



PROGRAM: Stillman's Greenhouse

HOST: Stewart McDivitt

SPEAKER: Judi Barr

GREETER: Judy Phillips

STATE OF THE STATE

HOST: CLUB W/ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

SPEAKERS: SEN. O'MARA AND ASSEMBLYMAN
PALMESANO

Meeting Date: February 9, 2017 –

NYS Senator Tom O'Mara and Assemblyman Phil Palesano visited Watkins-Montour Rotary and the League of Women Voters at a joint meeting Thursday. A summary of points:

The Budget: Gov. Cuomo is presenting a \$152 billion spending plan. The Senate and Assembly are currently involved in hearings on various topics – education, minimum wage, etc. They noted that it will be difficult to come to an agreement this year with a looming deficit.

Education: Education spending has increased 5.5%, but a little less this year, because of the removal of the Gap Elimination Adjustment that detrimentally affected school aid.

Minimum Wage: The increase in minimum wage will have severe consequences for non-profit services providers like The Arc, who already struggle to recruit and retain front line workers. Arcs and other service providers receive most of their funding from Medicaid and cannot increase their fees for service like fast food restaurants can in order to pay their staff. There is great risk that the minimum wage will exacerbate the staffing crisis and put people with developmental disabilities at risk across the State if the Governor does not agree to include funding in the budget for a living wage.

Public Defender Costs: Disappointing that the Gov. has vetoed the proposal for NYS to cover County costs for public defenders. The Gov. argued that the proposal to cover not just criminal, but also assigned counsel for family court, etc. overstepped.

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 23

PROGRAM: Motor Racing Research Center

HOST: Tom Weidemann

GREETER: Jim Somerville



Library Funding: Although it makes no sense, Gov. Cuomo is proposing "ridiculous" cuts to library funding. Assemblyman Palesano noted libraries provide education and funding should be increased not decreased.

Organ Donation: It's no secret that Assemblyman Palesano is a passionate advocate for organ donation registration. NY lags behind all other states, ahead only of Puerto Rico. As of Feb. 15, one of Palesano's priority bills from last year is now in effect – 16 and 17 year olds will now be able to register to become an organ donor – expanding the eligible organ donor pool.

Crestwood: Sen. O'mara said he doesn't know when a resolution will come, but is pressing for a conclusion.

Federal Policies: No one knows what the impact of Donald Trump's proposed repeal of the ACA or any replacement will have on NYS.

Heroin and Opioid Crisis: Palesano was adamant that more needs to be done at the state and local level in this battle. The proposed budget doesn't do enough.

The Governor: O'mara noted that the Senate and Assembly are not on great terms with Andrew Cuomo, who in the past they have been cooperate with. Sen. O'mara noted, "that might end this year."

The bulletin editor thanks Charlie Haeffner for his excellent article of this presentation on The Odessa File, which was helpful in organizing this summary.

FEBRUARY 9TH CLUB NEWS

GUESTS: Senator Tom O'Mara and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano; Student of the Month: Rong Lin and family member, Ava Zoo, presenter, Kelsey Wood, and teacher, Kathleen Kressly; Susan Bleiler, guest of Terri Orbin; and members of the League of Women Voters

WHO WON THE RAFFLE? Stan Beaver – and he pulled the Joker!

MONTHLY AUCTION:

EVENTS:

MOOSE BREAKFAST is Feb. 19th at Montour Moose. We will need volunteers to help – a sign-up sheet is being passed. Tickets are \$7 each – all you can eat!

NCAA Auction will be held March 14th.

ANTIQUE SHOW will be March 19th. Don Stocum is seeking someone to take over the show for next year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ELMIRA ROTARY CLUB is hosting its 100th anniversary dinner on March 7 at Elmira College and WM Rotarians are invited to attend. Tickets are \$50 each. Our club will celebrate its 100th year in just 5 years!

ARC SPAGHETTI DINNER is Feb. 20th at Montour Moose. Tickets for sale at The Arc.

THANK YOU FOR THE MAKEUPS: Rotary Readers (Rich Greenberger, Bridgette Stewart, Charlie Cole, Jim Howell, Chris Burns); Youth Exchange (Carlo Blowers, Judy Phillips)

THOSE WE MISSED: JC Argetsinger, Jim Bacalles, Charlie Cole, Tony Fraboni, Dominick Franzese, Jim Guild, Doug Hagin, Matt Hayden, Brian Kenney, Mike Learn, Nancy Loughlin, Gary Mead, Dennis Morris, Kevin Murphy, Bill Phoenix, Jim Preston, Jeff Schultz, Kristine Somerville, Bridgette Stewart, Jennifer Sweet, Ken Wilson, Ken Bell, Jim Chedzoy, Tom Clifford, Ginny Eaton, Dave Ryan, Dave Sidle

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

BILL GATES TO SPEAK AT ROTARY CONVENTION IN ATLANTA THIS JUNE

Rotary's 108th annual international convention June 10–14 is expected to attract 40,000 Rotary club members from over 160 countries, and will inject an estimated \$52.3 million into Atlanta's economy.

Registrants will engage in workshops and hear from a lineup of world-class speakers, including Bill Gates, co-chair, of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Gates Foundation and Rotary International have an ongoing match of 2:1 to support polio eradication efforts up to \$35 million a year. Today in Bill and Melinda Gates' Annual Letter they reaffirmed the important role Rotary has played in polio eradication.

"Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have been working together on polio eradication for a long time, and our strong partnership will continue through the final years of the effort," said Rotary International President John Germ. "With the most effective resources in place, it's possible that we will soon see the last case of polio in history. At the convention, Bill will say more about how we can — and will — end polio."

CELEBRATIONS & CONFESSIONS:

Postponed

CONGRATULATIONS WG SOTM RONG LIN

Rotary honored WG Senior, Rong Lin at its Thursday meeting. Rong was introduced by teacher, Kelsey Wood. Rong moved from China four years ago and has been in Kelsey's history class for 2 years. She said he is "the most incredibly hard working student." He has been learning English at the same time learning American history and culture. Rong is also on the Varsity swim team, and is a "true asset to the community." Rong plans on attending college in NYS. Rong thanked his aunt and uncle and both Miss Wood and Mrs. Kressly, who are both patient and reassuring with Rong. "I wouldn't be able to stand here right now [without them]," Rong said.



"The Rotary International Convention provides an exceptional opportunity to bring together more than 40,000 civic and business community leaders from throughout the world to Atlanta to enjoy our unique brand of southern hospitality," said William Pate, president and CEO of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau. "The addition of Microsoft founder Bill Gates as a keynote speaker reflects the importance and good work that Rotary does worldwide. **FULL STORY AT WWW.ROTARY.ORG**