



FRIDAY, October 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Roger promptly at 12:15.

The Pledge was led by Diane M., Eileen H. led us in the 4 Way Pact and the invocation was provided by Jack L.

Our visitors

Nancy R. was introduced as a “guest” at the bad boys’ table. Kristy introduced Rick, spouse of Pauline (more on that in Fun and Frolic). Mike E. introduced Sarah. That table was also honored to have Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod and District 6440 Governor Thor Davidson present.

Announcements

☞ Wendy had several announcements:

1. If you haven’t completed the volunteer survey, please do so. She has hard copies available.
2. Butterfly garden cleanup (last one in 2024) is tomorrow 9-11 am.
3. Social Saturday at the Barn is the following Saturday
4. Roadside cleanup is on October 26.

☞ Mike E. asked everyone to sit with their teams at lunch next week. Team captains will be chosen. Team lists were on the table.

☞ Eileen shared with us a lovely thank you letter from CAC for the butterfly garden.

☞ Ed reported he has heard from Bob K (former member now living in Florida) and that Bob and Mike T (also a former member) and both are safe and well. No one has heard from a 3rd former member, Ken R. (past club president). Ed asked for our thoughts and prayers for Ken.

Happy \$\$\$s

\$ Terry led off with happiness that his condo in Naple FL was not damaged by Hurricane Milton.

\$ Eileen was happy that DG Thor was here and appreciative for everyone who has worked at the butterfly garden.

\$ Jean S had happy dollars to honor Eileen for her 8 years of great work with the CAC Butterfly Garden and in gratitude that their place in Florida lost only one palm frond as a result of the storm. She was also happy that, after their house in Elmhurst was listed last Friday, they had 14 showings that weekend and received 5 offers, all above the asking price.

\$ Bob F. was very happy that Allen G. was back after his surgery.

\$ Roger celebrated his wonderful trip to Majorca. He also thanked Gillett for the wonderful time he and Renee had with the wine tasting they won in the silent auction.

\$ Gillett followed suit with happy dollars because Roger and Renee were such great guests.

- \$ Allen G. was very happy to be back and appreciated all the Rotarians who reached out to him while he was recovering.
- \$ Bill K. was happy about his upcoming travels, even though it means he will miss several club meetings and that Mayor McLeod here.
- \$ Mike E. was happy about the outstanding district conference with a great keynote speaker last weekend.
- \$ Wes was grateful for all the friends who have rallied around his mom, Lisa, who broke her wrist this past week, with a special thank you to Nancy for driving Lisa to the hospital.
- \$ Holly was happy because the Vacation Drawing is over and was a success.
- \$ Rachael was happy for seeing George and Trish at Lake Geneva.
- \$ Kristy was VERY happy that the place they go each year was not as hard hit as predicted and that their flood retaining wall held.
- \$ Darrell was happy because this was his last meeting for a while as they are heading out for warmer climes.

Queen of Hearts Raffle:

Brian Burke's name came up, but that was where his luck ended...better luck next time Brian.

Vacation Drawing:

The drawing raised \$22,040! After mixing up the numbers very well, Mayor McLeod reached in the barrel and drew out three numbers. Third prize of \$100 was announced first, followed by the \$250 second prize. The grand prize was won by Victoria E. on a ticket sold by Mike E.

Now that the vacation drawing is completed, Tom has jumped on promoting the **2023 Classic** on March 8. After he changed from his "work" shirt into his "Caribbean" shirt (we had some difficulty in telling the difference), he talked about plans for this event. Committee meetings will be on first Mondays of each month. He will be sending emails to everyone who participated on the committee last year and is hoping we will say, "Ya Mon" and serve in the same capacity again this year or help him find someone to replace us.

Mayor McLeod spoke very briefly on things going on in Hoffman Estates and thanked Rotary for all that we do in the community and around the world.

Fun and Frolic

Allen was back in fine form as our faithful fine master, leveeing the following fines:

- Jim Fabbrini was exempt from fines today because of the wonder floral arrangement he sent for Allen and Chris's anniversary yesterday.
- Anyone who did not sell any tickets for vacation drawing
- Tom for using the "R" word about the vacation drawing
- Anyone who had not completed the community service volunteer survey before today
- Everyone who was playing "full contact" dominos with Lisa when she broke her wrist
- No guests at your table
- Over exuberant about having a guest
- Kristy for introducing Rick as a guest because he is a member by virtue of their membership being a corporate membership and Rick and Pauline were also fined for not correcting her
- Talking during announcements

- Gene W. for being so quiet
- Anyone who wasn't happy for something
- No pin, not badge, late
- Tom did not make the Chippendale cut
- Did not talk to secret greeter: DG Thor Davidson.
- DG Thor for giving him "that look" and all PDGs just because

Our program

DG Thor Davidson spoke to us, sharing some of his personal story about his Rotary journey from Eagle Scout to Rotary District Governor, including the event that moved him from a Rotary member to a Rotarian. Check out his comments by watching the YouTube video of today's meeting, if you have a chance. It was a very good presentation.

He praised our club for the work we do and our support of The Rotary Foundation. He also shared information on the plans and goals of District 6440 and how that may impact our club.

District 6440 has identified several areas of focus for the remainder of this year: the Rotary Action Plan, membership, public image, and the Magic of Rotary. Essentially the action plan is a strategic effort to move from planning one year at a time to planning for three years, with greater continuity over a longer time horizon.

The Action Plan has four specific areas of focus.

- INCREASE OUR IMPACT
- EXPAND OUR REACH
- ENHANCE PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT
- INCREASE OUR ABILITY TO ADAPT

Thor talked about the importance of member retention in our membership efforts. There are surveys to help with this effort. Last year in North America, Rotary took in 150,000 new members, but we lost 160,000. There is a Membership Olympics posted on the district website.

Public image emphasizes clear messaging with consistent branding and having a digital presence. Tom G. is a district brand "police officer" and will be keeping us honest.

Magic of Rotary is the theme this year – supposed to be the last presidential theme. Thor recounted how President Stephanie arrived at this theme and he challenged us to think about where we have seen the Magic of Rotary in action.

In youth programs, District 6440 is taking a break from Youth Exchange because of the stark decline in participation. We will be focusing on supporting and promoting short term exchanges, RYLA, and Interact. RYLA materials are now available.

He closed with a brief promotion of the International Convention in Calgary. District 6440 has a block of rooms, with a few left that could be booked. Beyond that block, close-in hotels are sold out for convention dates. Contact Rick Rosenfeld (rick@journeysoftly.com) if you are interested or have questions.

Gene W. led us in the 4-Way Test