

Fairport Rotary Club
THE LIFTBRIDGE

April 15, 2021
Edition 35



The Cogs Are Here!



The upcoming multi-district Great Lakes Watershed Cleanup Project is scheduled for April 24th at 1:00.

The current plan is to join up in the parking lot across from Mulconry's on Liftbridge Lane in the Village. We are looking for 15-20 volunteers to help clean up the areas along the walkways going both east and west on the canal. Once everyone is present, we will decide the best way to divide and conquer, depending on our numbers.

It will be a lot like the Ayrault Road roadside cleanup project which has been done in the past. Please bring gloves and dress accordingly.

There will be more specifics to follow. Thanks!

Brandon Scribner

Don't forget to pick up your Red Raider Picnic Plate tickets from Tom Weldgen and get out there and sell, sell, sell! Still looking for sign sponsors too – contact Ron Or Ed!



See the need,
Do the deed!

What Does The Four Way Test Mean To You?

By Martin "Marty" Postic Jr., past governor of District 5750 and a member of the Rotary Club of OKC Sunrise, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA Posted on **January 29, 2020** and in Avon April Newsletter

In our contentious society, I see friends who are members of Rotary use The Four-Way Test to support opposing political and social arguments and to criticize the thoughts, statements, and actions of others. I see members with completely opposing viewpoints use the same Four-Way Test to both support their argument and demean others. Rotarians and others are using all forms of social media to share their opinions about perceived violations of The Four-Way Test, causing others to pile on additional comments and insults, all with little thought to how this affects our public image.

Which leads me to this basic premise:

The Four-Way Test is a mirror, not a window

Rotary members should not use The Four-Way Test to look at others but rather to look at themselves in considering the ramifications of a thought, statement, or action. It should not be a window through which we look to judge others. It is a mirror at which we look to judge ourselves.

The argument I've heard Rotarians make is that if they determine some thought, statement, or action violates any part of the test, it is their duty to declare that thought, statement, or action wrong. I have heard The Four-Way Test used to support any number of topics, some which readers would find hard to support. Yet through the Internet, one can cobble together any sort of argument to back any thought or concept with a plethora of "facts."

I do not believe that is what The Four-Way Test is about. I believe the test is more about how we treat each other than how we measure ideas.

Of course, it is a challenging standard. It's difficult to keep from thinking something. But what is more important is how you act on that thought. If you think to yourself, "I don't like this person," it becomes a matter of what you do with that thought. You can try to dispel it as well as any urge to take some negative action to satisfy your dislike of the person. You can also decide whether you say something to that person or tell others what you think.

This is where social media distorts things, because society now seems to embrace negative, vitriolic, or fake comments – as long as the comments agree with our own views. Posting such comments even in the name of The Four-Way Test is certainly not FAIR to all concerned and definitely does not build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS.

This brings me to the realization that using The Four-Way Test to argue political and social issues is in itself contrary to the test. We must never use the test to support a position while opposing or berating someone else's position. We should not use The Four-Way Test to support or oppose contentious "hot button" issues, to comment on political discord, or to respond to another's comment.

We need to teach The Four-Way Test to all of our friends. We don't need to preach it. Rotary takes pride that it is a non-political, non-religious organization. That has allowed us to make inroads in parts of the world where governments and religious organizations can't. Let's not sully Rotary's reputation by using these 24 words of ethical and moral thought to tear each other down.

Marty

The Rotary Four Way Test

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?**
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

LiftBridge for Mar. 29, 2021

This evening our Fairport Club played host to the Brighton and Spencerport Rotary Clubs in the annual gathering of the “Monday nighters.”

While waiting for all to join in on Zoom, Doug Whitney led all in what turned out to be a less-than-stirring rendition of “R-O-T-A-R-Y, that spells Rotary.”



President Mark greeted all and began with a brief summary of our club’s activities, centering on our fund-raising efforts (Pasta Dinner, STF, RRPP), and our charity initiatives, including upcoming projects with the House of Mercy and Veterans Outreach Center. Dave Scheirer reported that we have 57 members, including four corporate members, and we have four honorary members.

The next summary came from Kosmos Mihalitsas, who is both Spencerport’s current president and their president-elect. Kosmos talked about the club’s ziti dinner, golf tourney, pancake breakfast and their on-site activities cooking meals at Gilda’s Club, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Open-Door Mission. On their website, you can check out their geranium sale scheduled for the middle of May.

Ram Shrivastava, president-elect of the Brighton Club, talked about their interest in the environment and climate change and talked of planting trees in a Brighton Town Park to celebrate Arbor Day and packaging food for Food Link. They’ll hold a takeout pancake breakfast on May 8, and they are supporters of Camp Haccamo, the House of Mercy, the JCC, a project in Uganda, and Challenger Baseball.

President Mark then invited our guest speaker, Mary Beth Growney Selene, to talk a little about her club of Madison West Towne-Middleton in Wisconsin, which she proudly proclaimed “the coolest Rotary Club in the world.”

President Mark then held a few rounds of his “Getting to Know You” endeavor, with our president-elect John Hall joining Kosmos, Ram, and Mary Beth. Sample Q: “If your club were an animal, what animal would it be?” A: John—“A beaver, because we’re active, busy and constructive.” Kosmos—“A turtle/hare, because we start out slowly then pick up speed and always finish what we start.” Ram – “A deer, because we have the ability to move quickly.” Mary Beth – “A lion, because we really sink our teeth into a project.”

John Hall then formally introduced Mary Beth as our guest speaker. Mary Beth’s joined the Madison West Towne-Middleton club in 1987, served as the club’s president in 1993-94, was District Governor in 2000-2001, has been a host parent to four Rotary Youth

Exchange students, served as a Rotary Foundation Trustee from 2016-2020, and was a Rotary International Director in 2011-2013. And that's about half of her heavy involvement and contributions to Rotary.

Mary Beth's address this evening centered on Rotary's WASH program – the acronym standing for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. She is a member of the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG) Operations Team.

She noted that “water is the most basic of all human needs,” and yet told of the prevalence and perils of lack of access to clean water in many areas of the world.

For example:

- 784 million people are without basic water access
- More people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence
- 400 million school days are lost each year because of water-related illnesses

The WASH Rotary Action Group was formed in 2007 by a group of Rotarians, recognized by Rotary International, and focused on WASH projects. Since then, it has facilitated many hundreds of projects – helping clubs find partners, ensuring sustainability, stressing the importance of a needs-driven approach, and developing best practices.

WASH encourages a holistic, integrated approach in which water is not the end in itself, but is rather the means to a better life and livelihood in the community. Most importantly, WASH Rotary Action Group links water and sanitation to improved hygiene, better health, and empowerment of the community – especially women, irrigation and agriculture, education and literacy and, ultimately, child mortality.

Mary Beth said a definite goal is to have a WASH ambassador in every Rotary district. She also alerted us to the World Water Summit, to be held virtually on June 3 and repeated on June 4. More info can be found at www.wash-rag.org.

Mary Beth closed her remarks talking about a project called HANWASH, which stands for Haiti National Clean Water Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy. The ambitious goal is to bring potable water and good sanitation to the entire country of Haiti – and it is seen as a pilot project to perhaps be adopted elsewhere.

As the evening drew to a close, President Mark realized he'd forgotten to open with the Pledge of Allegiance, so he led us in that, and Ed Johnston closed the activity with an “outvocation” centered on the Four-Way Test.

Ron C. Roberts

April 5, 2021 - Past President Dom was tapped by vacationing President Mark to run tonight's meeting, and PP Dom took it by storm with a clean-shaven face and a Mighty Hi Ho Silver! Dom welcomed us to the meeting of the Irondequoit Lions Club—obviously, a loosening-up technique to get on the members' good side.

Amy Steidle led us in the Pledge and Andrew Spreter delivered the invocation.

Birthday: Ron Roberts celebrated his birthday on this very Monday and was serenaded by Warren Knapp, a stand-in with Alvin and the Chipmunks.

Announcements: Tom Weldgen will distribute tickets for our **Raider Trash Plate event**. If you can't make to Eagle Vale on Tuesday evening to see Tom, give him a call for other arrangements.

Bob Linder reported that the FHS Junior Class will sell tickets to the Trash Plate event and will assist on site on May 22. Our May 17 meeting will be a Club Assembly to prepare for the event.

John Hall reminded us that this Saturday is the virtual **District Training Assembly**. Participation by new and seasoned Rotarians is recommended. See John's email for particulars.

Program: Mary Beth introduced Chris Hilderbrandt, the Rochester Spinal Association (RSA) Executive Director and member of the local wheel chair rugby team.

Chris was injured at age 14 in a swimming pool diving accident.

RSA was founded 30 years ago and is dedicated to improving the quality of life of all people with spinal cord disabilities.

RSA provides peer connections, support meetings, social gatherings, information and education, health and wellness, and grants for individuals.

GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS

Financial assistance for items not covered by insurance and out-of-pocket portions:

- Shower chairs
- Hoyer lifts
- Manual wheelchairs
- Power wheelchairs
- Vehicle modifications
- Bathroom adaptations
- Home modifications
- And many more possibilities

\$1500 individual maximum.



Recently, RSA has created a Violence Survivors Group and a Caregiver Support Group.

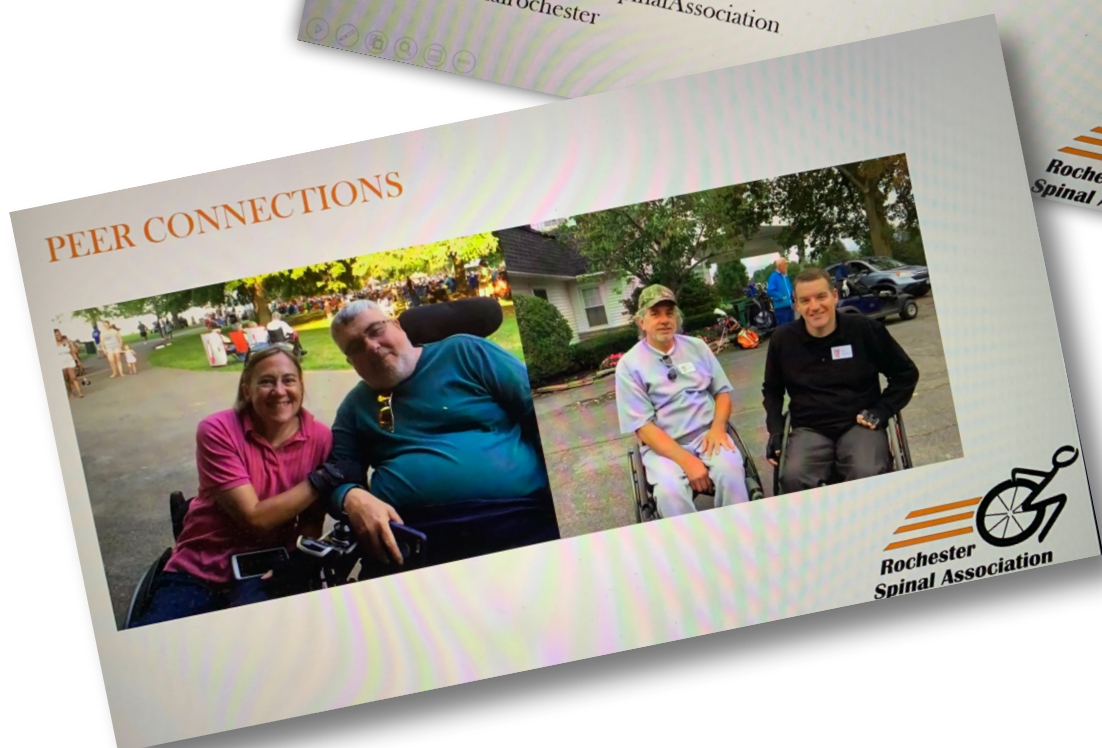
The RSA Health Fair will be held May 22nd.

RSA provides information concerning driving a vehicle, home modifications, and insurance coverage. Grants to individuals cover shower chairs, lifts, wheelchairs, bathroom adaptations, and other needs. The individual maximum is currently \$1500.

Kareen, who worked with Chris years ago, spoke to his good work.

PP Dom closed the meeting and all lived happily ever after.

Lew



April 12 2021
ZOOM Fairport Rotary Club
John T. Capps III – “A Rotarian’s Rotarian”

Freshly returned from an Outer Banks’ vacation, President Mark gaveled the meeting to order.

The Pledge was led by Warren Knapp and the Invocation given by Bob Hunt.

We had a round-robin of social news: Ron Roberts’ daughter Jennie received her Ph. D. Ron and Andy McDermott engineered a donation of \$1300 to the House of Mercy. Pete Lovier declared Happy Dollars for southern golf outings. President Mark described the joys and tribulations of pulling a travel trailer for a long distance. Katie Baynes successfully argued a case before the US Supreme Court. Vin Barone announced the arrival of a new grandson.

President Mark told us that the House of Mercy grant now envisions construction of a shed (in a warehouse setting) for placement in Tent City.

Ticket sellers for the May fundraiser are encouraged to ask whether purchasers intend to pick up the food, as contrasted to making a donation – information vital to assuring an ample supply of food while avoiding a large amount of waste.

Brandon Scribner announced a Great Lakes Cleanup Day April 24th. Rotarians participating should respond to Brandon’s email and plan to meet in the Box Factory parking lot at 1PM.

John Hall introduced our speaker -- John T. Capps III from Morehead City, NC.

Mr. Capps, who sports a Rotary decal on his bald pate, is an inspirational speaker and trainer with an endless list of accomplishments – founding President of the Morehead City -NOON Rotary Club, Certified Disaster Volunteer with the Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels driver, and a frequent speaker at Rotary PETS Alliance meetings. He has attended more than 30 International Conventions, was a GSE Team Leader and Polio National Immunization Day Volunteer for ten years in India.

John discussed the attractions of Rotary during the pandemic and asked each of us to consider –

What would Fairport be like without Rotary?
What would the world be like without Rotary?
What would YOU be like without Rotary?

He shared the phrase “See the Need. Do the Deed.”

He certainly has done a lot, and in a lot of places.

Thank you, John.



Next week’s speaker, NYCOM Executive Director Peter Andrew Baynes, is brother to John Baynes.

George T Wolf