

## Reporting Meeting of October 29, 2018

### Calendar of Events

**Last Week:** Oct 22: DG Tammy Heckenberg

**This Week:** Oct 29: Dr. Peter Sawyer-  
“NYS Education Civic Engagement Standards”

**Next Week:** Nov. 5 No Meeting

**Coming Up: Nov 6: Apple Pie Festival O'Rourke Middle School**

Nov. 12: BOD and Club Assembly; Nov. 19 TBA

**Attendance:** Rotarians: 25 Guests: 1

**Invocation:** Beth Brownell offered the invocation

**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 Silas Schrader*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

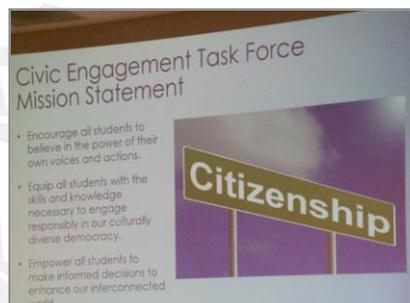
- Gregg Schorr updated us on Apple Pie Festival preparations and passed the signup sheets around. If you have not signed up, do not worry *we will find you a place to help* next Tuesday night. Gregg asked Club Members to pay \$20 or contribute three apple pies. Tickets are \$6 Presale. Students and athletes pay \$6. Tickets will be \$7 at the door. Still need door prizes solicited and collected.
- BHBL HS Rotoract Club is still collecting non-perishable food items. Bring donations to the Apple Pie Festival for pickup.
- The Rotoract Club is also selling *very cool* customized T-shirts for \$10.
- In addition, we will be selling our Thanksgiving Centerpieces at the Apple Pie Festival. Single Candle Centerpiece of fresh flowers and evergreens in a low bowl is \$25, Cornucopia flower arrangement in a basket is \$35, and an Herb Garden (Rosemary, Sage or Thyme) is \$12. You can also refer buyers to our website to complete and print the on line order form.
- Representatives from the club have taken the Holiday Giving Donation (\$1K) to the School District. Bob Youmans will be collecting further donations from individual club members.
- Mike collected Happy Dollars with his usual good humor.
- Inquiries regarding membership in our Rotary club have been coming in. Therefore, three members have been added to Mike's Membership Committee to help follow up on these inquiries.

Serve with us. The world is waiting.

## Dr. Peter Sawyer, NYS Education Student Civic Engagement

We had the pleasure of having our own club member, Dr. Peter Sawyer speak to our club about New York State Education Department's Civic Engagement Task Force. The mission of this Task Force is to:

- *Encourage all students to believe in the power of their own voices and actions.*
- *Equip all students with the skills and knowledge necessary to engage responsibly in our culturally diverse democracy.*
- *Empower all students to make informed decisions to enhance our interconnected world.*



The task force believes that it is the responsibility of NYS Education to provide students with a meaningful high school education, which will prepare them for competitive employment and civic participation. Civics education empowers students to make informed decisions that will create a better future. There is research and evidence that suggest that we are in a national crisis where most Americans are not civically engaged. In the 2014 elections, New York State ranked 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation in voter

turnout at 28.8 percent. (Ref: Your Vote is your Voice, NYSUT.org)

Dr. Sawyer then broke the club into small discussion groups and asked them to discuss what we would like to see from this initiative. It was very thought provoking and fun. Some of the questions he asked the groups to discuss were:

- What must our students be able to do as a Citizen?
- How can school prepare them to fulfill that role as a Citizen?

There were lots of great answers and follow-on discussions. Some of the key takeaways are that informed and trained teachers must teach students about our country's Political System. They must teach how the process works and how they can become involved in it. Only then, can students become engaged and become a part of the politics in their local community, state and nation. Civics should be included in a curriculum that starts at a young age and builds throughout education from elementary to high school.

We are looking forward to hearing what the Civic Engagement Task Force, of which Dr. Sawyer is a member, learns and hopes to implement for our state and local school's education of our youth.

*Reported by Jon Costolo  
Photos by Dick Arthur*

*Editor's note: Peter Sawyer has forwarded summaries of these discussions in a separate email. (Inky Fingers)*



**NOVEMBER Set Up:** Silas Schrader, Dan Stec, Bill Wehrle

**Clean Up:** Pete Sawyer, Alec Davis, Ron Schimpf

**Greeter:** Serg.- at – Arms, Mike Brewster.