



**Catskill Area
HOSPICE**
and Palliative Care

Serving Residents of the Butternut Valley Since 1938

The ROTARY CLUB of MORRIS, NY

The Bill Stowell Challenge
To Area Rotary Clubs

Chartered February, 1938 Charter #4887
Jeffrey Conroe, President Lana Rouff, Governor
District 7170

Volume 70

March 02, 2009

Number 32

Meetings every Monday at 6:00 PM in the Town House, Morris, NY



2008-2009 Rotary Theme

Last Meeting – February 23, 2009

The regular weekly meeting at the Morris Town House was called to order by President **Jeffrey Conroe**. The meal for 18 Rotarians and guests was prepared by **Juanita Brown** and Vicky Pegg. In the Ace of Hearts drawing, **Bill Pickens** drew the nine of diamonds. **Fred Schwarzhans** was absent so he will give his Rotary Moment next week.

Guests — Exchange student Thais Sayuri Endo was the only visitor.

Make-Ups — Make-up cards arrived from Florida for **Neil Townsend** and **Jim Pasternak**.

Announcements — **Dick Keene** reports that the fruit sale is running about the same as last year. He initially ordered 95 cases of Florida grapefruit and 150 cases of California Navel oranges. He will call in to alter the club's order as additional requests come in. --- **Lois Miller-Ballard** distributed the initial sign-up sheet for the mid-winter party at Norwich's Canasawacta Country Club. The \$35 per person event will be held on Friday evening, March 27. Guests are welcome to attend. --- President Jeff made a

couple announcements. He will be traveling next Monday so the meeting will be run by the president-elect. Also, there will be a donkey basketball game at MCS on Friday at 7 PM. Several community leaders will be participating (...as riders). --- The district's membership meeting for clubs in our area will be held on Monday, March 2 at the Cooperstown Methodist Church. --- **Bill Burdick** and **Carrie Lynn Phillips** will be attending the district's Leadership Seminar in April.

Birthdays & Anniversaries — **Harry Graves** claims to have stopped having birthdays years ago ...but the club sang anyway.

Happiness — **Gerry Bourgeois** joined good friends for dinner. --- **Jeff Conroe** spent a lot of time this past week taking various family members to out-of-town appointments. --- **Mike D'Amico**, darkly tanned from his vacation in Mexico, noted that former MCS athlete Kayla Forgit recently won a regional college championship. --- **Harry Graves** paid tribute to Gerry Niewood and Coleman Mellett. They were the award-winning woodwind and guitar players in Chuck Mangione's band. Harry saw them per-

Active Members

Bosco, Sharon *
Bourgeois, Gerard *
Breuning, Mary *
Brown, Juanita *
Burdick, William
Conroe, Jeffrey +
D'Amico, Michael +
DeLaurentiis, Teresa
Frankel, George +
Fusco, Nancy *
Graves, Harry *
Hay, Ronald *
Johnson, Fred *
Johnson, Gary *
Keene, Richard *
Kranbuhl, Maureen
Lander, Robert +
Marlier, Felice *
Matteson, John *
Meyers, Matthew
Miller, Joan
Miller, Roger *
Miller-Ballard, Lois *
Panek, Nicole
Pasternak, James *
Pegg, Patrick
Phillips, CarrieLynn +
Pickens, William *
Rehrmann, Henry *
Schwarzhans, Fred
Schwarzhans, Marg
Tiffany, Norman *
Townsend, Neil *
Virgil, Michael *
Webster, Royce *

YEP Students

DeForest, Chelsea
From G-MU to India
Endo, Thais Sayuri
From Brazil to MCS
Meyers, Kaitlin
From MCS to Belgium

Honoraries

Danielson, Walter *
Halbert, Ronald *
Norton, Bruce *
Sorensen, Herbert
Stowell, William *
Walicka, Terry *

* Paul Harris Fellows
+ Sustaining Members

Send Newsletter Items To
Harry Graves, Editor
skierharry@yahoo.com

Program

Can Rotary Meet The Stowell Challenge?

Over the past two decades, an increasing number of local folks have turned to Catskill Area Hospice and Palliative Care to assist with their elderly relatives. The medical group comforts terminally-ill persons in the final months of life. They now care for more than 200 residents of Otsego, Delaware, and Schoharie counties every day.

Special Events Coordinator Bob Escher told Rotarians that the agency once administered to only cancer patients but now only about half of its patients are battling cancer. They have a \$12 million dollar budget with 130 paid employees to care for people in the 3-county area. Despite Hospice's growth, the organization is still dedicated to patient care. Several people related personal stories of how Hospice had "held our hand and walked us through it".

Last fall, former member **Bill Stowell** challenged the club to support hospice. Speaker Escher was asked how Rotary could help. His answer was short and direct, "We always need volunteers and funds." For information, contact the group's website at <http://www.cahpc.org/>.



Next In Rotary Service: PETS (President-Elect Training Seminar) In Syracuse On March 13-14

form in Corning only a few days before they were killed in the crash of flight 3407 near Buffalo. --- **Fred Johnson** received a \$100 donation from an anonymous community citizen while trying to make a citrus fruit sale. --- **Lois Miller-Ballard** noted that she **did not** participate in the Polar Bear Jump at Goodyear Lake this past weekend. Some 348 folks did take the plunge, raising nearly \$60,000 for community members in need. --- **Patrick Pegg** has finished his house and he thanked Rotarian Bill for lots of advice and guidance. --- **Carrie Lynn Phillips** was in Syracuse last weekend for the first birthday of her grandson. --- **Bill Pickens** visited former Rotarians Stowell and Halbert while he was vacationing in Florida. --- **Mike Virgil** is "generally happy".

Next Week – March 09, 2009

Club Assembly followed by Directors' meeting

Neighbors – The **Cobleskill Rotary Club** is joining with various groups at the SUNY College of Ag and Tech at Cobleskill to fund a Cobleskill Village Streetscape Plaza. It will beautify downtown with a planted area with benches. The groups held a Classic Rock & Roll show last month on the SUNY campus. In addition, Cobleskill Rotarians are running a Buy-A-Brick Campaign with name-engraved bricks fetching a \$100 donation. --- The **Sidney Rotary Club** has honored the local Rotarians who have served both the Village of Sidney and formerly acted as a Rotary District Governor. A plaque has been placed along the community walking trail in the village's Keith Clark Park. Engraved are the names of PDGs **William H. Phelps** (1946-47), **Howard S. Dunbar** (1974-75); **Thomas J. Mirabito Sr.** (1984-85), and **David V. Reynolds** (2007-2008). It's in a picnic area built and maintained by the Sidney Rotary Club.

District Governor

Leaders Concerned About Membership Fluctuations In District 7170



The district governor's newsletter is sent to club presidents each month by DG **Lana Rouff**. The governor has been kind enough to provide requested articles for reprint. The following excerpt appeared in the district's publication for February.

This past month I sent all the club presidents a report on membership. The figures were dismal. We have 33 less members than we had in July. A day or so after I sent the report, I received an e-mail from RI, stating that I would be receiving a telephone call from RI President DK Lee to discuss these figures!! It seems that we, along with District 7120 (Rochester), had the worst membership numbers in our Zone. I must say that I felt the same way I did when I scored a poor grade on my Chemistry test in high school! All the feelings of failure and helplessness came rushing back!! You don't want to know what that feels like – or maybe you do. Anyways, I became a bit defensive and fired off an e-mail to the RI rep explaining that our population had been diminishing, many of our members had retired and were leaving the area, and that taxes in NYS were driving people and industry away. I even considered blaming Bin Laden – but I held back. I told the Rep that we were doing our best to improve our membership by offering our clubs ideas and suggestions through the website, the monthly governor's letter and the membership seminar in October. I explained that our membership committee would be doing small membership seminars in six areas within the district in February and March, and we also were working on developing a new club in the Conklin area.

I then called Mark Kreibel, our Regional Membership Chair, and Jim High, our district trainer, and frantically asked them what more could I do to help the clubs procure new members. And by the way our membership five years ago totaled 1742 – ouch! – the past 5 years we have lost almost 200 members! They assured me that we doing all that we could, and that I should have patience as the year was just half over and hopefully in the remaining months our membership would increase.

Then within the next couple of days two positive things hap-

pened! I received an e-mail from George Ehrmann, President of the Richfield Springs Club who told me not to worry his club was bringing in 3 new members and perhaps a total of five by March!! At present their club only has 20 members. WHOW!! And secondly, Jack Best, our Regional Foundation Chair, sent me an e-mail stating that our clubs had been cited as having raised more than \$8,000 for the Foundation than last year at this time! This happening is extraordinary especially in today's economy! This helped to dispel my doom and gloom, and I reminded myself that despite our drop in membership, our clubs also continue to support their communities and the world with numerous important projects.

But getting back to membership, the fact is that every club but five, Dryden, Nimmonsburg, Owego, Oxford and Schenectady-Worcester have, according to RI's figures, less members than they did in July.

So what do we do? That is up to each member of your club – in these seminars that the membership committee will present, the leaders will give those attending all kinds of advice on how to obtain, retain and orient members, but what it comes down to is basically for every member needs to bring in ONE new member. It is all up to each and everyone of us.

When I recently attended a meeting in Waverly – I asked the president and secretary to give me a list of their service projects for the district conference program. It was extensive and very impressive. As I looked at it, I asked them, "what would happen if your membership dwindled to nothing?" They knew what would happen and so do all of you – there would no longer be support for poor families, no scholarships or loans for students, no more YEP, no RYLA, no Christmas parties for the community, no support for CHOW or United Way, no beautification, no community spirit, no water projects - nothing that Rotary gives to the world and to our communities would continue.

We can't let that happen. It is up to all of us to direct our efforts towards bringing in new members – quality members – they are there – all you have to do is find them and ASK, ASK, ASK!! You can do it! You are Rotarians! Thank you.