

THE BUZZ

7/16/2021

GUESTS

Melanie Santostefano recent past president of the Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove; friends of Gayle: Linda Dressler and Gene Walker; friend of Pat, Jim Lederer; and our speaker, Michael Larson of the Schaumburg Boomers.

GOOD ROTARY NEWS

Tom shared the following:

- The Barrington Breakfast Club is joining an initiative to prevent discrimination of Asian Americans: The Asian-American Advancing Justice Initiative. [Asian Americans Advancing Justice/Chicago](#)
- Rotary International and Encyclopedia Britannica have joined forces to work on a project to promote literacy. <https://twitter.com/rotarydownunder/status/1415522771350659082>
- A giant thank you to those who worked to clean the Butterfly Garden: Holly, Peter, Sam, Eileen, Jack, and others. Also, good news that they were not harmed by the HUGE snake found in the garden.

HAPPY DOLLARS

- Eileen was happy for the Garden clean-up and for the wonderful mentor meeting held Thursday evening for those scholarship winners who started their studies at the January term. Special thanks to Roger, Bruce, Michael E. and Lauren
- Nanette was happy that she was able to spend a week in Minocqua and that this evening marks her return to the stage at the St. James Music in the Air Cabaret
- Bruce was amazed at the wonderful outpouring of love and support he received from Rotarians as he mourned the loss of his brother
- Michael T. was happy that after a long illness and hospitalization, his brother is being moved to rehab
- Holly was happy that Tom's first board meeting was so well-run
- Ted was excited that he has passed two of his doctor's weight loss goals
- Allen didn't really give happy dollars, but shared the loss of a good friend's wife due to COVID complications and encouraged EVERYONE to get the vaccine
- Terry and Joanne had a wonderful time at the fellowship picnic held at Holly's home
- Bill K. was also happy to have attended a great board meeting with Tom

- Bill L. was happy that Dominick was here
- Jean was glad to have seen former member Mike Madden at Tennis Plus where she was playing pickleball and Mike was swimming. Mike sent his regards to all.

CLUB BUSINESS

Dennis O'Connell is out of Central DuPage Hospital but still has a long road of treatment ahead as he battles prostate cancer. Calls to the number sent in last week's email are most appreciated.

The next fellowship activity will be held at the Schaumburg Boomers game on August 27th. Looking for 30 people to join in sitting in the skybox at \$15/head. Food and drinks are to be purchased by attendees. Please respond to the Club Runner invitation.

Holly announced that the Vacation Drawing is going well with \$4740 in tickets turned in so far. There is an opportunity to sign up to sell tickets at the Platzkonzerts on September 10-12 and at a fest in Palatine the following week. PLEASE CONTINUE TO SELL THOSE TICKETS! Top sellers as of this morning are Roger, Nancy (SURPRISE!), Jack and Holly.

Eileen read some heartfelt messages from the scholarship winners that attended the mentor meeting:

A student from Nigeria who immigrated to the US to improve their family's life said that this scholarship helped so much as her husband lost his job and she wasn't certain if she was going to be able to continue her studies.

A woman who worked as a property manager for 40 years is going back for a social work degree and this scholarship is helping to make that possible. She decided to get this degree so she could serve as an example to her children and grandchildren that it is never too late to learn.

Another student can remember opening the scholarship letter and making her friends confirm that the amount was correct because it was so life-changing for her.

A 27-year-old who decided to finally follow her path to becoming a social worker said that this scholarship allows her to study fulltime and work parttime so she can complete her degree more quickly.

Eileen informed the club that due to having additional money in scholarships in the fall, there will be a need for up to 35 mentors. PLEASE consider becoming a mentor, it takes hardly any

time and provides so much to the students just to know someone is there supporting their efforts.

Bill K. spoke of an opportunity to go to Guatemala November 5-16, 2021. Volunteers will assist with the rebuilding of a school that suffered damage in last year's volcanic eruption. Cost is \$1250 and only 8 slots remain open. Contact Bill if interested. The club continues to be involved in micro-lending; Bob F. is now the go-to person for that initiative.

Our guest Melanie talked a bit about her Buffalo Grove Club and invited our members to visit. She was selling "ducks" for their big Duck Race fundraiser.

Tom announced that Glenn G. has joined the board as co-chair of membership.

Want to work with the Rotary "BIG_GUNS"? Nominations are now open for the District Governor 2024-25. See Tom for information.

PLEASE search for our club on YouTube and Facebook and follow and subscribe. Folks took out phones to do just that and risked a fine later in the meeting- but it was totally worth it!

QUEEN OF DIAMONDS

Bill L.'s name was picked for the first time since he has been a member, but alas, he chose the 8 of hearts so he remains among those who have never won.

Fun and Frolic

Jim F. did the fun and frolic honors today and made all fines \$2 unless otherwise stated. He explained to the guests that his fine mastering is the antithesis of the 4 Way Test.

- The *Bad Boy Table* while better than they have been in the past, still displayed some bad manners today so were each fined
- Tom was fined for saying, "All, yall." What? Did we move to the South all of a sudden? Tom was also fined for sending non-board member Jim the board meeting agenda. Tom said that as RYLA chair he thought Jim might want to know what the board was doing, but PLEASE GOD NO do not come to meetings Jim. Well yes, that got Tom a fine.
- Jim's meal ticket said vegetarian on the front and had a hand-written "shrimp" on the back. Holly fessed up to doing that for Allen and so both were fined
- Michael T. was fined for bringing an unregistered and unpaid guest to the picnic at Holly's: Nicholas, his bedmate. Oh yeah, Nicholas is Michael's dog.

- Jeff was fined for advertising earlier in the meeting while vocally sparring with Jean re. pickleball. He was also fined for lying about his pickle ball prowess.
- All those in the Rotary weight loss club were fined \$2: you know who they are
- Eileen was fined for wearing a sweater with the word SUN on the front on what is undeniably a cloudy day. She was also fined for not knowing what kind of snake was found in the butterfly garden but by its size she guessed it was a baby python
- Bill K. was fined for thinking he was too important to remove his Bluetooth headphones during the meeting
- Anyone who didn't call Dennis was fined
- Anyone who didn't participate in the backpack project was fined
- Anyone who took out their phone to subscribe to YouTube and Facebook was fined.

Jim was recently stung by bees four times:

- In the arm when a bee went up his sleeve
- On the foot while walking in the grass
- On the face while bike riding
- And while drinking wine.

He asked the club to guess which one wasn't the truth. Since all were true, everyone paid a fine.

PROGRAM

Michael Larson of the Schaumburg Boomers was today's speaker. He told the club there were only two interesting things about him:

Michael has worked in professional baseball since 2005.

His wife keeps mistaking Jeff Miller for him. At the last Schaumburg event where both he and Jeff were uncharacteristically dressed in suit and tie, Michael's wife went up to Jeff numerous times thinking he was Michael!

He told of one of his first jobs as a bartender, manager, etc. at a Moorhead, Minnesota motel where a Rotary Club met every Tuesday morning. They were meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, and he had the opportunity to sit with the members as they watched the horror unfold. He listened for hours as two WWII veterans retold their experiences at Pearl Harbor and related how they were similar to what was happening that day.

He finished high school early and went to college very young, but after one year, decided to leave school and took numerous jobs prior to taking an unpaid internship at a Minnesota ballpark and the rest is history! He came to Schaumburg after stops in Fargo and Idaho.

He believes that a team that bears a community's name owes it to that community to be involved. He runs fundraisers and participates in every community activity possible.

Michael then spent the rest of his time answering questions from club members.

He thinks the Bears would be good neighbors in Arlington Heights.

Follows former club member John Diedrich, the first Schaumburg baseball manager on Facebook.

Players are from all over the world, with a few from the area on the team each year. This year there are less foreign players due to COVID.

They are an independent team, not an MLB feeder team although some of their players have their contracts purchased by the MLB.

The publicity stunt that went wrong was offering \$1 hot dogs on July 3 a few years ago. Due to a bad weather forecast for the 4th (traditionally their busiest day) most people bought tickets for the 3rd causing a major run on hot dogs. The concessions team couldn't keep up. Adding to that fiasco, the video screen went to blue and couldn't be fixed that evening. Michael received over 250 complaints the next day.

During COVID 30 teams were lost. The COVID shutdown also resulted in many pitchers retiring.

The White Sox choose their stadium as an alternate site over three other contenders. With those games taking place in the morning, some college games in the evenings, high school graduations, concerts and other events being held, their stadium never closed. They were the only stadium that kept all fulltime staff employed during the pandemic however, they definitely were doing "other duties as assigned."

They usually make most of their money in group sales but this year, individual ticket sales are the leader. In fact, this past July 3-5 they sold more individual tickets than they usually sell all year.

Those attending the Rotary Fellowship event will be treated to Marshmallow Fight Night.

