

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

August 12, 2009

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

President Jim's Corner:

Summer, as usual, is flying by; it is already the middle of August and before you know it autumn will be here. This, however, is when our club becomes more active in projects and a good part of our activities start to take shape.

At our board meeting, on Thursday, we discussed several projects to move the club forward.

On the club level, we have decided to try to have a social with spouses and significant others on the fifth Wednesday of each quarter.

This could be a dinner or other social gathering at a Rotarian's house. The first one would be Wednesday, September 30. Our membership committee, headed by Paula, would like members to bring prospective new members on the first Wednesday of the month. We celebrate birthdays and they can eat cake.

International projects: we want to work with Carl Bailey on one of his projects in Nicaragua (cleft pallet or hospital renovations) and try to get a matching grant to help in his worthwhile charity work. We are also trying to organize a celebrity breakfast or lunch to raise money for our Polio plus project.

The final issue discussed at the board meeting was the increase in the lunch price.

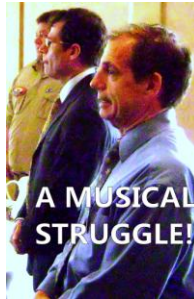
Ethan Allen has imposed a non negotiable increase of \$5.00 for our lunch. Including gratuity and tax it is a 45% increase. We were able to reduce the minimum from 25 to 20. The first reaction is to move from EA. I have not signed the new contract because I want to use it as leverage and we may find a better deal elsewhere first. However, before we do anything, we should know that EA has not had a price increase in over 6 years. Also, quotes from some of the hotels and restaurants are about the same or higher. Please remember, the lunch fee includes the price of the room we use. As bad as the economy may be, food establishments would rather close for lunch then serve lunch to 20 people without getting their price. Although we are continuing to look at alternatives, either way we are going to have raise our lunch fee.

Three proposals have been recommended: Raise the lunch to \$22.00: Charge \$25.00 for lunch to include a 50/50 raffle: Include lunch in your dues and be billed \$500 for a half year. If we include lunch with the dues we can save the 6% tax on the meals.

We will be discussing these ideas at future meetings, but we need to act soon, since the club has been subsidizing our lunches.

Some dates to remember:

Picnic, Sunday, August 16th at Caryl and John's, 397 Old Turnpike Rd. E., Bridgewater, CT 06752. 1 pm. Bring a dish.
8/19 The Blansfields on their Mtn Climbing Adventure at Everest
8/23 Gail Neehan (tentative)
8/26 Bill Montgomery on the Danbury Land Trust
9/2 Flu Shot Kickoff
9/9 Box Lunch served at Police Station; meet there for lunch
9/30 Dinner with spouses Place and time TBI
Oct. 14, Golf Tournament; Dave Santucci, Chair
Next year, June 20-23, 2010, RI 101st Annual Convention, Montreal
Amber Alert
9/1-4 Big E 10 am-6 pm
9/12 Taste of Danbury, noon to 7 pm
9/13 Taste of Danbury noon to 7 pm
9/19 Munson funeral Home, Woodbury, 2 pm-6 pm
9/27 Berkshire Sh. Ctr, in Once Upon a Child, Dbry, noon-3
10/24 Trumbull Mall, 11-4 pm
10/17 Reed School, Newtown, 10 am-4 pm



(Left) Was it God Bless America, or America the Beautiful we sang? It was hard to tell. We do need a voice coach, or perhaps a song book.

(Right) Mike Searing is still hobbling on that broken foot. He is still fulfilling his duties as the Sergeant at Arms with total diligence, however. He's a real soldier.

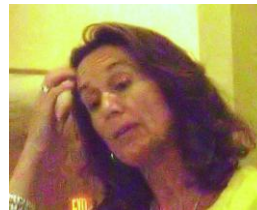


August 12th Meeting- Allison Fulton on Youth Drug Prevention —

Allison Fulton, Executive Director of the Housatonic Valley Coalition Against Substance Abuse, presented some alarming statistics regarding drug use among our children.

In one study 40% of 10th graders, and 63% of 12th graders reported the use of alcohol the past month in a

2008 survey. In a second survey conducted in Connecticut, a shocking 69.8% of 12th graders reported using alcohol the month prior to the survey. Allison also warned us to watch our medicine cabinets, and throw out all unused pills. Prescription drugs have now



Drugs are a problem in CT

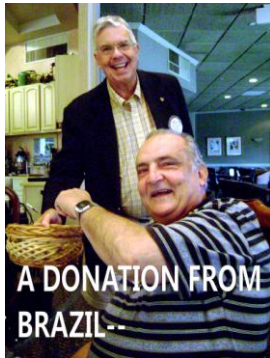
become a significant source of youth drug abuse. The HVCASA was formed in 1989 in response to concerns expressed by community leaders and citizens about the devastating problems substance abuse was placing on our communities. The Coalition serves 12 area towns, and operates on a budget of \$190,000 in state and federal funds, and addition money obtained from grants.



But we will never give up

The Coalition has an active Board of Directors, and provides information, money, and support to the area schools and communities with which it works.

Luncheon Tidbits:



Your Editor was fortunate to sit next to **Albert Hoyr** who is a member of the Hanhaneu, Brazil Rotary Club. Albert informed us that the club owns its own building, and hires a woman to prepare and serve the evening meal to them each week. Although there is no direct charge for the meal, each member pays the club

\$30.00 a month, which includes the meal, the taxes on the building, and payments to the RI Foundation. They also have fundraisers, and donate to a number of local charities. He indicated that the building practically pays for itself, being rented to other groups in the community when the club is not using it. Albert also lived in Danbury and left in the 1960s. He is staying with his brother, Bill, who came with him to the Club.



Bill Hoyr

And the Winner Was— Miguel Espinosa. He only won the \$10.00 but he explained he was only being charitable to the other Club members by refusing to “divine” the winning card from the deck—a feat we understand is frequently practiced in Miguel’s native Mexico (we made that up). Thanks for being so kind to us, Miguel...and the pot continues to grow (not the kind mentioned by our speaker).



The luncheon provides many opportunities for fellowship. To the left we see Doug Mann connecting with Vince Miscia. To the right, we see Frank Acquanita engrossed in discussion with Frank Hauser, and in the next frame we view Miguel Espinosa, Eleanore Espinosa, Albert Hoyr and Bill Hoyr talking about

Albert’s Club in Brazil. Finally, to the far right we assume Susan Almeida is texting a Rotarian shut-in friend, while Ray Kish takes a break from fellowship for his desert.

Make-ups:

- Mon. 12:15 pm, Norwalk, Norwalk Inn
- Mon. 6:15 pm, Newtown, Inn at Newtown, 19 Main St.
- Mon. 6:00 pm, Brkfld, Mario’s Pasta Garden, 174 Federal Rd., Brkfld
- Tues. 12:15 pm, Westport, Inn at Longshore, 260 Compo Rd, So
- Wed. 12:15 pm, Danbury, Ethan Allen Inn
- Wed. 6:00 pm, Ridgefield, Parks and Recreation
- Thurs. 12:15 pm New Canaan, Roger Sherman Inn
- Fri. 12:15 pm, Wilton, Trackside Restr.
- Fri. 7:30 Danbury Sunrise, The Club at WestConn, Westside Campus

**Rotary Club of Danbury
Officers 2009-10**

<i>President-</i>	<i>James Gargan</i>
<i>President- Elect</i>	<i>Paul Palanzo</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>William Houston</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Pamela Burdette-Miller</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Frank Acquanita</i>
<i>Sergeant at Arms</i>	<i>Michael Searing</i>
<i>Membership Chair</i>	<i>Paula Greenberg</i>

<i>Directors-</i>	
<i>Anita Ragona</i>	<i>Allison Fulton</i>
<i>Marvin Paige</i>	<i>Bob Vetter</i>
	<i>Carol Ann Giannico</i>

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Update on Grace Sturm, Cindy Sturm’s 8 year old daughter:

This is 2 partial messages from Grace’s father, Andy, via Marvin Paige. Grace is in Westchester Medical Center, at Valhalla, NY., following surgery to remove a brain tumor. No flowers at this time in the ICU.

8/13/09 Grace successfully breathed on her own (CPAP) for 6 hours with no apnic episodes or alarms. She got a little tired so she is now back to assisted breathing but she occasionally continues to breath more than the machine’s minimum... While speaking with Dr. Tobias today, he took a gamble and predicted that Grace will probably (note how tentative the tone is) be here in the PICU for another 4 weeks or so. Of course that is subject to change without notice. According to my research PFS has been known to last as little as several weeks and as long as 54 months. No one really knows what causes it and there is really no accurate way to predict how long it will last.

8/15/09 The tiny remaining tumor has continued to shrink. A good night of sleep. *It continues to be a wait-and-see situation but we all remain optimistic regarding the final outcome.*

