

Reporting Meeting of September 11, 2017

Calendar of Events

Last Week: Sept 4: Labor Day, no meeting
This Week: Sept 11: Therapy Dogs International
Next Week: Sept. 18: Club outing to Wolf Hollow Brewery
Coming Up: Sept 25: Jim Caverly - Emotional Freedom Technique
 Oct 2: Apple Run bag stuffing

Attendance: Rotarians: 25 Guests: 6

Invocation: Dan Stec-also had a moment of silence for those who sacrificed in 2001, and for those who are still suffering

Note: Regular meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:00 PM in the William E. Sewell Memorial Room at the Ballston Town Hall.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Beth Brownell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ken Crotty, safety officer for the Apple Run asked for volunteers for course monitoring. If you volunteer, please give Ken your cell phone #. Be at the Middle School by 7:45AM. Mike Brewster is coordinating with the police.
- The Apple Run work sign up sheet was sent around. Contact Paul Lewandowski if you have not yet signed up.
- Rotary Foundation has established a fund for Hurricane Harvey victims. The Board has decided to wait to donate pending Rotary Foundation response to Hurricane Irma. Jon will email the info if individuals would like to contribute on their own at this time.
- Rotary District grant was approved for the kiosk at Anchor Diamond Park. Rick Reynolds has contacted AJ Signs and hopefully the sign can be installed before the ground freezes.
- If you need to order a new yellow work shirt, contact Mary Anderson for prices.
- Gini Whetten was presented with a Paul Harris +7 award
- Tom Brownell was presented with his Person of Action certificate



- Scotia Rotary members were selling Monday Night Football pool booklets as a fundraiser.
- Mike Brewster collected Happy Dollars with his usual good humor.



Serve with us. The world is waiting.

Kris Cameron - Therapy Dogs International

Kris Cameron, known to many people as the owner of BH Optical, visited the club with her therapy dog Roxie. The Schenectady chapter encompasses the Capital Region up to Plattsburgh, out to Oneonta and down to Catskill. There are approximately 200 volunteer members who visit 80 facilities a year. It is a wholly volunteer driven program and there is no cost to those who receive visits. They do not accept donations and run their program by a small fees paid by the volunteers every three years. 95% of requests for a visit are filled and when a request cannot be filled, it is due to lack of an available volunteer. Therapy dogs share and give comfort, as opposed to service aid dogs which are trained in specific tasks. People respond to the love a dog can give, which is unconditional and nonjudgmental. Kris mentioned that the volunteers feel better after bringing



their dogs for a visit, due to all the help and happiness they see the dogs provide. Therapy dogs go to community events, participate in parades.

Recently there has been an increase in visits to colleges around exam time, to comfort student who miss their own dogs, and to work places, to aid in stress reduction. Tail Waggin' Tutors are dogs that sit with children who practice reading aloud or who otherwise need extra attention. Dogs also give stress relief to those in the midst of disasters providing comfort to families and responders.



Kris outlined the testing that a dog and its handler have to go through and the traits that make a good therapy dog. Dogs come in all sizes and are purebred or mutt. Ability to obey around lots of people and children as well as their ability to focus on their handler and not be distracted by what is going on around them are traits that make a good therapy dog.

Reported by Beth Brownell



Set Up: Beth Brownell, Tom Brownell, Bob Youmans Clean Up: Gregg Schorr, Mick Brewster, Mary Anderson Greeter: Ray Callanan