

MARY ANN MADY led the meeting with The Pledge, plus she told us later that March 19 was St. Joseph Day (for Italians who like to party) and that March 17 was St. Patrick's Day (for Irish who like to party). Irish hate to end parties and Italians like to start them in advance....whew!

President CHRISTIAN PAPPAS gave the Invocation, extended by a moment of silence proposed by CHARLIE BELLOMO for the eight Marines who were killed in a training exercise in Nevada the day before.

Guests today were Dr. Steve Grimm, Penfield School Superintendent, Lisa Best and Rose Pethick. NOTE: Steve Grimm has asked to be admitted into the Penfield Rotary Club. He is a current member of the Lansing-Ithaca Rotary Club. He looks forward to welcoming his family to Penfield, now that his house in Lansing has been sold and he is ready to close on his new Penfield residence. If any member has any reservations or objections to his membership, please notify membership chair JACK BEST by Friday, March 28. Tentative plans are to induct Steve at the club's Second Annual Service above Self Recognition Luncheon on April 16.

Announcements:

President Christian:

- will conduct a euthanization service this coming Saturday morning, at 9 AM, for old Penfield Rotary tee signs related to the annual golf tournament. They are currently stored in the basement of the law offices located at 2526 Browncroft Boulevard. Landlord DON MILTON provided the space. Help is needed to sort the signs. Coffee and donuts will be provided to members who show up to assist. Family First Federal Credit Union has offered the west side of their parking lot which butts up against that office building.
- Plans are under way for the club's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament. This year's tournament will recognize WALLY ASHNAULT for his 50 years of active Penfield Rotary membership. The committee plans to invite all who have any association with Wally professionally or personally to play in the tournament. The goal: to completely fill all 144 tournament slots. Another goal: to secure 100 tee/hole sponsors for the event. Every club member will be asked to help the club meet both goals.
- The District Assembly takes place at Red Jacket High School on Saturday, April 13. Every club member is invited to attend, as the club's guest, to learn more about Rotary projects and programs district-wide. Car pools are being arranged, to depart about 7 AM that morning, and return about 2:00 PM. A continental breakfast will await members at the school, with lunch provided for the drive home.

- April 14<sup>th</sup> is the annual Spring Euchre Tournament, held again at The Legacy at Willow Pond, from 1:30- 6:00 PM. Proceeds will be directed toward Camp Haccamo and other Penfield Rotary programs.
- April 15 is the deadline for District Simplified Grant applications, for funds from the District's portion of Rotary Foundation contributions. President-Elect IVETH REYNOLDS, BILL PETHICK and Mary Ann Mady attended a district-Foundation training program, to alert them to the funds available for club projects.
- APRIL 23: NO LUNCH MEETING. Instead, members are invited to attend the Fairport Rotary regular dinner meeting the day before (Monday, April 22) along with East Rochester Rotarians.
- Penfield High Junior Carly DiMarco-Fayco competes this coming Saturday, March 23, at St. John Fisher College in the finals of the District Oratorical Contest.

JACK WETZEL: The club's Second Annual Hole-in-One Shootout Qualification is scheduled for the weekends of June 14-16 and 21-23. 12 qualifiers will tee off for \$100,000 at the 18<sup>th</sup> hole of Shadow Lake immediately prior to the regular July 2 meeting. Every member will be asked to provide at least two hours of help on one of those days.

HAPPY DOLLARS came from:

- NELS CARMAN: something about the weather
- Christian, that the Sabres season is nearly over
- Don Milton: no more cane needed for his hip surgery recovery
- Mary Ann, for two days, maybe three, of celebrations—read above
- Jack Wetzel, unable to find any happy Irish songs to sing today
- Iveth, for completing PETS training last weekend, plus her son receiving a Penfield Patriot Award
- SHANNON STAUB, who attended a Women of Rotary meeting yesterday
- ROSE PETHICK, who with Bill will visit their grandchildren in Atlanta
- Steve Grimm, whose house was sold in Lansing, and whose new home in Penfield closes soon
- Wally, whose knee-plagued grand-daughter is recovering from surgery, and two other grand-daughters for winning ski competitions

PROGRAM: Captain Dan Wiles, owner of Mid-Lakes Navigation Company.

Dan's father started Mid-Lakes Navigation in 1968. He operated a mail boat with room for 27 passengers that serviced cottages on Skaneateles Lake. From that start, the company began building its own boats for service on local lakes and the New York

State 524-mile canal system. Governor DeWitt Clinton provided the vision that led to the canal's construction from 1817-1825. The monies borrowed to finance that construction were paid back in eight years. The canal was upgraded and rebuilt twice, from 1835-1860 and from 1905-1918, the same time that the Panama Canal was being dug. Dan said that the identical technology was used to build both canals, which required "remarkable engineering" to make them work. Yes, there was a mule path along the first two versions, but steam engines moved the tugs and barges beginning with the last renovation. Much of the equipment used to operate the locks is still in use. There are four canals in the system: Erie, Oswego, Lake Champlain, Seneca Lake, with much of the system tied in to rivers, like the Mohawk River along the Thruway in eastern New York. Plus 57 locks and 17 bridges. Dan said that some commercial traffic can be found on the canal, but by far it has become a beautiful venue for tourists. MidLakes Navigation now has Lockmaster Canal boats that have one or two bedrooms in addition to kitchen, shower and toilet facilities that can be rented for 3,4 or 7 days. The Emita II departs from Dutchman's Landing in Baldwinsville and offers sightseeing and lunch/cruises on Onondaga Lake. The Judge Ben Wiles offers similar cruises on Skaneateles Lake and departs from the heart of Skaneateles. Dan concluded that "Monroe County gets it" related to the development of business and recreational facilities next to the canal. Consider both Pittsford and Fairport which have become tourist attractions in their own right because of their canalside locations.

The Joker (\$181) eluded Steve Grimm who took home \$8 from the 50/50.

**Next week (March 26): March is Women's History Month**

**Program:** Glimpses into Local History: Susan B. Anthony

**Presented by** Penfield Rotarian Nancy Aumann, PhD, certified docent of the Susan B. Anthony house.

**Volunteers:**

GREETER: Mary Ann Mady

REPORTER: Jack Best

PLEDGE: Linda Kohl

INVOCATION: Marie Cinti

PICK UP JOE: Jack Wetzel