



Reporting Meeting of Monday Oct. 21

Calendar of Club Events.

This Week: 10/21 Kim Weir – Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation
Nest Week: 10/28 Joseph Dragone – Capital Region BOCES – Skilled Workforce
Coming Up: 11/4 No meeting
 11/5 Apple Pie Festival – *All hands on deck!*
 11/11 Galway Rock Vineyard and Winery –
 Tour, Wine tasting and Dinner
 11/18 Swim for Polio - Louise Rourke
 11/25 Festival of Trees – decorate our Rotary Tree
 12/3 Community Tree Lighting and Concert
 12/9 Holiday Party at the Charlton Tavern
 12/13 Drop the Puck on Polio – Glens Falls (Thunder vs. Allen Amricans)
 11/20 Polar Bear “Plunge for Polio” – Lake George
Check us out: bhlrotary.org and on Facebook

President Silas opened the meeting with a **BIG WELCOME** followed by the traditional activities.

Following dinner, Silas reminded us that we are attending this Rotary meeting with the vision of:

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Past Events:

1.) Gregg reported that the Apple Run was a success. A final report will be available soon.

2.) Dan, speaking about the installation of the new playground equipment at Jenkins Park, told us how impressed he was with new member Ryan Baker's prowess as a posthole digger. (Ryan's background as a former Texas rancher came in handy.)

New playground equipment installation crew - Ken, Ryan, Dan and Peter Parker.

3.) Silas reported that at Anchor Diamond Hawkwood Preserve Signage is now on two of the three panels of the Kiosk built by our club members. The sign for the third panel being made at AJ Signs will be ready soon.



Upcoming Events:

1.) **Town in Bloom**
 In anticipation of a frost ending the growing season, Mary presented Beth, Rey, Gini and Dan, the leaders of the Town in Bloom sites, with a large bag for each to use for the fall clean up.

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

2.) World Polio Day

A panel discussion will be held on Sat., Oct. 26 from 8:30 - 11am at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady. It will be attended by Laura and Dan.

3.) Apple Pie Festival – Nov. 5 – (Election Night) *Volunteers Needed!*

* APF will be held at the O'Rourke Middle School again this year.

* Dan circulated signup sheets for pies (3 either made at home or paid for by \$20/member) and for jobs the night of the event.

* An e-mail has been sent to the membership with the poster and letter to be used for gathering door prizes.

4.) Every Rotarian Every Year Rotary Foundation

Tom announced November as *Foundation Month*

He spoke about EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) participating in donating to the Rotary Foundation. Our club goal would be having every member contributing. Tom will continue to speak about the accomplishments of the Foundation at future meetings.

Happy Dollars were cheerfully and quickly collected.

Kim Weir – Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation and the Second Chances Program

Kim grew up with ponies and spoke about her personal growth caring for and riding from an early age. She married a horse racing enthusiast which brought the Wiers to New York State and Saratoga Springs and to Kim's role in the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation.

The TRF is the oldest and largest charity organization taking care of Thoroughbred racehorses when they can no longer race. Kim focused on the Second Chances Program which for 35 years has been saving horses and saving lives in correctional facilities where the horses live out their lives while teaching inmates who care for them the skills that give them a second chance when they leave prison. At a new prison in California, the prisoners built the barn and the sheds and learned the program.



“Second Chances” is a nationwide program. Kim said, “The horses are so happy and cared for 24/7. Just by being themselves they are helping remake lives.” “Second Chances” is a pre-release program for men and women getting ready to reenter society, teaching hands on vocational skills. It is therapeutic *and* very vocational. “It teaches them to be successful humans when they leave the facility. Rescue the horses. Rescue the prisoners”.

Racehorses live 25 – 30 years after racing the first 2 or 3 years of life. Six hundred horses are living on 18 farms in 9 states and in 7 prisons currently. Two more facilities are planned for NY State. The ten year long Second Chances program at Wallkill (50 horses) was recently featured on a local TV station.

Kim tied Second Chances to the Rotary 4-Way Test, stating it is “good for all concerned”. Kim shared more facts and stories which made for an especially meaningful program.

Reported by Mary Anderson, photos by Dick Arthur

NOV SET UP: Silas, Dan, Bill W. **CLEAN UP:** Pete S. Alec, Stephen G.