

!!!BUZZ!!!

February 12, 2021

Pres Wes rang the virtual bell for our 30th meeting of the fiscal year (noting 18 more left in the current year – Wes is already counting down!) on this fine, sunny, freezing cold Friday afternoon. Roger S. led us in the pledge of allegiance to our Nation’s Flag. Ed H led us in the 4-way pact. Jack L led us in an invocation.

Guest:

Our guest speaker is Roger Breisch (who will have an interesting presentation, per Robert F).

Good news included: a homeless Arl. Hts. Tx high school student just got a football scholarship; locals played with and won in the Super Bowl this week; and a valentine’s day treat: buy a cockroach, name it for your Ex and watch it be eaten by a predator (Note to Wes: ewwwwwww! This is NOT good news for the poor little cockroach); and the cat-head filter which showed up on a lawyer’s screen during a gov.zoom (which us lawyers thought was a) our personal worst nightmare; and b) hilarious, because it didn’t happen to us).

 **Happiness** 

Jack L was \$10 happy as a Michigan Grad with Tom Brady’s Superbowl win.

Bill L was happy for Bill K’s useful info concerning getting COVID-19 shots.

Bill K was happy for Chris Young (from the Barrington Breakfast Club) for giving him that information.

Gayle V was happy because it was her friend Jack’s birthday!

Introduction of New Member

Maral Sosi Abrahamian from Top Golf. Maral has worked several projects that our Rotary Club did (incl. Shop With A Cop). She was introduced to Rotary by a friend, and has raffle ticket selling skills! Maral speaks four different languages, has a dog and a husband! She oversees field trips at Top Golf and does military, fraternal and other events. She’s happy to be officially part of the family (she gets it, concerning the Family of Rotary). Welcome to the family Sister Maral!

Announcements

Holly F welcomed Maral, and gave the rest of us a deadline for spirit wear of **Next MONDAY (2/14/21)**. **Everyone who wants Spirit Wear, call or email Holly and put your orders in Now please.**

Tom G presented his latest commercial for our Classic! (a really very cool spot which features our community partners).

Wes C highlighted some tremendous, well-produced Rotary PSA videos that we can send to people (to sell them tickets) (and he gave a shout-out to Holly F for bringing it to Wes' attention).

Wes C also noted a ticket purchase from Stuart Baker (son of Club founder Doc Baker) who bought a Classic ticket in memory of his father. He invited Doc Baker remembrances from:

- a. Darrel M: there's so much to say about Doc. He was a dentist by trade and his partner was also a member of the Club. In the year before Doc was slated to be Club President, he had to pull out of the commitment due to a business issue, so Darrell took his place! Doc and Uncle Joe Lesniak created an early tradition of meeting together (outside of meetings) to talk about the affairs of the day. Doc was instrumental in the creation of the 4-Way Pact. He was a joy to be around;
- b. Jack L: Doc had a lot of energy and you could feel his presence in the room. Doc liked to talk about the tough, controversial issues of the day. You always had a great conversation if he was at the table, and
- c. Vince S: Anyone who became president of the club when Doc was still alive got a call from Doc Baker to orient the new President for the job and how to do it and what the goals of the Club were. He would let you know if you did something right or wrong. He was dedicated to this Club until the day he died.

Wes highlighted an email from Harper concerning our Ace grant program

Queen of Hearts

Our dazzling incomparable Club PE (and official Barker) Tom G rose to attract the crowd of virtual Rotarian attendees to step right up (think Tom Waits "Step Right Up") to the Spinning, Vertigo inducing video Process that selects a winner for our Queen of Hearts (it's not a Raffle) Drawing – who turned out to be – Wes C -- who chose number – 17 -- which turned out to be – a Queen of Hearts!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Awww Shucks (for the rest of us!) We're so sorry (for ourselves)! Better luck next time (for the rest of us)!

Finemastering

Suddenly, as the Cellos in the string section played two notes (the second a half step up - think the theme of “Jaws”), repeating again and again, faster and faster as the Enormous Shark approached the hapless Rotarian in the shallows (oops! Sorry. So many friends, Rotarians and non-Rotarians are down in Freaking Florida while I’m stuck here – my mind wandered). But hey, our video screens did flicker and dim a little bit as our one and only Finemaster Allen G took center stage and proceeded to separate Rotarians from their nickels, dimes and quarters, and singles, and fives (and so forth), fining:

Vince S, for having his name in the Herald (with a letter to the editor) about the delays in getting vaccines;

And Vince was fined another \$3 for becoming vaccinated right after his letter to the editor was published;

Jack L was fined for his alumna who won the super bowl, and then the fine was erased because Jack was wearing the same Rotary garb as Allen;

Also fined:

Anyone who didn’t sell a Classic ticket yet;

Or did not attend the Classic meeting;

Or were late to this meeting;

Or didn’t answer the quiz;

Or didn’t reach out to a fellow Rotarian on a Non-Rotary thing;

Or were not wearing their Rotary pin...

Then we had a fun quiz about LOVE and specifically, Valentine’s Day:

When did the candy named “Sweethearts” get their shapes, 1903, 1902 or 1901;

Where the first valentine was sent from: the Vatican; Prison; or Paris;

Sweethearts were temporarily suspended in: 2017, 2018 or 2019;

On average, how many roses are sent on Valentine’s day: 40 MM, 45 MM or 50 MM;

On average, how many marriages are proposed on Valentine’s Day: 200,000, 220,000 or 240,000;

Then the quiz ended. Now come on. Admit it. That was fun! ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ARE AT THE BACK OF THE BUZZ. HOME GAMERS, TAKE THE QUIZ AT HOME!

But the Finemaster was far from finished (Maybe I was right about the approach of the Shark from Jaws!):

Maral was fined for mentioning her dog before her husband in her “welcome to the Club” speech;

Wes was fined for misstating “Howard” (not Jack) Baker’s name;

Holly F was fined for not understanding that the Vacation not-a-affle is not a raffle (it’s a drawing);

Mary S got hit up for not introducing her guest (a pet);

Wes’ electronic wallet was again siphoned as our finemaster asked him how much he plans to donate from his phenomenal win in the Queen of Hearts not-a-affle? \$250. Great answer Wes!

Roger S was fined, probably, for a little issue with the Pledge of Allegiance;

And then Allen read some highlights to the results to the week’s quiz, which were hilarious (they are attached to this Buzz). Really. Check them out!

Program

Roger Breisch began by confessing that he probably owes \$150 for his fines for everything mentioned by our Finemaster (very funny, probably true). Then Roger got on with his program: “Your Brain is Lying to You.”

How would you feel if you woke up in the morning with the impression that a lot of what you are thinking is wrong. Some are horrified by this, some are motivated to inquire.

Pattern Making. The brain takes visual information and turns them into stories. It is easy to fool. Your brain can find patterns (which aren’t there). It fills in the blanks when you see an image (here, an Arabic man holding a trained falcon), making assumptions about the person, where he’s from, what he thinks, etc.

Trick questions – beware easy answers. The human brain has 2 modes, an easy and a difficult mode, and it tends to choose to use the easy mode. People are often attracted to authoritarian ideas because they are bothered by complexity. It explains QAnon. It explains Marjorie Taylor Greene. We are quick to jump to an easy answer, than to the harder work of looking for facts.

Assumptions are things we make every day about business, industry, the future, loved ones, friends, politics. Assumptions block an active inquiry into the truth of what is happening. Anchoring: people tend to “anchor” to a fixed idea, whether on Beauty, Dress, Behavior, etc. that leads to self-criticism when they inevitably can’t live up to the ideal.

Flashbulb Memories are searing memories of events. The day after a crisis (the Challenger explosion, 9-11, etc) people were asked to detail where they were, what they did and the sequence of events. Two years later, fewer than 7% were able to match their memories of the event. 50% were wrong in 2/3rds of their assertions. Remember an infamous family event. Write down what you think happened (who said what). Then call someone who were involved and ask them about their recollection of the event. You will find amazing disparities.

Roger challenges us: Knowing that many of the thoughts, ideas and opinion you have everyday are misleading you. Knowing that, how ill you be different tomorrow?

Roger has done a couple Ted Talks.

Holly F asked about his Ted Talks. They are on other (fascinating) subjects. As for his presentations of today’s content to Rotary Clubs, no two presentations are ever alike.

Bruce D asked Roger how people react when they find that a closely held belief is really bull****? A: some hide from it; others are grateful that they found the truth.

And with that, we said the 4-Way Test, and then Pres. Wes rang the virtual bell on another fine virtual meeting of the Friendly Club! See you next week!

Answers to the Valentines’ Day Quiz:

When did the candy named “Sweethearts” get their shapes, 1903, 1902 or 1901(correct);

Where the first valentine was sent from: the Vatican; Prison (correct); or Paris;

Sweethearts were temporarily suspended in: 2017, 2018 or 2019 (correct);

How many roses were sent on Valentine’s day: 40 MM, 45 MM or 50 MM (correct);

On average, how many marriages were proposed on Valentine’s Day: 200,000, 220,000 (correct) or 240,000;

FUN AND FROLIC RESPONSES FOR 2-12-2021

- Jim I would donate \$1000 back to our club, specifically for the RYLA conference 2022.
- I would book a cruise with my wife and that may be it!
- Wes Add it to the ol' down payment fund for our next home.
- Darrell I would help my kids out with their expenses.
- Brian Berg The \$10K would go into the abyss of my wife and I's checking account. It will eventually evaporate. On what who knows.
- George College, college (two kids in college)
- Bob F. I would open up a Special Fine Bank Account that would hopefully cover all the fines I receive from our brutal finemaster. ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️
- Ed After taxes, remodel something in my home that needs updating.
- Jodie Give a portion back to the Foundation. Save the rest.
- Rachel Great question to get the mind thinking. Here is how I would divide it up.
- Back to Rotary - \$2,000
Cooper's (my son) bank account - \$2,000
Sophia's (my daughter) bank account - \$2,000
Trip for my husband and I to Nashville - \$2,000
Trip for my whole family to see my Grandma in the Ozarks - \$2,000
- Vince Pay half my property taxes!!

Mary Sprow I'd put new wood laminate floors in my home... Shag carpet + two psycho dogs = disgusting. No matter how nice the carpet "was".

Mike E. Alaskan Cruise!

Eileen I would share it with Rotary,(not sure how much — before you ask), my kids and spend some just for fun stuff!!

Mary Jo Well I know we are supposed to be kind and give some back to the club but I'm not that kind . I will use the money for an amazing vacation! My husband and I will celebrate 30 years this August and we have never had a vacation to ourselves . Certainly not a luxurious one !!

Dom Just because I am a good person, I would donate 10% to our club to fund our Scholarship program and the rest would be used be me in Disney World. That would be enough for a 10 day stay with meals!!

Pat Split it evenly among my three children. I can remember how much an extra \$3,333 would have helped back in the days when we had teen-agers living at home!

Jim M. Go to a Sandal's Resort in St. Lucia to eat, drink and SCUBA dive.

Terry Take a very nice Cruise

John S. I would supplement the college funds of My Grandchildren.
\$5,000.00 to Ashley & \$5,000.00 to Cole
Because that is what Clare would tell Me to do!

- Nanette Well, I did win the \$10,000 and I gave 10% to Rotary, 10% to each of my 3 children and 10% to the charity for which I worked. I put the other \$5000 in the bank hoping to take a really nice trip, but instead I was fortunate to have it to offset the cost of my son's first stint in rehab.
- It was a great win, and helped many people.
- Roger I will donate 10% back to the club and will take my Children and Grandchildren to Hawaii with the rest of the money.
- Jean Give at least half back to Rotary and spend the remainder on stuff for the Florida house.
- Juli L. So, if I won the \$10,000, I would buy books. And I would save money to buy more books...
Because I'm sad
- Steve Some Rotarians may feel a little superstitious in answering this weekly question, but I will answer since this isn't a superstition I have. First, I would definitely give a percentage to the Foundation to continue to do good. Then I believe I would look into a family vacation since the memories will be more than the monies spent.
- Jack save some for my 2 sons who are having difficulties and the rest to charity.
- Gary I'd give the after tax amount to Hawk's Nest at Hoffman Estates High School. This pandemic has been so tough on families in this area.