



Reporting Meeting of Monday Nov 18th

Calendar of Club Events.

This Week: 11/18 Swim for Polio - Louise Rourke – GUEST NIGHT
Next Week: 11/25 Festival of Trees – decorate our Rotary Tree
 12/3 Community Tree Lighting and Concert (take down 12/23)
 12/9 Holiday Party at the Charlton Tavern
 12/13 Drop the Puck on Polio – Glens Falls (Thunder vs. Allen Americans)
 1/1/20 Polarr Bear “Plunge for Polio” – Lake George
Check us out: bhblrotary.org and on Facebook

President Silas opened the meeting with his *new BIG WELCOME* followed by the traditional activities. Silas reminded us of Rotary’s vision: 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

- 1.) Rotary Foundation Giving Month (November) – Silas reminded us that the month of November is Rotary Foundation Giving month. Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into projects that changes lives both close to home and around the world. Please consider giving to the Rotary Foundation this month if you haven’t already for the year. See Tom Brownell for information on giving or you can give through your myrotary online account at my.rotary.org
- 2.) Town in Bloom Cleanup – Mary Reporting - A thank you from Mary to Tom and Beth Brownell for donating the pine boughs for the seasonal decorating of all the Town in Bloom barrels and flower beds.
- 3.) Tree Lighting and Concert -
 Helpers should be in place by 6pm. Festivities begin at 6:30
 Holiday Concert – 7:30pm – Senior High School Auditorium.
- 4.) BHBL Rotary Annual Holiday Party- Our club will hold its holiday party at Charlton Tavern on Monday 9 December. More info to follow.
- 5.) Scotia Rotary Annual Holiday Party- The Scotia Rotary club will be having their Annual Holiday Party at 12pm on Dec 10th. The location is the First Reformed Church and will be catered by Old Daley Catering. Please RSVP by Dec 3rd if wish to attend.
- 6.) Drop the Puck on Polio- Our Rotary District will be attending the hockey game Adirondack Thunder vs Allen Americans on Dec 13th. This will be a special event to help support Polio Foundation. There will be a 50/50 raffle and a Puck Drop. Tickets are \$15. Contact District Polio Chairperson, Doug Ford. ford@curtislumber.com
This will be a great opportunity to introduce friends to the fun of Rotary.
- 7.) Polar Bear Plunge- The District will be participating in the Polio Plunge at Lake George on 1 January 2020. Please consider participating or pledging towards those brave enough to take the plunge.
- 8.) NY Botanical Gardens Holiday Train Show- Linda LeTendre is organizing a trip with Wade Tours to the New York Botanical Gardens Holiday Train

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

Show on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Experience New York's favorite Winter tradition as enchanting model trains zip through a display of more than 175 New York landmarks on nearly a half-mile of track, each painstakingly re-created from natural flora. Cost is \$79, \$75 Seniors and \$65 for 12 and under.

Mike cheerfully and quickly collected Happy Dollars.

LOUIS ROURKE– SWIM FOR POLIO



We had the pleasure of having Louis Rourke talk to us about her recent Swim to End Polio and her history growing up with polio in the Lake George Region.

Louise, a lifelong summer resident of Lake George, contracted polio at 6 months old requiring a metal brace to learn to walk. She kidded that she thinks she learned to swim before she could walk as her family spent a lot of time on the lake. Growing up in Glen Falls, her father was a huge advocate for the March of Dimes in NY and for trying to start the eradication of polio. He wrote numerous letters to get Louise treated by many doctors. She became the March of Dimes Polio Poster Girl as a toddler and also met the NY State

Governor. She went through 4 surgeries, the first at Ellis Hospital and the remaining surgeries at NYU hospital in New York City. At the age of 15 she was able to walk without a brace. She does wear a brace now but only started wearing one again in 2007.

She has always been an avid swimmer and loves the water as it doesn't inhibit her as much as walking. Growing up on Lake George she was inspired by Diane Stuble who swam the entire lake in 1958. Years later in 2017 she met Bridget Simpson who also swam the length of Lake George. The two became swimming buddies and talked about the two of swimming Lake George as fundraising event to end polio. Rotary clubs got involved and eventually our entire Rotary District and that point Louise knew she had to complete the swim.

Bridget and Louise started the swim on July 30 2018 in the early morning and completed the relay swim in about 21 hours finishing around 3 am to a welcoming group of friends, family and Rotarians. The event raised \$40,000 dollars for the Rotary's Polio Eradication Initiative. And on top of those funds, the Bill and Melinda Gates tripled the amount to an astounding \$120,000!

Reported by Jon with photos by Dick Arthur

DEC. SET UP: Paul L., Bob Y., Tom B. **CLEAN UP:** Gregg, Mike B., Mary A., Jon