



Reporting Meeting of September 9, 2019

Calendar of Events.

This Week: 9/9 Elizabeth Osborn – Buddy Blankets & Bears

Next Week: 9/16 Flu Shot Clinic (Info Below)

Coming Up: 9/23 No Meeting

9/26 Pints for Polio (Wolf Hollow Brewery)

9/30 Apple Run Race Bag Stuffing

10/5 Apple Run

10/7 TBD Meeting

Check us out: bhblrotary.org and on Facebook

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Silas led the Pledge and Four Way Test. Dan Stec read a thoughtful invocation after our club's singing of America the Beautiful.
- Our special guest for the evening was the Elizabeth Osborn from the nonprofit Buddy Bears and Blankets.
- For our BBQ Fundraiser Gregg Schorr reported that we made approximately \$600 dollars. Nice job by all in helping with the fundraiser.
- Gregg also passed around a signup sheet for the Flu Shot Clinic. This will not be a normal meeting night as we will be strictly supporting the pharmacy giving flu shots. There will be no dinner served. If you have not signed up for a time slot please call/email Gregg.
- President Silas spoke about the upcoming event at Wolf Hollow Brewery on 26 September. Asked for members to spread the word to other clubs at their meetings and also to donate wine for the "Wine Pull" fundraiser.
- Gregg spoke about a possible upcoming meeting at Galway Rock Vineyard and Winery. Cost would be \$7 for a tasting and \$10 for a tour. Need at least 10 people to sign up for a tour. Food would still be catered by Marcella's and normal price of \$12. No consensus made yet and to be discussed further.
- Rotary Citizen of the Year- We are still in need of nominations for last year's Club Rotary COY. Please send all nominations to Paul Lewandowski as soon as possible.
- We are looking for volunteers to chair the Tree Lighting and Concert that we manage each year in December.
- As our announcements took up a lot of time, we had our Sergeant at Arms Mike Brewster conduct "speed" Happy Dollars. \$1 Dollar a word. Most common words were: Weather, Happy, and Football

Serve with us. The world is waiting.



Buddy Blankets and Bears

Elizabeth Osborn



At our meeting, held at the Ballston Town Hall, we had the distinct pleasure of listening to the remarkable story of perseverance and determination of Elizabeth Osborn and her son, who started the nonprofit "Buddy Blankets and Bears".

Elizabeth told the emotional story of how her son Blade came up with the idea of Buddy Blankets. Elizabeth has successfully battled cancer multiple times throughout her life and it was during one of her

first chemo treatments that her young son would go to the hospital with her during these treatments. He sat with her most days but noticed an elderly gentleman sitting in the corner alone and brought him a blanket and sat near him. He talked with him and found out this elderly man was a veteran and Blade loved hearing his military stories. Blade would then sit and talk with this elderly man during every treatment he went to with his mom; often helping when he became sick and nauseated from the chemo treatments. On his mother's last day of treatment, Blade looked for his friend in his usual spot in the corner but he wasn't there. Blade hesitantly asked the nurses and was informed that he had passed away the night before. It was from that point in Blade's life that he would dedicate his time to helping veterans battling cancer. He didn't want anyone to feel alone during their treatments.

Knowing he couldn't sit with all the sick veterans across the world, he thought about what he could do and came up with the idea of providing them blankets like he had done for his friend. Blade never knew the name of the elderly gentleman he befriended in the hospital but called him by the name Buddy and named his organization after him, Buddy Blankets.

Over the years the organization has grown to include Buddy Bears and Tammy Buddy Bears, which are named after a family friend who died of cancer. Blade expanded from just blankets for veterans to all adults battling cancer and to bears for all children going through cancer treatments as well. He used his own money to make his organization a 501(c)3 nonprofit. His program has expanded to multiple chapters at different colleges.

Blade has recently added mental health and anti-bullying to his initiatives that his organization supports. He travels to multiple colleges and high schools telling his story of his friend Buddy, his organization, and his own struggles with mental health and bullying. He recruits new members and chapters and strictly has students only working for his organization.

Elizabeth's story of her son and his work was inspiring and we all hope that we get to meet Blade soon when he returns home from college. For more information please visit his website, www.buddyblanketsandbears.com



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OCT. SET UP: Ken, Bill L., Pete P. **CLEAN UP:** Darlene, Suzette, Fred **Greeter:** Mike



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