

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org 3 Years Best in District May 21, 2008

PO Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

President Allison's Corner



Membership has dwindled a bit during the past few months, and I am sorry that although we have gained some new members it looks like we will not break even for the year. We have some very active folks who are representing us to potential new members in all the service work that they perform. That is a real plus for our club. However, we are probably all guilty of passing up the chance to invite candidates to lunch. We get busy and forget how vital new

members are to our success. Try to use the summer months as recruitment time.

The gavel dinner is fast approaching (June 20th) and Caryl Lucchesi will be working her magic once again organizing our party at the Ridgewood Country Club. The past couple of years have seen a great turn out and everyone has commented on the wonderful food, entertainment and fellowship. This is a fun event and one you should not miss. I hope a lot of the members will be there as we install the new president and board members.

Have a great week!

Marvin Paige Would Like to Know:

Have you contributed your \$100 as a RI Foundation Sustaining Member? Time is running out on Allison's watch. It would be great if we ended up with 100% participation as we have in the past.

Amber Alert-

5/25, 3 pm-6 pm Burnham Sch, Bridgewater
6/1, 11 am to 3 pm, Brkfld Fire Dept.
6/7, 10 am-4 pm, Frfld Middle Schl, Ffld
7/7, 9 am to 12 Noon, Rogers Park Ball Field, Danbury
7/7, 6:30 pm to 8 pm, Rogers Park Ball Field, Danbury
6/8, 12 Noon to 4 pm, Union Sav, Bnk. N. Milford
7/25, 11 am-4 pm, Village Fair Days, New Milfd
7/26, 10 am-4 pm, Village Fair Days, New Milfd
9/6, 12 noon-7 pm, Taste of Dbry, Cty Cntr
9/7, 12 noon-7 pm, Taste of Dbry, Cty Cntr
10/18, 10 am-4 pm, Reed Mdl Schl, Newtown

Speakers:

5/28 Scholarship Luncheon, WCSU, Westside Campus



Ray Kish (2nd from left) speculates on what the speaker is about to say. Vince Miscia (far left) appears to be texting a message to someone on the other side of the room.

May 21st Meeting- Steve Somma, from Common Cause, on Public Financing of Elections in Connecticut-

Our speaker, today, a former state legislator, **Steve Somma**, talked about an exciting new way to finance elections in Connecticut through public financing. Steve believes that 80 to 85% of all candidates will eventually opt for the program due to the escalating cost of financing elections. For serious candidates for a slot as a State Representative, \$5,000 will be made available; for the State Senate, \$15,000, and \$250,000 would be given to candidates for the Governorship. The program begins in 2008 for legislative races, and 2010 for statewide races.



The people at Common Cause insist that it works. Arizona and Maine have been using this type of public financing for several elections freeing the candidates from special and corporate interest pressure. A candidate can use some of their own personal funds, but there will be a ceiling on what they can use to qualify for the program. The program is known as the Citizens' Election Option, and one can sign up through e-mail, SEEC@ct.gov. The beauty of the program is that it allows people who are well qualified, but not financially able to run, and it greatly limits the power of the lobbyists whose clients are all expecting special favors for their contributions. As our speaker pointed out, the major thrust of most lobbyists is to block impending legislation.

It will be a while before full scale public financing catches on at a national level, but Steve expects that the horrendous cost of national campaigns will eventually force that change. We can only hope.



Doug Mann contemplates Election Reform, while Carol Giannico reads up on it.

Some Items from the Saturday District Conference Newsletter, from West Point:

Bob Vetter was at the Conference, and picked up the Newsletter Award for us, then developed severe chest pains, and had to be driven, by ambulance, back to Danbury for an angioplasty—and miracle beyond miracle, he was at lunch this week.

Conference participants enjoyed a sunset cruise down the Hudson, and a group volunteered to pick up the debris from a section of Route 9W. Rotarians, no matter where they are, are ready to serve.

Special recognition was given to the Seymour/Oxford Club for achieving 100% growth in 2007-2008. For Clubs with over 50 members, Meriden achieved 1st place with 16 members. Can we equal this next year?

Did you know that Robert E. Lee was not only a West Point graduate (1829), but also served as the superintendent of West Point from 1852 to 1855? Is this good or bad? We aren't really sure.

Thoughts for the Day:

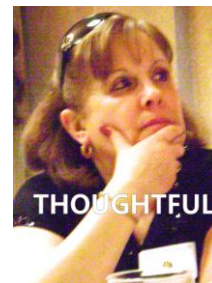
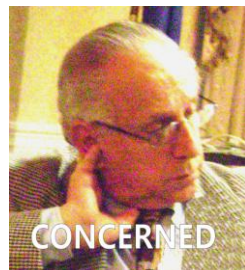
Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

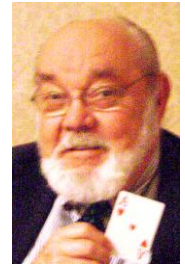
The Editor thanks Frank Hauser for the above material.

The many moods of Rotary



And the Winner of the Weekly drawing was:

Bob Chandler from the Darien Club. Not the big winner, but enough to buy two packages of shoe laces, a bag of chips, and a 6 pack of beer.



Make up locations:

- Mon. 12:15 pm, Norwalk, Silvermine Tavern
- Mon. 6:00 pm, Newtown, Inn at Newtown
- Tues. 12:15 pm, Westport, Inn at Longshore
- Wed. 12:15 pm, Danbury, Ethan Allen Inn
- Wed. 6:00 pm, Ridgefield, Parks and Recreation
- Wed. 6:30 pm, Brookfield, Bailey's Backyard Rest.
- Thurs. 12:15 pm New Canaan, Roger Sherman Inn
- Fri. 12:15 pm, Wilton, Silvermine Tavern
- Fri. 7:30 Danbury Sunrise, The Club at WestConn, Westside Campus

**Rotary Club of Danbury
Officers 2007-2008**

President	Allison Fulton
President- Elect	Carol Giannico
Vice President	James M. Gargan
Treasurer	John Barbosa
Secretary	Douglas Mann
Sergeant at Arms	Michael Searing

Directors

Frank P. Acquanita	Robert J. Vetter
Frank X. Hauser	Caryl Lucchesi
Silas Avila, Jr.	Wayne B. Curtis
Thomas Tazza	Nels deAlmeida
Will Houston	

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Calling all Baseball Fans: Joe Pepitone will be the showcase celebrity at the 14th Annual Celebrity Showcase Breakfast at Ethan Allen, June 6th. For reservations, contact Frank Aquanita. It will be a great day for all.