

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF SCHAUMBURG/HOFFMANN ESTATES



## Meeting on January 27, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Pro tempore Roger Smith at 12:15.

The Pledge was led by Allen Gabe

The 4 Way Pact was led by Nancy Redmon

The Invocation provided by Jack Lucas

### Our visitors

Rotarian Gilette Johnson from the Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club

### Happy \$\$\$s

Ted Gross is happy to celebrate the one year anniversary of the opening of his law firm and the second day of class for his son being trained as a mechanic through the program championed by a good friend of our club-Mechanics Union Local 701 Trainer Dan Lentino.

Holly Fath is happy for the beautiful snow.

Roger Smith is happy that Gayle has stepped up to the plate to serve as Classic Chair during his presidency! As anyone who has served as president of our club knows, securing an awesome Classic Chair is a big relief! And we all know, Gayle will be an awesome chair.

Roger is also happy to share his birthday with his Rotarian birthday-twin, who then upstaged him by giving \$1 more than Roger did as happy dollars...such is the competitiveness of twins.

### Announcements

Allen Gabe announced that Rebecca Darr, CEO/President of WINGS has agreed to serve as the Honorary Chair of our 44th Classic on May 6th. And Allen is doubly happy to have 2 awesome co-chairs now at his beck and call-yours truly and Gayle Vandenberg. Gayle already has some great ideas for this year's classic.

Don Minor announced that the last round for Toolkit applications is now complete with 17 candidates. The Toolkit award ceremony will be held on March 14th at Hoffman Estates High School. Mark your calendars for this celebration of these transformative awards!

### **Queen of Hearts Raffle:**

Loren Trimble's proxy drew the 9 of spade. So if memory serves me correct, the \$3600 pus pot rolls over to next week.

### **Fun and Frolic**

Allen Gabe assessed numerous fines including:

- Anyone late, not wearing Rotary attire, or a pin.
- Anyone not sitting with George P
- Anyone whose team lost to Loyola. My research indicates that would be St Bonaventure, Albany, Clemson, Green Bay, Central Arkansas,, UIC, and Fairleigh. Still trying to figure out who in the club that may be but I ruled out George P and myself!
- Anyone who has never been a Classic chair
- Anyone who did not have a guest at their table
- Anyone who is not a member of the BBRC

### **Our program**

George P entertained and inspired us with highlights from his life story.

George's parents, John and Astero, actually married 3 times, due in part to the Greek Orthodox Church not recognizing the Roman Catholic wedding ceremony. George grew up in the Roseland neighborhood of Chicago and played the saxophone. He graduated from Loyola University of Chicago in 1984 after attending Moraine Valley Community College. ( BTW that's a path I identify with, albeit 7 years earlier- community college to Loyola).

Professionally he has worked in the financial services industry in the Chicago, notably at Merrill Lynch before LPL Financial from 1998-2017. In 2017 he went independent, forming The Panopoulos Group in 2017. Trish's awesome talents emanate from the left side of the brain as manifested in her beautiful artwork. Trish presenting her drawing to Buddy Guy of his Legends Club backdropping a '57 Cadillac brought a tear to that Blues legend. A heartfelt story this author can't do justice to but is definitely worth asking Trish about.

George proposed to Trish on 6/1/94 during a horse drawn carriage ride in Chicago after a dinner on the 95th floor. Fortunately he was able to convince Trish to open the Seiko box holding the engagement ring he gave her in the carriage before the end of the ride, although he did admit to getting more than a little nervous as the carriage ride progressed and Trish was not anxious to see what was in the Seiko watch box. Following his parents' lead, of more than one wedding, George married Trish both Assumption Catholic Church and St Constantine Greek Orthodox Church., during the last week of October of 1994. They honeymooned in Xtapa, Mexico, where

George, following his Jersey Shore body surfing bride, was body slammed into the ocean floor. Luckily for George, the knot had already been tied.

Two wonderful children were born to George and Trish-Clare and Max. Clare graduated from ISU with a degree in Analytics and Max, heading into his Aeronautical Engineering degree at Iowa threw George and Trish a curveball with his plan to pursue an MBA...just when they thought they were about to cross the finish line and spike the ball...

George P led us in the 4 Way Test

-Yours truly,  
Bill Kelley  
Buzzer