



The Spoke

May 25, 2016



LAST WEEK MEETING

President Tom Briers presided. Week 47. David Adamson presented the Invocation; Jon McLeod led the Pledge of Allegiance; and Susan Schmitt did the Four-Way Test.

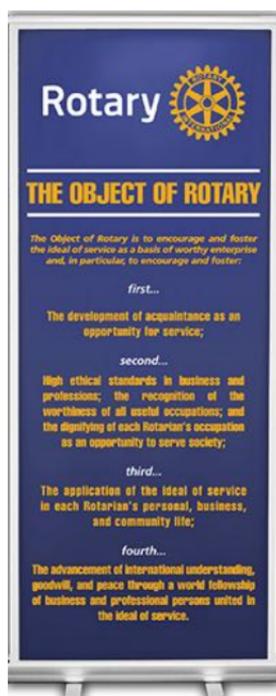


Ron Anderson with his Navy ball cap led singing of Anchors Aweigh.

Tom again announced the upcoming election for Foundation directors. The election will be June 1st. Please contact a member of the nominating committee, Sandy Hemstead, Bob Lombardo, or Wendy Arsenault if you are interested in serving.

Carl Nickel, our long time front desk stalwart, will be doing some traveling and will not be able to continue at the post. Tom is trying to put together a group of people who will rotate in providing coverage. Contact Tom or Bob Lombardo if you can help out.

Jon McLeod was the substitute Sergeant-at-arms for the day. He was backed up by Vince “The Enforcer” Modarelli as collector. Jon fined himself \$5 for an error in a seven day letter then fined for missing pins or name badges. He finished by picking on the SMACK table for having no ladies, raising \$38 in fines.



Tom pointed out the new retractable banners for the “Object of Rotary” and the “Four Way Test”. And he pointed out two new badges added to the club banner, Governor’s Award With Distinction and Governor’s Award - Fellowship of the Wheelchair Club.

Rotary Club of Cairns Sunrise Bulletin

“Susanne [Rea] is presently in the USA continuing to spread the word on the WGM and the fight to end Polio now. The fund raising efforts received a magnificent boost recently with D6960 presenting a cheque to her for \$108,822 at their Conference. What a tremendous effort by that District.”

Introductory Moment - Wayne Neller



President Tom Briers called new member Wayne Neller forward so we could hear what he is all about.

He was born and raised in Napa Valley, CA, “so I know all about wine.” He is a Native American, Choctaw by birth, Christian by choice, ordained as an Episcopalian priest in 1990.

In 2000, he became President of New Wine Ministries International and helped establish and provide oversight to over 170 churches and pastors in 7 countries. Wayne says, “I got around a bit and had a lot of fun doing it.”

In 2013, he started in the addiction field. He discovered that “addiction is so much more than people think it is just regarding drugs and alcohol. It involves more, including pornography, adrenaline, overeating, and nicotine. Anyone who chooses to confront addiction rather than run from it is a hero.”

Wayne planned to come to SWFL to semi-retire and launch an addiction program he had authored a few years back when he was called to become lead pastor at Community Congregational Church. He says, “We are reaching out to SWFL in ways that most churches in this area have not yet experienced.”

Wayne and his wife Marie have 4 daughters and 2 grandchildren. He is “excited to be in the midst of such a fine group of men and women and excited to see how I can become more involved in Rotary.

Last Week Program



Donna Flammang introduced Karen Kayser Benson, our speaker. Her professional career spans over 45 years of experience in the entertainment industry as a talent agent and casting director in TV, film and stage. She now works with Mark Danni at TheatreZone helping to produce some of the finest musical theater in the area.

TheatreZone is a small professional equity theater company founded 11 years ago using a 250 capacity hall at Community School Naples. The group produces 4 shows per year in season using professional actors. Now there are more subscribers than seats so they are moving to a 450 seat church building.

Karen told us about being hired to cast a five minute film with native american and immigrant children ages 10-14. She found kids in Immokalee. When she interviewed them, she realized there was something

missing in their culture. They were not allowed to have creative ideas and lacked self-confidence.

She is developing a plan to take 24 kids into an after school program to write, direct, act, produce, and present a series of 5 minute movies as a means to helping them learn creativity and develop self-confidence.

When she shared her passion with other women, she found 12 more women who had also formed 501(c) 3 companies using some of their husband's money and trying to find grants and state funds. These are women who want to do something more. They are vital, healthy, 50+ year olds, empty nesters with a longing to do something to make a difference in the community. Now they play tennis in the morning, go to lunch, have a cocktail and waste their afternoon.

The women decided to join together with one company, Dancing Classrooms, to work on making a difference. Karen says, "We have an opportunity in Lee and Collier Counties of grabbing some of the most vital, healthy, well educated women who are sitting at home with nothing to do and having a burning passion to contribute to the community and that's what we're all about."

Vocational Service Moment



Bob Lombardo was born and raised around Hartford, and lived and worked there until 2006 when he moved here permanently. He has owned a home here since 1990 and considers Bonita his home town.

He lives with wife Theresa and son Robert in a “Cracker House” (stick house with a tin roof) in Bonita Bay on Cracker Way.

Bob and Theresa have three children and four grandchildren. Robert is graduating from high school this year. Robert and tuition money will be going to Virginia Tech.

Bob spent 4 years in the US Navy, graduated from Central Connecticut State College and began his career at Travelers Insurance as a home office life and disability underwriter. Underwriting is the art and science of risk selection, using medical and financial

data to evaluate prospective insureds and assess appropriate policy pricing.

After ten years of home office underwriting, he joined an agency as an in-house underwriter. He assisted insurance professionals in evaluating and negotiating the best price for their clients by working with the home office underwriters as one of their peers.

The agency was successful. Bob ultimately purchased the agency with a partner and ran it for about 20 years before selling it. After working for the new owners for a few years, he resigned and started a new agency in SWFL.

Bob now represents approximately 40 insurance carriers and provides insurance products for independent insurance agents in Florida and New England. As the industry has changed, Bob is transitioning to work directly with individual clients to assist them in their asset protection needs. "I love what I do and don't ever plan on retiring."

He says, "One of the best things anyone has ever done for me was when Roger Brunswick asked me to come to a Rotary Meeting. Since I have become a member of Rotary, I have become a better citizen, have made the absolute best friends and feel as though we can make a real difference in people's lives. I am very thankful to Roger and all of you who

This Week Program

Club Assembly

A Smiling Vince Modarelli drew the K♦ to win \$5



The 50/50 is \$1,173

Birthdays

Dick Fredrickson May 28

Ray Faubion May 29

**Rotary Sings:
Sweet Caroline**

Where it began,
I can't begin to knowin'.
But then I know it's
growing strong
Was in the spring
And spring became the
summer,
Who'd have believed you'd
come along.
Hands, touchin' hands
Reachin' out, touchin' me,
touchin' you
Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed
so good.

I've been inclined,
To believe they never would
Oh, no no.

Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed
so good. Sweet Caroline,
I believe they never could.
Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed
so good.
Sweet Caroline....

This Morning's Invocation

Good and gracious God, in this week of national and personal remembering of honored dead, we offer our gratitude for the benefits and blessings we have received from the work and influence of those whom we remember.

Revive in us an appreciation for our heritage, and a renewed awareness of our present responsibility as citizens and as Rotarians.

As we act with integrity, serve with love and strive for peace, grant that conflicts in society may be resolved and overtures of peace may be eagerly embraced. Through us may enmity and hatred give way to respect and loving concern.

Bless to our use today the food of which we partake, the fellowship in which we participate, and the purposes to which we give ourselves in service. Amen.