

# 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 OCTOBER 26, 2018

President Mike kicked promptly opened ceremonies with the bell and the pledge, followed by a prayer on empathy and mutual understanding from Mark, only to be topped by the Mark-and-Millie show leading us through 'God Bless America' and 'Let There Be Peace on Earth.'

Secretary Chris reported that our Student of the Month, Sara Johnston, was in attendance for her last meeting, along with parents, Roger and Peggy, and 39 Rotarians.

Sarah finally had the chance to introduce herself to us formally. She shared that her plans after high school include a four-year university where she will study Music Education with a Minor in Cello Performance with an eye to teach while also performing with a professional orchestra. She also shared with us how her experience on the high school Cross-Country team has deeply impacted her work ethic and her approach to achieving future goals. She emphasized the importance of teamwork and 'mental toughness' as she ventures forth in her future endeavors.

### FOUNDATION MOMENT:

John put in one last plug for the Foundation Dinner next Friday, Nov. 2nd and then introduced Marlin, who shared with us his own personal battle with Polio. Despite being afflicted as a young child, Marlin described how he was able to overcome the disease and play sports through high school and college, and only in later years did he require the use of a cane to combat the effects of the condition on his legs. Marlin then read the excerpt describing 'crawlers,' or those individuals who suffer from polio and are left to fend for themselves, moving about with the use of skateboards. The anecdote shared today relayed the story of one young boy, a 'crawler,' thanking Rotary volunteers for spreading the polio vaccine since he saw their work as a way of saving his younger sister, even if they couldn't save him. May the work continue.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mike reminded us all of the Community Day scheduled for Saturday to recognize the work on Route 219
- Boys and Girls Club dinner was a delightful event which included the presentation of artwork from the children – which is up for grabs for any club member!
- Rob reiterated the message forwarded by Chris to remind us all to stay vigilant when receiving emails that may appear to be from Rotary International officers as many of their accounts and online identities have been compromised.

**FINES:** Fred was unforgiving in his assessment today (perhaps because the ultimate beneficiary of our 'not-so-voluntary' donations was the Polio Plus cause).

- How many lawyers does it take to hang a banner? Who knows? But they all got fined!
- Those not wearing nametags or signed up for the Foundation dinner
- Ron, because, well, Ron.
- All Hometown Heroes, and any number of other for their appearances in the paper or on billboards (substitute Fine Master included) – and he even fined a guest! Perhaps we'll have to consult Mark on the legalities of such a fine, since he seems to be very familiar with the sub-sections of the by-laws...

### MAIN PROGRAM:

Next year marks the 90th Anniversary of the Daily American. As we stand on the precipice of such an occasion, we had the opportunity to hear about the many ways this journalistic institution has evolved to better make connections among community members. One of our own, Brian, reminded us all that the primary mission of our local newspaper and publishing outfit is to "find ways to connect people." With this ultimate goal in mind, Brian introduced us to Matt Hoke, the Events Coordinator for the Daily American. Matt highlighted the many events in which the Daily American organizes including the annual 10K event which benefits local non-profits, the Picnic with Elephants at the ICC in Fairhope, the annual fireworks events, the first Women in Business Conference held this year,



From left are the day's brighenters Matthew Hoke, Dr. Bill Croushore, Brian Whipkey, and Rotary President Michael Kuhn.



Student of the Month Sara Johnston and Rotary President Michael Kuhn.

Hometown Heroes, bus trips, a Mountain Treasures Tour, and many more. Matt explained how these events are intended to reach individuals and help them feel connected to the larger community in which they live and how they are always seeking opportunities and partnerships to continue that effort.

Brian then took to the podium to enlighten us on the variety of publications for which the Daily American is responsible. While many of us may be familiar with the daily paper, the organization actually produces prints ranging from church directories and bridal brochures to books by local authors and the official visitors guide to Flight 93, created by Jerry Spangler. They also service non-subscribers through any number of resources such as the 'Our Town' weekly publication and Somerset Magazine, which highlights local activities and attractions.

Last but not least, Dr. Bill Croushore spoke to us about his experience writing a weekly column and then recently publishing a book through the Daily American. Dr. Croushore recounted his inspiration to start sharing his knowledge with our area as a response to national publication, which had misrepresented the state of animal agriculture in our country. He explained how he viewed the opportunity to share his insights on such matters as a privilege and a responsibility that he takes very seriously. After nine years of weekly articles, he partnered with the Daily American to publish a collection of his writings. He referenced a few select examples, including the story he once heard of a local farmer feeding his cattle marijuana-laced food and reaping the unexpected benefits of such an accident, as well as the encounter with a steer who had inadvertently gotten a fishing lure caught in his mouth – certainly not something covered in traditional veterinarian schooling. Dr. Croushore also acknowledged that while his views might not always align with his greater audience, he tries to remain cognizant of the views of all who may read his articles; he recognizes and tries to honor the newspaper's greater goal of connecting people through information.

As a personal aside, I cannot help but reflect on how the day's presentation clearly displayed the mutual respect between our local newspaper and the people and community they serve. I could not help but think back to Mark's opening prayer reminding us all of the importance of understanding and appreciating each other, even if we don't always agree. What better message to spread heading into Election Day? (Roger, I'll happily pay a fine for talking politics if you think it's merited on this one.)

EDITOR: Allie Hoffman

### FINAL THOUGHT:

Millie shared the story of the Wilsons, who happened to be on an elevator when a young woman boarded and found herself close to Mr. Wilson, much to Mrs. Wilson's dismay. Then, just as the young woman was about to exit, she turned and slapped Mr. Wilson because she believe he had inappropriately 'pinched' her. He was just as shocked to be slapped by the young woman as he was when he found out it was his wife who did the pinching!

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

- Nov. 2 – No noon meeting – Foundation Dinner this evening in Rockwood.
- Nov. 9 – Veterans' Day Program presented by Vince Jacob
- 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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