

2ND ANNUAL VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

President CHARLIE BELLOMO began the meeting with some remarks about his strong positive feelings for the military, based on his experiences that began with his boyhood in Buffalo. Veteran Dick Noviskas led The Pledge while MARY ANN MADY gave the Invocation, with a special emphasis on how our American way of life has depended upon veterans, some of whom gave their lives for our country.

Approximately 60 Rotarians, veterans and their spouses attended today's meeting. Among them was Rochester Rotarian FRANK MEHLENBACHER and Warrior SALUTE coordinator, Sgt. David Kendricks.

Announcements:

1. BRUCE VANDERWARKER reported that 53 players played in our first Hole-in-One qualifier. Ten qualifiers will report at noon to Shadow Lake next Monday, June 4, for the \$100,000 shootout towards the 18th green from 165 yards. The event was an "artistic success," with excellent organization, but drew far fewer than had been expected. Among its sponsors were Bob Hastings Buick/GMC, Rochester Law & Garden Center (Qualtrough and Embury) and Olympia Sports, near Lisa's Liquor Barn in the Wegmans Plaza.

2. BRUCE has also called the final preparatory meeting of the Golf Tournament Committee for tomorrow night, Wednesday, May 30, at 7 PM at Jack Best's house. The club's 15th Annual Golf Tournament will take place next Monday, June 4, at Shadow Lake.

Happy Dollars came from:

- President Charlie, for the Warrior SALUTE program
- NORMA WEBER, for her return to the club after a fall at home
- JACK WETZEL: out of the Army on 4.4.55
- BILL PETHICK: out of the Army on 6.21.56
- STEVE KETCH, for knowing a Trivial Pursuit question about Rotary
- Bruce, for sitting among the Warrior SALUTE veterans
- LINDA KOHL, proud of the Hole in One tournament
- Mary Ann: "Thank you, Veterans!"
- Several veterans who appreciated PRC's thanks for their service
- David Kendrick, happy to back to Penfield Rotary to represent Warrior SALUTE

Program:

JACK BEST introduced Veterans Outreach Center Interim President and retired Monroe County Judge Patricia Marks. Pat is a long-time Penfield resident whose father and husband were veterans. She spoke proudly about the work of the VOC on behalf of veterans. It had been founded by Vietnam Veterans who came home to animosity about the war. Its mission became recognizing "their rightful status as honored veterans" rather than as dishonored citizens. Approximately 70,000 veterans in the Rochester area including family members directly benefit from the Outreach Center. Its economic impact on the region measures approximately \$4.2M. The VOC collaborates with all of the veterans

agencies in the community including the Warrior SALUTE program. At least two of the veterans in attendance were currently volunteering their carpentry skills to the NUCOR House for Warrior SALUTE members. The VOC also operates the Stars and Stripes Flag Store on 455 South Avenue where all their flags are "made in America." Addressing the employment needs of veterans is a pressing concern. Among the issues: how to transfer the knowledge, skills and experience gained in the military to a civilian job. For example, Army medics who may have spent a year in a war zone in Afghanistan are expected to take basic courses to gain EMT certification. Partnerships with Nazareth College and MCC are helping to settle those issues.

CHRISTIAN PAPPAS won \$50 in the 50/50 and donated it directly to the Warrior SALUTE program.

Next week/June 5:

Program: Presentation of Awards check to Vocal Competition contestant Michael Floriano

Volunteers:

Greeter: Bruce VanDerwarker

Reporter: Bill Pethick

Invocation: Dave Sturtz

Pledge: Nels Carman

Pick up Joe: Craig Smith