



Meeting on November 12, 2021

This week's REIGN OF TERROR turned out to be rather benign, as our auspicious leader (Pres. Tom G.) started us out with the usual pledge, 4-Way Pact and invocation, and generally good vibrations! Guests included GOC Gary Mages, a residential real estate attorney with the firm of Mages & Price LLC, Kevin Pabst with Northwest Mutual, Helen Munoz and Lisa Dudierez (with POC, for the craft sale) and our speaker, Jeff Anderson, who eventually spoke to our assembly about the Cantigny estate and museums.

For those following our official race to higher membership with the Arlington Hts. Club, we are now officially +4 (according to Pres. Tom). However, Pres. Tom informed us that the Arlington Hts. Club is also up 4, so we need to keep at it if we wish to win the competition (which of course we all do)! Our dear leader also informed us that Wings was very grateful for the Thanksgiving fixings that we packaged and delivered to them last week (thanks Holly for leading that effort). Pres Tom also urged us to take the RI survey (we all got an email about that) and to do it before December 10, 2021 when the surveying ends.

😊😊😊😊😊 Happiness 😊😊😊😊😊

Rampant Happiness rampaged amongst our Rotary Club members including:

Mike E, concerning a \$1,500 memorial gift to the Fishing Well made by his Sis in Law, in memory of Cheryl's Sister Deb;

Holly F, who what happy about the Conant interact club and the recent snow;

Greg W, who was happy about Allen G's threads, the snow, the fact that Allen had Greg's back and his daughter's upcoming performance of "Into The Woods;"

Glenn Sz who was happy about his 57th anniversary to Joyce (and happy congratulations from your Buzzer to Glenn and Joyce!);

Jim Fab was happy to be learning Spanish through an adult ed class at Fremd HS and was also happy to see Club Rotarian Mike O teaching a Spanish class there;

Randy G was happy that he got through a health scare last week (we're happy about that too Randy);

Wendy was happy about her trip to Michigan last week with family, and she was professionally happy about the successful effort of the university she works with to gain accreditation;

Barry C was happy to live near Cantigny Park;

Gayle V was happy to wear a veteran's pin that Glen G gave her;

And finally,

Allen G was happy that Michigan State prevailed against Ann Arbor 2 weeks ago, and also happy that the consulting company founded by his daughter Emily was chosen to receive a prestigious contract from the Obama Foundation.

Announcements

Gayle V reminded us all to sign up for the Holiday Party on Dec. 3 at Belvidere's;

Don M gave us an update on the mechanic's tool project (and the urgent need for additional contributions and assistance);

Roger S reminded us to sign up for the 11/23/21 meeting with the Bloomingdale Club and also to buy and bring in toys for the tots (in which we are in competition with our Bloomingdale Rotarians for numbers and coolness of Holiday Gifts);

Wes C was happy to note that the dreadful Taliban had resumed a polio vaccination in Afghanistan, spreading some hope to Rotarians everywhere that this dread disease may, at long last, vanish from the Earth;

Barry C was happy that we can all make shop with a cop donations online (per Pat G's email from Nov. 10) and also about all of the crafts available for purchase at today's meeting.

Queen of Hearts

Club Rotarian Nancy R was lucky enough to have her number drawn for the Queen of Diamonds (not a raffle). Unfortunately for Nancy, the Queen of Diamonds eluded her, but on a positive note, one of the lower cards (which was the 8 of spades) was exposed and will not stand in the way between future contestants and the ever expanding jackpot. Sorry Nancy. Better luck next time! Thanks for supporting the drawing!

Finemastering

And suddenly, as we beheld the darkness which began to cover the Earth, we were visited by Finemaster Allen G, who immediately set about his task to relieve those who were assembled here of their spare dollars, fivers, Tenners and anything else he could get from them, as he fined the following Rotarians:

The pinless, the badgeless and the time-clueless;

Chris H for talking over official speakers;

Those who didn't reach out this week to a) a fellow Rotarian about non-Rotary business or b) a veteran;

Pres Tom, for using the "R" word;

All Rotarians who were not, originally, from a foreign country like Randy G and Anastasia L (who both received a pass on this fine);

Anyone who hasn't yet given a toy to Roger for the Holiday Toy Drive (competition) with the Bloomingdale Club;

To Holly F for bringing Holiday Toys to our meeting (rather than to the Bloomingdale meeting on the 23rd);

Vince S for earning a fine (in his own special way);

Anyone who didn't greet our secret greeter (again, Randy G);

Glenn Sz for, allegedly, not being happy enough with his money;

Pres Tom for being mean to our Finemaster (really? – oh well);

JimFab, for sitting next to a Schaumburg High School alum' and finally,

Anyone sitting at a table that did not have a guest.

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

Program

Jeff Anderson spoke to the Club about a local gem, the Cantigny Park and Museum. We learned a lot about the McCormack Foundation and its founders, who were powerhouses in the civics and local and national US politics from 1855 to the present day, including Cyrus McCormack (an inventor and industrialist) and Joseph Medill (an attorney, journalist and powerful editor and newspaper publisher who supported President Lincoln and General Grant in the Civil War).

The park and the museums which now grace the estate of these former movers and shakers include a museum of the 1st Infantry Division, a unit that Robert McCormack (grandson to the earlier McCormacks and Medills) led as a Colonel in the Battle of Cantigny – the first battle won by US troops during World War I. Over time the grounds of the Cantigny estate were gifted to the Foundation which runs and preserves the buildings and grounds to this day. Among other things, visitors can see the 1st Division museum, and the 17 tanks and 2 artillery pieces on display, which include WWI tanks through the modern M1 Abrams tank. Or visitors can tour the McCormack mansion (when it is open; currently it is not open due to preservation work); or walk 30 acres of gardens.

Cantigny is also known for its antique automobile shows, its Medal of Honor collection, and much, much more. However, (and apologies to Gene W), Mr. Anderson has never seen any ghosts on the grounds.

All in all, and for those of us who have never visited the museums, gardens and grounds, we learned a lot about this unique place to learn and enjoy.

And with that, Pres. Tom rang the bell on this latest instalment of his Reign of Terror. Hope to see you next Friday!
