

Roof Garden Online



ROTARY CLUB of SOMERSET, PA 15501

"The Roof Garden of Pennsylvania," the abode of "The Frosty Sons of Thunder." Organized 1924.

ROTARY CLUB MEETING OF NOV. 9, 2018



Adults from left, are Vince Jacob, Polly Close, Mike Kuhn, Ann Persun, Jill Harris and B. G. Robert E. Sembower Jr., (R-PA) standing with the St. Peter's Singers (not in order) Allison Brorek, Abigail Campbell, Felicity Petrosky, Arabella Renna, Julianne Barto, Isabella Basala, Samantha Brinton, Kali Dirienzo, Jude Glover, Ava Guerrieri, Hannah Jacob, Cole Johnson, Abigail Ledney, Callen Miller, Sophia Morocco, Emily Rush, Carson Vought, Elyse Watkins.

Rotary honors local veterans

President Mike opened today's meeting but quickly handed off master of ceremony duties to Vince Jacob, serving again as our annual Veterans Day Recognition Program Chair. Following a prayer by Dana Keith, Rotarian Chris Kimmel's sons and Boy Scouts Hunter and Bailey, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rob Coleman provided a Veteran's Day video tribute featuring an inspirational speech given by President Ronald Reagan on Nov. 11, 1985. It's worth another look and you can find it on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiGWcqj_CU.

Distinguished guests of members and the club were introduced and included: Duane Walker, Fred Morocco, Terry McManahan, Ray Davis, Clair Platt, General Hank Sembower, Bob Jacob, Andy & JoAnn McGonigle, Stu Saylor, Harold Weigle, Harry Johnson, Dana Keith, Jack Mosholder, Tedd Welsh, Charlie Sturtz, Don Nair, Dan Kinsella, Larry Powell, Neal Hoffman, Dennis Rapp, John Jacob and Michael Glover. Editor's apologies for omissions and misspellings! Also visiting was our student for the month of November, Kyle Stern. Secretary Chris reported that 38 Rotarians were in attendance.

Vince then introduced Allison Berek who sang an angelic rendition of the National Anthem followed by the full St Peter's Singers, a group of 20+ delightful boys and girls who sang - You're A Grand Old Flag, This Land is Your Land, Yankee Doodle, Dream Small and God Bless America. Their final selection, May the Road Rise Up to Meet You was sung as a tribute and memorial to Father Daniel J. O'Neill, who passed on Oct. 29. Vince had the good sense to suspend our typical Rotary sing along, perhaps to avoid unnecessary embarrassment although the kids did allow us to join in on the chorus of God Bless America.

John Fiesta offered a LKF about our 2nd national anthem, God Bless America that was first performed by Kate Smith in 1938. The song made its film debut in the 1943 movie This Is the Army, starring who else but Ron Reagan...who knew!

Our speaker for the day was, General Hank Sembower who offered a thoughtful prospective on World War I and specifically the contributions of local heroes from Company C, a regiment that he commanded from 1983 - 1986. General Sembower's chronology of The Great War began with the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand on June 28th of 1914 through the US involvement in 1917, brought on in part by the sinking of the ocean liner Lusitania in 1915.

He described the heroics of many locals including Lawrence Hartle of Meyersdale and Samuel S Crouse who would later be honored as the namesake



Vince Jacob, right, thanks B. G. Robert E. Sembower Jr., (R-PA) for his program about Company C.

of the Somerset American Legion Post 181. The "Frosty Sons of Thunder" as the local infantry company became nicknamed, demonstrated true grit and courage in defending their country, leading General Sembower to ask the question, "are we worthy of what they did for us"? An important question for all of us in today's divisive and polarized climate. Thanks to General Sembower for an excellent program and God Bless America!

The day's program was concluded with the playing of "Taps" by a bugler silhouetted behind the American flag.

THANK YOU VINCE! And a special thanks to all military personnel both active and retired for their service.

- Editor Doug

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

Nov. 16 - George Dethlefsen, CEO of Corsa Coal Corp., information about the company and plans for Somerset County holdings

Nov. 23 - No meeting - Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 30 - Larry Barron, Esq., Somerset Trust Company, Preventing Elder Abuse

Dec. 7 - Annual salute to Agriculture, organized by Doc Barnett - Invite a farmer or other agriculture professional. The speaker will be Glenn Stoltzfus from Pennwood Farms.

Dec. 14 - Bob Brooks, Rotary District 7330 Secretary/Treasurer, everything you wanted to know about how the District operates

Dec. 21 Annual Visitor form the North Pole

Dec. 28 No meeting - Christmas Holiday

Somerset Rotary Club

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President Michael Kuhn

Rotary's 4-Way Test

- 1) Is it the truth?
- 2) Is it fair to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- 4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

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