

## Reporting Meeting of April 9, 2018

### Calendar of Events

**Last Week:** 4/2 Populating Club Committees – Beth Brownell  
**This Week:** 4/9 NCBI - Jeff Reynolds and Students – Guest Night  
**Next Week:** 4/16 Rotary Stories – Jon Costolo  
**Coming Up:** 4/23 Annual Rotary Dinner at Schenectady Community College:  
Speaker – Walter Grattidge  
4/24 Interclub Dinner at Turf Tavern  
4.28 Community Benefit Breakfast – BH United Methodist Church  
4/30 Town in Bloom Committee Meeting @ 5:15 pm

**Attendance:** Rotarians: 18 Guests: 6

**Invocation:** Jon Costolo

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

### Program: Jeff Reynolds and HS students discuss NCBI

Jeff Reynolds is a Social Studies teacher at BH-BL High School. He brought students, Sophie and Sadie, with him to speak with us on their program with the National Collation Building Institute.



Originally, this program began as a “study circle” where groups discussed diversity, tolerance and learned to work together to help each other. The group was later enhanced by joining the NCBI which added structure and training, teaching students to lead other students by example and challenging them to be more tolerant and caring of each other.

During the high school’s Freshman Diversity Day, 30 – 40 student facilitators meet in small groups with incoming Freshmen to set the tone for their high school years by encouraging open dialogue and communication instead of judgement and ostracism. During this process students are challenged with examples of difficult situations, encouraging them to see themselves in another’s shoes in order to gain empathy and understanding about the struggles others may have. From examining anger issues, poverty, disability and many forms of stereotyping, these students help develop strategies to talk through differences.

The students remarked that debating seems to be discouraged in today’s society. Their thinking is that we can disagree but discuss our differences in a respectful and meaningful way.

This program is not currently funded within the school budget, and they are looking for benefactors to help them do this good work. They hope that our Rotary Club would be willing to help them with funding.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Jon Costolo led the Pledge. Bob Youmans led us in singing “America the Beautiful”.
- There is still time to sign up for the SCCC Dinner on 4/23. See Peter Parker or Gregg Schorr with your meal selections.
- Darlene Bower mentioned that several members attended the District Workshop on 4/7, which was informative and inspiring.
- Darlene also noted the Capital Region Rotary club is hosting a Toy Drive to benefit the Children’s Hospital at Albany Medical Center. See Darlene by 4/27 if you’d like to contribute new toys.
- Community Benefit Breakfast is 4/28. Sign-up forms are being distributed.
- The 4-H Walk-a-Thon will be held 5/12 A sign-up sheet is being circulated for donations. Silas, Darlene and Suzette are participating and looking for others to join.
- Mike Brewster cheerfully collected Happy Dollars.

**SERVE WITH US. THE WORLD IS WAITING.**

*Reported by Darlene Bower*

**April Set Up: Ken Crotty, Bill Lonergan, Peter Parker**

**Clean Up: Paul Lewandowski, Fred Baily**

