

Reporting Meeting of Feb 29, 2016

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 2/22 Saratoga PLAN Devin Regolino
This Week: 2/29 Today's College Student Peter Sawyer
Next Week: 3/7 TBD

Coming Up: 3/14 Board Meeting

Attendance: Rotarians: ?? - Guests Rotarian Mike Nyhan w/
Scotia Citrus

Invocation: Bill McClary

Note: Regular meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:15 PM in the
William E. Sewell Memorial Room at the Ballston Town Hall.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Peter Parker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Bill led us in the pledge, Bob Youmans in America the Beautiful, and Bill McClary used the Boy Scout Grace from Camp Philmont in New Mexico.

For Rotary Moments, Walt Grattidge told us that he became a Rotarian in Potsdam NY, while on loan from GE to Clarkson College, where he worked to integrate the Clarkson Library with the Clarkson computing facility to establish what is now called a Learning Center. Walt also noted that he introduced the Whettens to BHBL Rotary.

In another Rotary Moment, Alec Davis told us that he became a member of Schenectady Rotary in 1977. When he retired and moved to Burnt Hills, he translated Rotary's emphasis on "service" to become very active in BL Emergency Squad. He also recounted several very "interesting" calls, one where a car had run off the road on Outlet Road, and the driver told him that her husband had told her, "In case of emergency, pull off the road."

While "Happy Dollars" are not normally part of the Rotateller, Gini paid a buck in recognition of her VERY unusual role as Tornado Information Coordinator. It seems that while Gini and Rey were in Utah, their daughter, Kate and family and pets were huddled in a crawl space under their home in Chapel Hill, NC. Three tornadoes knocked out power and telephone lines, but Gini was watching the Weather Channel, and while in cell-phone contact with Kate was able to advise as to when the several lines of the storm would hit, and when it might be safe for Kate to step outside for a moment of respite,

Thanks, Gini, for the buck, but also for the most unusual story!

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Today's College Student Pete Sawyer

Before his formal presentation, Pete explained his unusual "formal" attire (white shirt and tie !) by telling us that this was "Lobby Day." This meant that Pete and other members of the Board of Education, the Supt of Schools and other staff, went to Albany to meet with Jim Tedisco, Hugh Farley and others. The topic was Education: for the State officials to learn from BHBL-CS, to educate them about our needs, and in the other direction, for the BHBL team to learn something about the State's plans for budgetary support for local schools.

The BHBL school district has been classified as a "less needy" district, which translates into fewer \$\$ in state aid. However, there was no good explanation as to the basis for that rating, so BHBL pressed for the reasons.

The State is pressing school districts to look for ways in which services can be consolidated, perhaps pooled purchasing as an example..

As for Pete's formal presentation about today's students, Pete used "Generation on a Tight Rope," by Arthur Levin, as the basis for his presentation. Some points:

- Is the information presented relevant to what is needed at the moment?
- The Industrial Revolution took 6 generations to accomplish, but--
- Quote from a student: "It's only 'technology' if it was developed after I was born."
- Can't accept criticism or corrective comments
- Students today lack "conversation" skills; instead, they "text." (and if you don't know what "texting is, ask your grandchild!)
- Students are more immature, dependent, coddled and entitled. As a society, we don't let them fail
- Society is changing so rapidly, it's tough for students to adjust so quickly.
- Results are: unrealistic expectations about the future, and their part in it
- A "continuous learning mode" seems to be evolving. More students are working while in school (up to 20 hrs/week), taking fewer credits per term, and thus taking longer to graduate

Pete believes in "engagement" as a teaching method, and gave us a worksheet, both for "in class" discussion, but also as a take-home, where we were (and are!) asked to identify 1) How students need to develop (skills, etc) and 2) how learning today differs from when we were in school, and in prior generations.

Thanks Pete, for an informative and provocative program!

Reported by Bill McClary

