

!!!BUZZ!!!

July 9, 2021

Pres Tom rang the Rotary bell on what he so quaintly described as his REIGN OF TERROR (i.e., the start of his Rotary year) triggering the inevitable calls for impeachment to the great amusement of all present! PP Wes led us in the pledge of allegiance. Bill K led us in the 4-Way Pact. Jack L. led us in an invocation.

Guests

Lisa Crocket, Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod, Hoffman Estates Trustee Michael Gaeta and Pete Justin were welcomed as guests.

Good News

Good news was plentiful, starting with the goodest news of all. Our Rotary Club was honored with the “West Suburban Philanthropy Award” for the “Service Club of the Year.” Seriously, this is a great honor that we will be sure to share with our community partners and friends! Other good news included (a) a Rotary Club which raised \$140K for relief for starving animals in a community that was blanketed in volcanic ash from a recent eruption; (b) a story which garnered international attention about the Rotary Club of River Cities serving Prospect Heights, Mount Prospect and Des Plaines Illinois which backed a Rotary global grant to assist the needy in Pakistan; and (c) a very complimentary friend of the Club (Jesse Gonzalez) has donated a great deal of his personal time to the maintenance of the butterfly garden, inspired by his admiration of the deeds of our Club and also the CAC; and (d) the awesome accomplishments of the Fishing Well program. Yes we are having a real impact on our community! We bad!

 **Happiness** 

Rampant Happiness amongst the membership included:

Don C, who was happy that Lisa was here;

Vince S who was happy about his past week in Door County with the WhoooooIIllllleeeee family!

Debbie S was also happy about her fabulous road trip vacation with her family;

Holly F was happy because Sam was here, and also her fabulous road trip to South Dakota with her friends, and also that her sons were back at home visiting;

Allen G was happy about his road trip with Chris that covered 4600 miles over 14 days which hit every Western national park that we all wish we had a chance to see and experience;

Jack L was \$60 happy for his anniversary with his wife and traveling companion Marianne. Happy 60th!

Eileen was happy to see Mayor McLeod with us, and very happy about all of the support which the Club has received in the past years from the Village of Hoffman Estates;

Lauren C was happy about the interviews of 17 Fishing Well candidates which will be conducted next Friday – the most ever;

Gayle V was happy that Trustee Gaeta and Mayor McLeod were here today as guests and speakers, and also about the great fun that she was having watching over two Labrador retrievers (each weighing over 100 lbs) while either friends or family of hers were doing their road trip (now that is true friendship);

Dom R was happy to thank everyone who has sent him well wishes (especially Bonnie);

Barry C was happy about his 2-week trip to Hawaii with his wife and traveling companion Marilyn;

Glenn S was happy because he wasn't "hit in the head" by something which your Buzzer didn't see – but was glad that Glenn managed to avoid;

Dennis O was happy to have 2 weeks (a trip I think) with Diane (apologies if I messed this one up);

PP Wes was happy to honor Pres Tom, and was also extremely happy that his (Wes') wife Caitlin who stepped up big time to capture a great deal of business for their company.

Announcements

Holly F reminded everyone to sell Vacation Raffle Tickets!

Bruce D announced these musical options for the memberships: a) there is a fundraiser Friday (July 9) at the Prairie Center in Schaumburg featuring performances by three artists; a 3-time Grammy winning native American singer songwriter, a national champion native American dancer and an acclaimed native American master of the Spanish Guitar (Flamenco); and b) a three day Blues & BBQ festival sponsored by the McHenry Rotary Clubs on August 20 – 22, 2021 (*see the flyer attached to the end of this Buzz*);

Pres Tom reminded all that the meeting was being live streamed on the Club's YouTube channel, and that everyone should log into their Google accounts, and then go to the Club's YouTube page and then subscribe to it! We were all given to believe that Pres Tom would circulate precise instructions on how to do this to the membership.

Queen of Hearts

Steve L was lucky enough to have his number drawn for the Queen of Diamonds raffle. Unfortunately for Steve, the Queen of Diamonds eluded him. Sorry Steve. Better luck next time!

Finemastering

And with that a chill was felt and the lights flickered as our finemaster (Allen G) in almost a Lightning Round frenzy went about the replenishment of the Club's coffers by fining:

Pres Tom (to consecrate Tom's inauguration as Club President;

Wes C, to congratulate him for last year, his Rotarian of the Year award, and the two blue roses in his bouquet;

Everyone who wasn't the Rotarian of the Year last year;

Or sold a Vacation Raffle Ticket yet;

Or wasn't coming to the Club Picnic at the Fath's this Saturday;

Or didn't attend the installation dinner last month;

Or didn't participate in the Backpack project for this year;

Or was pinless;

Or had a guest at your table;

Or were late to the meeting;

Or were a Cub fan (in view of their 11 game losing streak);

Or are a Sox fan (for goating!);

Or say that they are neither a Cub nor a Sox fan (which is impossible which means that you're fined \$2 for lying);

Or if you are Lauren C, and you drove to today's meeting and committed a moving violation (turn signal) right in front of the Finemaster!!! (oh my);

Or if you used your phone during the meeting like Jim F.

And with that, mercifully, the fining sputtered to a close. Thank you Allen! Can we have another?

Program

The Honorable William McLeod was our guest today and he wasted no time in praising our humble Rotary Club for the things that we do. Mayor McLeod noted that he is a regular reader of the Rotarian (P.S., which we all should be, edit.). Here are the highlights of the Mayor's presentation.

Mayor McLeod name checked Fabbrini's Flowers for being one of the oldest continuing businesses in Hoffman Estates. He noted that the government and many local businesses got through the Covid-19 pandemic much better than he had expected. The government remained open throughout the lockdown, and never laid off any employees. Apart from a few police officers who suffered mild symptoms of Covid-19, everyone else was all right.

Mayor McLeod announced that the Bell Works/ATT office is being renovated into a multi-use center with entertainment, restaurant and residential components. He noted that Microsoft was planning to develop business space in the Village. He noted his concerns for the 2 MM square foot Sears building, whose redevelopment was still being tied up by the Sears bankruptcy case.

On the recruitment front, he noted that the new Hoffman Estates Village Manager is a Rotarian with another District 6440 Club (meaning that we should mobilize our efforts to snatch him away and join our Club!) Mayor McLeod liked having a new person in the Village Manager position, because with a new person comes new ideas. The Village is looking for a purchasing agent to coordinate buying by all of the Village departments.

Pandemic challenges included the development of hundreds of acres of undeveloped land and the recovery of businesses such as Stonegate, which has been sold but has not reopened yet. New restaurants in town include "Mr. Breakfast" and a "Popeye's Restaurant."

Longer term issues arising from the pandemic include the exodus of women from the workforce. Another consequence to the growth of internet retail to local government is the State is keeping sales tax revenue generated by internet sales which used to be paid to local governments from what were local sales.

Once again, we recognize the support which Mayor McLeod has given to the Club and its various projects, and appreciate the time he took from his schedule to meet with us today!

And with that, Pres. Tom rang the bell on his first meeting. Hope you'all had a great weekend!