

THE PENWHEEL REPORTER: JACK WETZEL MARCH 20, 2012

It was **corned beef and cabbage** day for most, with some of the “unbelievers” opting for salad. We were *not* greeted by DON MILTON, who couldn’t make it, but, as someone observed, there were so few of us present (13 members) that we just greeted each other.

Among the present were the Pledge Leader, (was that you, JOE BEST?), the Invocator, ZACH DRESSNER and the Song Leader, BILL PETHICK, who chose a selection from the Rotary Song Book: “Smile, Sing a Song”.

PRESIDENT CHARLIE BELLOMO called for a “**Sunshine Report.**” We learned that the venerable BOB SMITH has been in South Sudan to follow up on projects related to Water for Sudan. He will return home in the next few days. NELS CARMAN also volunteered that SALVA DUT will be back for a visit in June.

CHARLIE noted that the finals for the District Oratorical Competition will be held in Brockport on Saturday, March 24. He and JACK WETZEL, and possibly MARIE CINTI, will be in attendance to root for our sponsored candidate, Teaghan Buscemi, who placed second in the semi-finals at area level.

District Governor Norma explained to Club Presidents the reason attendees at the District Conference must lodge at the hotel is that this helps to cover the cost of meeting rooms which are part of the overall cost of the conference. JACK BEST endorsed this concept. It would, after all, be the same if the conference were held outside the Rochester area.

Upcoming important dates are: the District Assembly on April 14: register now!! And the special Club meeting to recognize persons in the business community who provide outstanding “Service Above Self”. This will take place on April 24 at Shadow Lake.

Member Announcements: CHRISTIAN PAPPAS , fresh from PETS, let it be known that next year’s District Conference will be in Lake Placid, and BILL PETHICK made his weekly plea for change (folding money permitted) for Polio Plus. JACK BEST shared a membership moment as he lauded the contributions of the “Class of 2010” who have taken leadership roles in our Club. (He later set an example of awareness by inviting our guest speaker or one of his key staff to join Penfield Rotary).

Happy Dollar\$: Best guess is that each of the donors contributed \$1.00. They were: GEORGE GRAY for his son’s move from one Chinatown, (NYC), address to another; PRES. CHARLIE for the rare treat of playing golf on March 20 (just prior to the meeting). CHRISTIAN PAPPAS, happy that the Buffalo Bills signed Mario Williams; WALLY ASHNAULT delighted that his granddaughters are doing so well in competitive skiing; CHRIS KAUSCH for the fun of March Madness and for SU’S success thus far; NORMA WEBER bragging on her great-grandchild, 4 years old, singing his ABC’s to her; LINDA KOHL enjoying walking the dog in this fabulous weather, and JACK BEST for grandson Joshua blowing his first bubble; ZACH DRESSNER happy, together with his wife, for chaperoning a trip of young people to Washington D.C. while NELS CARMAN also chipped in.

Our **GUEST SPEAKER**, Larry Grossman of Grossman’s Nursery in Penfield, shared some thoughts about the challenges and opportunities presented by the uncommonly early spring. His pre-announced topic was “Planning for Spring” but morphed into something like, “Go With What Mother Nature Gives You.” He observed that you have to learn to listen to the plants in order to learn what they like and don’t like. Go with what they like to produce best results. A lively Q and A session underscored the earlier points. For example, learn to think like a deer if you are to limit their ravages of your trees and plants.

Further, he noted, one must think quality, not quantity. Mixing humor with sage advice, he presented a valuable program.

BILL PETHICK held the winning ticket for **the raffle** which earned him \$6.00, while the devious joker eluded his grasp.

Next week (March 27):

Program: Town Supervisor Tony LaFountain: State of the Town

Volunteers:

Greeter: Linda Kohl
Reporter: Bill Pethick
Invocation: Joe Best
Pledge: Nels Carman
Pick up Joe: Christian Pappas

Membership Moment:

Rotary International conducted a webinar on March 13 entitled “Membership: Re-energize your club.” Among the questions it raised: How can the New Generations Avenue of Service meet the needs for club participation among a modern generation with new ways of life and business cultures? The answer is found in our club:

1. Our **New Generations Avenue of Service**, chaired by Marie Cinti, has enjoyed great successes this year among its eight programs at Penfield High School
2. **Class of 2010** members Christian Pappas, Chris Kausch, Iveth Reynolds, Craig Smith, Zac Dressner and Mary Wojnowski along with Marie Cinti have already demonstrated their club leadership ability.
3. **Our challenge:** how to find seven more business leaders and professionals to be the Class of 2011-12.
4. **The answer:** only Christian Pappas found us through the Internet. The others were asked: Chris Kausch by Mary Nannini; Iveth Reynolds and Craig Smith by Jack Best, Zac Dressner and Marie Cinti by Linda Kohl and Mary Wojnowski by Christine Peters.
5. **Whom could you ask** to attend an upcoming meeting to check out Rotary and what Rotarians do?
6. Thursday, May 17: **Rotary Information meeting** over lunch at Bill Gray’s/Panorama Plaza
7. Tuesday, June 12: **Induct** new members.