



The Spoke

May 4, 2016



Installation and Awards Banquet (continued)

Tom had some awards to give out for people who were not present at the Installation Banquet. Saying, "I want to recognize those responsible for our fund raising program which are critically important so that we can raise the funds to support our Foundation." The awards were:

July 4th Fun Run	Brian Olitsky
Christmas Tree Sales	Scott Anderson
Poinsettia Sales	Wendy Arsenault
Nautical Flea Market	Mark Generales
Reverse Raffle	George Cohan



Rookie of the Year



Tom said, “We had an incredible group of rookies (new members) this year. It was difficult to come with The Rookie of the Year. This year’s award goes to someone who was well-mentored and participated in about everything we have done including grant writing and what have you. This year’s award goes to Wayne Hemstead.”

Last Week Meeting

President Tom Briers presided. Week 44. Chris Riesen presented the invocation; George Cohan led the Pledge of Allegiance; and Roger Brunswick artfully performed the Four Way Test.

All of the ladies will sing for us

Song Leader Ron Anderson told us about the song *Some-where Over the Rainbow* made famous by Judy Garland. "We'll do something a little different today. All of the ladies will sing for us." With that, he herded the protesting group of ladies forward to sing. After listening to them for a bit, he gave in and joined them in the final verse of the song.



Rex Sims announced that, in spite of the Downtown construction, Heaven Scent Flowers is open for business. The phone is 239-992-LOVE. Think about ordering Mother's Day flowers from Rex.

President Tom announced that Susan Schmitt has been re-elected to the Board of Directors of Rotary Camp Florida.

Tom announced that Sandy Hemstead, Bob Lombardo, and Wendy Arsenault are the nominating committee for election of new Foundation directors. The election will be in four weeks. Please contact any of the committee if you are interested in serving.

The District Conference will be May 12 - 16 at the Sanibel Harbor Marriott. Our club will be hosting breakfast on Saturday, May 14th. Sign up on the district web site.

Sandy and Wayne Hemstead are hosting a "Rotary Social with a Purpose!" to meet with Susanne Rea of World's Greatest Meal fame.

They say, "We hope this will be a more intimate setting for us to hear some of Suzanne's stories from her travels....and help our quest to eradicate polio from the face of the earth...forever!" Sign up to attend at:

<http://polioplusfundraiser.eventbrite.com/>

George Cohan Time

George got right to work celebrating birthdays; four of the five birthday boys showed up and he sensed a chance at big time contributions.

For Steve Hiatt and Jerry Myers birthday celebrations, George drafted Steve Krchniak and a few mellow male voices for a fine rendition of Happy Birthday.





The entrepreneurial Adam Botana showed up with a bottle of tequila and sold shots to raise \$120 for his birthday contribution.

Then George let Mark McCaw off the hook in light of his purchase of “a bunch of raffle tickets”.

Last Week Program

Peter O'Flinn introduced our Speaker, Rick Gallo, a volunteer with the Make-A-Wish Foundation who is Chair of the West Coast (FL) President's Council. Rick and his wife Barb are owners of CloseWatch Services a home watch and cleaning services company. They have two grown daughters.



Rick and Barb have chaired the Walk For Wishes that grossed \$105,000 this year. The net was enough for about 20 wishes. Rick, as a charity auctioneer, has helped local charities raise \$3.1 million in the last year.

He says, "I would have been here more often if I knew you were going to sing and do shots."

The mission of Make-A-Wish is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. He says, "There is a misconception that we grant wishes only to dying children. The majority go on to lead productive lives."

Make-A-Wish was started in Phoenix in 1980, the Southern Florida chapter in 1983. It is now in 67 countries and is one of the most recognized charities in the world with a 4 star Charity Navigator rating. Over 265,000 wishes have been granted over the 36 years. This chapter has granted more than 10,000 wishes, one of only six chapters to have reached that mark.

Rick and Barb act as "wish grantors". They meet with the child to make certain the "wish" is actually what the kid wants, whatever they want to do, wherever they want to go, whomever they want to meet. "A young man from this area wanted to meet the Pope. We made it happen".

He says, "Medical professionals tell us, that when a kid is notified of receiving a wish, it gives them something to look forward to so they're going to fight a little harder to overcome their illness. It is one of the reasons they have pulled through and conquered their disease."

Finally, Rick says, "100 years from now it won't make any difference how big a house I owned, but if I can make a difference in the life of one child, then I can make the world a different place."

Vocational Service Moment

Brad Piotrowski is an active new member of the club. Brad has lived in Bonita Springs for 13 years, is married, and has two children attending the Bonita Charter School. He is happy that the Bonita Springs High School is coming.



Brad is a periodontist, specializing in helping people achieve optimum oral health. Left untreated, gum disease can be a serious threat to oral health and can result in teeth and bone loss. But it affects more than the mouth; it can be dangerous to overall health. Recent studies have linked advanced periodontitis to heart disease, stroke, and pregnancy complications. As a periodontist, Naples gum disease specialist Dr. Bradley Piotrowski uses proven techniques to gently remove infected gum tissue and the bacteria causing the infection, returning the mouth to its healthy, normal state.

In addition to his regular practice, he also does pro-bono dental work with the Naples Neighborhood Health Clinic to

help disadvantaged and less fortunate people in Collier County.

Brad was sponsored by Steve Slachta and joined Rotary in order to help give back to the community. Brad says, “I enjoy being around an active, outgoing group of people such as the members of this club and it’s especially fun to be with people with whom you share the same values.”

This Week..The Memory Network

The Memory Network is a multi-disciplinary enterprise that brings together researchers, authors and artists and organizations to provoke and fuel original thinking about memory in the twenty-first century.

Frequent Winner Jay Berube drew the 7 ♠ to win \$5



The 50/50 is \$1,026

Birthdays

None in data base

**Rotary Sings:
I'm looking over a four leaf clover**

I'm looking over a four leaf clover
I overlooked before
One leaf is sunshine,
the second is rain
Third is the roses that grow in the lane
No need explaining
The one remaining is somebody I adore
I'm looking over a four leaf clover
I overlooked before

This Morning's Invocation

Dear God, we ask for wisdom and strength not our own in order to make our citizenship and our professional endeavors worthy examples of life lived with integrity and compassion."

We intercede for members of this and other clubs who are experiencing adversity of any kind. Sustain them by Your grace and power. May they be uplifted and encouraged by the support of their colleagues and friends."

We offer thanks for food awaiting our enjoyment in the context of purposeful friendship. For the happy privilege of just being here, we are grateful."

In the spirit, as well as with words of gratitude, we offer this prayer. Amen. "