

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

July 29, 2009

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

President Jim's Corner:

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Dear Members -

We had our first club assembly, however, there were echos in the room, since very few members were there. I know it is summer and people go on vacation, but it was disappointing that only 18 members were present. We are still missing some members at our meeting and we would like to see you. If you have missed a couple of meetings, please make an effort to come out and join us. At the meeting, discussion of merging with other clubs was tossed around. The main

obstacle is what club would be willing to change their meeting schedule. I have had discussion with Brookfield and Danbury Sunrise, but both are reluctant to change their meeting schedule. Will and Paula showed an informative video on retaining and recruiting new members. They pointed out that each member is responsible for recruiting and retaining new members. Paula will be sending reminders and suggestions to help us with this worthwhile endeavor.

One fund raiser discussed is a golf outing, our new member, Frank Considine, has been working on this and hopes to schedule a golf outing in October. We are trying to get about 8 Foursomes together and play a small tournament. We will have more information on this in a week or two.

The picnic, Sunday, August 16th, is fast approaching, so let Caryl know if you plan to attend. Caryl has assured us the weather will be nice.

Speakers for August have not yet been finalized; however, I will e-mail you shortly with the list. Our next Board of Directors meeting will be Thursday, August 13.

Amber Alert in September:

9/8-10/4 Big E, 10 am-6 pm

9/12-9/13, Taste of Dbry, Noon to 7 pm

9/19 Munson Funeral Home, Wdbry, 2-6 pm

9/27 Berkshire Shopping Ctr, Dbry, Once Upon a Child,

TBA



Paula Greenberg asks for our help with the Card Raffle. Let's get out there, and bring in those donations!

July 29th Meeting-

Club Assembly; Discussion of the Vision Session:

The meeting, this week, focused on the final results of the strategic planning (Vision) session organized by the District, and chaired by Pamela Burdett-Miller. On June 23rd, the District provided our Club three trainers, and a group facilitator, and the outcome was hashed over, and rehashed at our luncheon meeting today.

The earlier group was encouraged to think outside the box during the training session, and this thinking continued at the luncheon. Will Houston, Paula Greenberg and Ray Kish all provided suggestions, with Ray offering the most colorful military analogy—he suggested that we bomb the area with information before sending in the troops. That is, we get the word out to the community in the attempt to recruit the best members we can.

Unfortunately, your Editor missed this week's discussion on the Vision initiative, and would like to have added his 2 cents worth. However, Rich Godfrey's able reporting indicated that the Club is totally on board with the program, and the discussion was spirited and constructive. It is apparent that the need for an aggressive member recruitment program is essential to the long term health of the Club, our fundraising needs to be revised---and we need more socials.

Other areas of focus involved continuation of Amber Alert with more Club participation, increased volunteerism, greater Club diversity, developing a monthly fellowship program, developing closer ties with the Sunrise club, re-implementation of our Youth Exchange Program, greater help in training our Club officers, initiation of a program to provide international support for families and involvement with the cleft palate program. We are definitely on our way.



Vince Miscia and John Lucchesi discuss the direction the Club should take.

Luncheon Tidbits:



Jane Didona shows unusual pleasure winning a mere \$10.00. Ray Kish is unimpressed, since it was not the coveted King of Clubs. Oh well. It will still buy Jane a cup of coffee and a donut. It could be a lot worse. She could have lost completely.

A Note From the Editor who is On Vacation:

While sitting on Cannon Beach, in Oregon, it occurred to me that John and Caryl Lucchesi deserve many kudos, and recognition for hosting a social following the Vision Program, being the first Rotarians to carry out a new Vision suggestion. We need new ways to foster fellowship, and the Picnic does just that.

We need to celebrate all of our major holidays with a Rotarian fellowship activity. It will make each of our holidays more festive, and help us all to get to know each other a little better. The luncheons do help, in that regard, but parties are just a bit more special—and fun!

Make-ups:

- Mon. 12:15 pm, Norwalk, Norwalk Inn
- Mon. 6:15 pm, Newtown, Inn at Newtown, 19 Main St.
- Mon. 6:00 pm, Brkfld, Mario's Pasta Garden, 174 Federal Rd., Brkfld
- Tues. 12:15 pm, Westport, Inn at Longshore, 260 Compo Rd, So
- Wed. 12:15 pm, Danbury, Ethan Allen Inn
- Wed. 6:00 pm, Ridgefield, Parks and Recreation
- Thurs. 12:15 pm New Canaan, Roger Sherman Inn
- Fri. 12:15 pm, Wilton, Trackside Restr.
- Fri. 7:30 Danbury Sunrise, The Club at WestConn, Westside Campus

**Rotary Club of Danbury
Officers 2009-10**

<i>President-</i>	<i>James Gargan</i>
<i>President- Elect</i>	<i>Paul Palanzo</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>William Houston</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Pamela Burdette-Miller</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Frank Acquanita</i>
<i>Sergeant at Arms</i>	<i>Michael Searing</i>
<i>Membership Chair</i>	<i>Paula Greenberg</i>

<i>Directors-</i>	
<i>Anita Ragona</i>	<i>Allison Fulton</i>
<i>Marvin Paige</i>	<i>Bob Vetter</i>
	<i>Carol Ann Giannico</i>

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Thought for the Day:

Golf is one of those rare games where a high score is something to be avoided. However, it would seem that the average week end duffer seems to believe otherwise.

It is also rather interesting, that you want to make strikes in bowling, but want to avoid them in baseball. Strikes are also nice to have if you are a fisherman, but not if you work for a union.

A basket is good to have in basketball, but you never want to play so hard you end up being a basket case.

Returning to the great sport of baseball, runs are great on the diamond, but not so great in a lady's pair of hose.



Bob Vetter

The man to the left is doing what he always does, each luncheon—patiently reading off the list of upcoming Amber events. Our Vision initiative highlighted the Amber program as the one our Club is most proud of, but the participation of Club members during Amber ID events still remains way too low. The Big E is coming up soon, and any person participating in an Amber event gets a free ticket to the exposition. Let's really dig in and help Bob out this year. Remember, Amber not only is a protection for children, it is a major Club fundraiser. Now how many hands do we see up for the next event?