

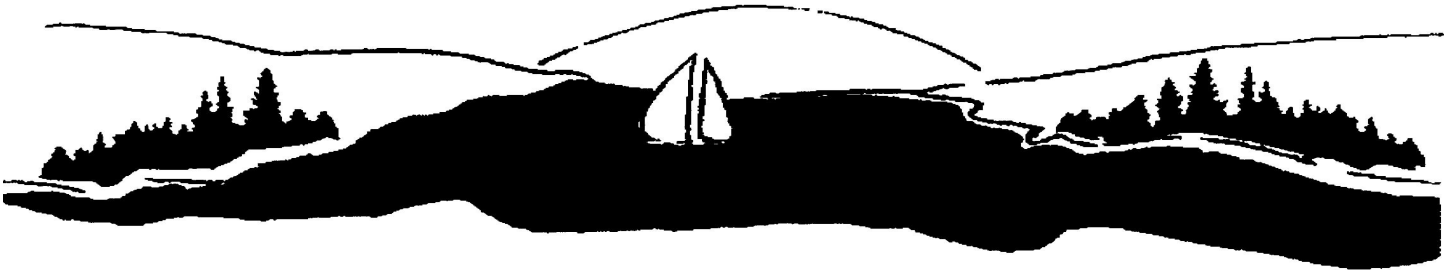
WATKINS-MONTOUR ROTARY CLUB

CHARTER NO. 1058

DISTRICT 7120

BULLETIN #31 (2009-10)

Welcome Rotarians and Guests
March 4, 2010



Program: First Thursday!

Greeter: Rick Carroll



Meets Thursday 12:10 p.m. • Watkins Glen Elks Lodge • Watkins Glen, NY



Thought of the Week: "Years ago I recognized my kinship with all living things, and I made up my mind that I was not one bit better than the meanest on the earth. I said then and I say now, that while there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free."
~Eugene V. Debs

The news from February 25

WELCOME, GUESTS:

John Kohena, Elmira Heights club; Legislators Dennis Fagan, Tom Gifford, Mike Yuhasz, Paul Marcellus, and Glenn Larison; Members of League of Women Voters

THOSE WE MISSED:

Chris Burns, Jack Callanan, Jim Chedzoy, Tom Clifford, Charlie Cole, Linda Confer, Ed Cullen, Ginny Eaton, Bill Ellison, Jim Frame, Jerry Gapp, Jim Guild, Matt Hayden, Shirley Kohena, Jim Kuehl, Mike Learn, Jim Loose, Nancy Loughlin, Jeff Lyon, Kevin Murphy, Bill Peters, Dave Ryan, Jeff Schultz, Dave Sidle, Kristine Somerville, Robin Travis, Brian Vanderburgh

MAKE-UPS:

On-Line: Linda Confer
Horseheads: Ken Wilson

FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

- At the Board meeting on Monday, it was decided that today's raffle proceeds will go toward PolioPlus
- Sign-up sheets going around for:
 - * District Assembly (March 27th)
 - * Food donations for NCAA auction (March 16th)

FROM OUR MEMBERS:

- Don Stocum has cards and posters available for the Antique Show (March 21st). Vendors include Gene Lane, who will be buying coins, as well as silver and gold.

The Polio Plus Jar is a perfect place for that loose change in your pockets!

SAVE THE DATES

- Tuesday, March 16 ... NCAA Auction
- Sunday, March 21 ... Antique Show & Sale
- Sunday, March 21 ... Rotary Day at the Jackals
- Saturday, March 27 ... District Assembly, Pittsford
- April 23-25 ... District Conference, Albany
- June 10-13 ... District Youth Exchange Weekend in Watkins Glen / Elmira
- June 20-23 ... Rotary International Conference, Montreal

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:
~ Is it the **TRUTH?**
~ Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
~ Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
~ Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Jeannette Frank was a great greeter, And congratulations to raffle winner, Ken Ball.

February 25th Program: Q&A with Schuyler County Legislators

PROGRAM SPEAKER/HOST: Max Neal

Max Neal said the National League of Women Voters is celebrating 90 years, and the Schuyler County League is celebrating 55 years! Local founders include Jean Argetsinger and Pat Ellison.

In addition to the panelists, Max introduced County Administrator, Tim O'Hearn; and Watkins Glen Village Mayor, Judy Phillips, who were also in attendance.

Each of the attending legislators were introduced, and offered brief opening remarks.

Tom Gifford: Tom said the county is doing well, and they are looking forward to the grand opening of the new shared services facility on Decatur Street in Watkins Glen.

Dennis Fagan: Dennis believes the county's greatest challenge is the ever-increasing demand for services, but decreased revenues, especially relative to state aid.

Mike Yuhasz: Mike added that budget issues are compounded by the fact that counties in NYS are required to pay far more toward Medicaid than in other states.

Paul Marcellus: Paul said the county is lucky that sales tax revenues are up, and that we have such natural beauty and so many scenic attractions. Paul believes the county's biggest challenges are spiraling retirement contributions to NYS, healthcare, and bargaining agreements. These and other factors make it difficult to balance revenues and hold expenses.

Glenn Larison: Glenn said it is important as a county to take care of those who need assistance, and that the county will continue to do that. He said we have a great county, and a bright future, and must continue to move forward. "The glass is half full, not half empty," Glenn said.

Max read a prepared statement from Barb Halpin, who was unable to attend. The statement highlighted "much to crow about," including increased sales tax revenues, and developments in Montour Falls and along Franklin Street. Barb also spoke to "right sizing" government in order to ease property tax burdens on residents, and creating more good paying jobs.

Q&A:

Could consolidation of school districts be beneficial?

Larison—Consolidation should be investigated, but not at the legislative level—need to get school boards together to discuss. Transportation is usually cited as a reason against consolidation.

Gifford—Shared services would be helpful between schools as well as the 12 municipalities in the county.

What are the benefits of the shared services facility?

Gifford—It saves all the partnering agencies tax money.

Fagan—Also sharing a records management facility with Watkins Glen Schools, Village of Watkins Glen, Towns of Dix and Hector.

Do you have any details on the county's new transportation system?

Fagan—The program will be managed by the Arc of Schuyler, and is funded by the federal government.

Gifford—Hoping to start early this summer. Buses have been ordered. Still looking for a name for the system.

How do you balance development with environmental preservation?

Fagan—Land use regulations, and education.

Marcellus—Programs are being implemented, such as the "Purchase of Development Rights" program for farmland. Montour Falls recently updated their land use and zoning regulations. More land use training is in the planning stages.

About the LWV

The mission of The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, is to "encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy." (www.lwv.org)

Find out more about the Schuyler County League at: www.schuylervotes.com

CLUB CALENDAR

MARCH 11

Program: Humane Society Updates

Speaker: Georgie Taylor

Program Host: Holly Mosher

Greeter: Holly Mosher

MARCH 18

Program: Willard Correctional Facility

Speaker: Steve Beaver

Program Host: Stan Beaver

Greeter: Linda Wead

MARCH 16—NCAA Auction

MARCH 21—Antique Show & Sale

www.watkinsmontourrotary.com

***Thanks to Bill Peters
for being today's bulletin sponsor!***

MARCH AUCTION

The following members are reminded to bring auction items for March:

Ginny Eaton, Tony Fraboni & Jim Frame

Looking for a Make-Up Meeting?

~ The Dundee Rotary Club meets Wednesdays at Noon above the Classic Café, Main Street, Dundee.

~ The Hammondsport Rotary Club meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at the G & H Taylor Library, 21 William Street, Hammondsport.

~ The Corning Rotary Club meets Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 125 Denison Parkway E., Corning.

OUR MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| P* ARGETSINGER, J.C. - Law | KUEHL, Jim - Health Care |
| P* BEAVER, Stanley - Landscaper | P* LEARN, Michael - Automotive |
| P* BELL, Kenneth - Floral Greenhouses | * LOOSE, James A. - Salt Production |
| BENJAMIN, Michelle LaDue - Public Relations | P* LOUGHLIN, Nancy - Education |
| BLOWERS, Carl - Consulting | P* LYON, Jeff - Journalism |
| BURNS, Chris - Health Care | * McDIVITT, Stewart E. - Law |
| P* CALLANAN, John Sr. - Law | * MEEHAN, Anne - Accounting |
| CARROLL, Richard - Banking | MOSHER, Holly - Law |
| P* CHEDZOY, James - Funeral Services | P* MURPHY, Kevin - Building Materials |
| P* CLIFFORD, Thomas B. - Automotive | * NEAL, Max - Chamber of Commerce |
| P* COLE, Charles - Pharmacy | * ORBIN, Terri - Accounting |
| CONFER, Linda - Banking | P* PETERS, Nancy A. - Public Service |
| P* CULLEN, Edward - Crane Manufacturing | P* PETERS, William H. - General Insurance |
| DOUGLAS, Marcia - Social services | POLMANTEER, Miranda - Chamber of Commerce |
| * EATON, Virginia - Ambulance Services | P* PRESTON, James - Education |
| P* ELLISON, William - Law | RAY, Michel - Banking |
| FRABONI, Anthony - Banking | P* RYAN, David - General Insurance |
| FRAME, Jim - Education | SCHULTZ, Jeff W. - Dentistry |
| * FRANK, Jeannette - Arc | P* SIDLE, David L. - Bonds-Insurance |
| * FRANZESE, Dominick - Real Estate | SOMERVILLE, Kristine - Education |
| * GAPP, Jerry - Business Consultant | STARBUCK, Margaret - Public Service |
| * GEPHART, Glenda - Journalism | * STELZER, Rick - Health Care |
| P* GIFFORD, Thomas - Banking | STOCUM, Donald - Postal Service |
| * GOODMAN, Bridgette - Publishing | TRAVIS, Robin - Cooperative Extension |
| * GUILD, James - Retail Clothing | VANDEBURGH, Brian - Restaurant |
| * HAEFFNER, Charles - Journalism | WEAD, Linda - Banking |
| HAGIN, Doug - General Insurance | P* WILSON, Kenneth J. - Banking |
| HALL, Fred - Government | WOODWORTH-SHAW, Nan - Education |
| * HARRISON, Thomas - Banking | P* YUHASZ, Michael A. - Education |
| HAYDEN, Matt - Law | |
| P* HOWELL, James Jr. - Environmental Control | |
| * KOHENA, Shirley - Education | |

P Past President *Paul Harris Fellow