Once they arrive, they find a welcoming, accepting community of teachers, therapists and care-givers. The parents, who have felt so isolated, find a group of like-minded friends.

The Playhouse started in 2013 with 11 children who were the children of their board members. They now serve over 100 children with Down Syndrome who take part in 19 different programs. Gigi's is all these families have for their children with Down Syndrome. Due to the pandemic, they are doing mostly virtual programming but do have the ability to see babies in person. They won a prize from the government of Mexico for their quick response to the pandemic.

Their monthly budget is \$11,000 US. The pandemic has caused problems with the little fundraising that they do. When in the USA, Eva was shocked by the amount of money donated by people and by business because Mexico doesn't have a culture of philanthropy. Any donations are welcome.

Eva told a story about a nurse who had taken one of the abandoned babies home and decided to come to Gigi's Playhouse for services. She cried when she met some of the children and they hugged her and spoke to her. She had been taught that children with Down Syndrome were not able to speak or expected to thrive in any way and the children she met that day laid waste to that assumption. The Mexico Gigi's is trying to educate the people of Mexico and change the way children with Down Syndrome are treated.

Eva welcomed Rotarians to visit if they are in Mexico. She can be contacted at evabarbra@gigisplayhouse.org

Mary Jo then told of the thankfulness of that Playhouse when they received the books from our club. A book in Mexico costs almost a week's wages for the average worker, so the books given were precious.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30