

**Fairport Rotary Club**  
***THE LIFTBRIDGE***

**April 15, 2022**  
**Edition 59**



## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

This past week, members of our club saw two great opportunities for Rotary fellowship with the District Training Assembly on Saturday and the Tri-Club Dinner on Monday. About 10 club members attended the DTA in Honeoye with three first timers among those attending. First timers were Brad A. Andrew S, and Paige W and all agreed that the training sessions were very informative,

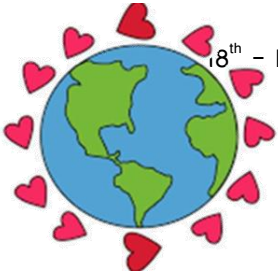
Monday saw 30 Fairport Rotarians travel to the Tri-Club dinner at Agatina's in Gates to hear former Lt. Governor and Mayor of Rochester Bob Duffy now President and CEO of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce and Heidi Zimmer-Meyer. President of the Rochester Downtown Development Corporation, talk about the future of the downtown and its bright future. Both talked about the problems the City faces and what is being done to meet those problems and turn our urban hub around.

Finally, in one month, we will be holding our second Red Raider Picnic Plate. We did well last year, and we now have the opportunity to exceed those sales number, so sell your tickets and report those sales to both Tom Weldgen and Terry O'Neil.

Serve to Change Lives.



## ROTARY CALENDAR



18<sup>th</sup> - Earth Day Activity, **HIGH ACRES NATURE AREA** Cleanup, 6:00 P.M.

Weather permitting - Meet at High Acres, 425 Perinton Parkway. Maureen will have maps and garbage bags, bring your own gloves. If you would like to meet for comradery afterwards at Fairport Village Inn around 7:00, please let Maureen know by text or email.

25<sup>th</sup> - Hop Into a Farm to Glass Experience, Cobblestone Hop Yard, Cheryl Wygal @ EagleV  
AND COMING UP SOON....



## RED RAIDER PICNIC PLATE FUNDRAISER!

For this to be a successful fundraiser, we need the help of ALL Rotarians. Refer the next page for your assignment. If you cannot fulfill the role assigned to you, please contact Bob Linder.

**“Club free meal procedure”** - If a patron does not want to purchase a meal, ask them to donate a ticket for a free meal to the Pines of Perinton or the House of Mercy. Keep the donated ticket, and the money, mark the ticket DONATED MEAL and give the ticket to Tom Weldgen and the money to Terry O’Neil. THE FREE MEAL OPTION WILL ONLY BE OFFFORED THROUGH ROTARIAN SALES, NOT ON-LINE SALES.

Fairport Rotary will be providing at least 100 free picnic plates between the Pines of Perinton and the House of Mercy. (Thank you Mark and Enzo!)

Becky has coordinated a sign-up sheet with the Pines to be completed by Monday May 9<sup>th</sup>. She will let Terry and Tom Weldgen know the count and will have someone coordinate the meal packing and delivery. For logistic purposes and ease of handling and delivering, all meals will be the same and delivered to one location (Learning Links Building) for pickup on that Saturday.

Mark F will coordinate any excess free meals for delivery to the House of Mercy. We can keep the Mercy meals refrigerated at the VFW for later delivery if necessary.

PUBLICITY Tom W and Newcomb Losh will handle the publicity for the free meals for our event, by posting something similar to the following: “Fairport Rotary is providing a minimum of 100 free meals from this event to the families at the pines of Perinton and the House of Mercy . Tickets purchased from a Rotarian can be used to provide a meal, if the patron so wishes. Meals will be coordinated by Fairport Rotary.”

**Thur 5/12 3P. M. Amaz Grains  
Pack Hot Sauce 600**

Heinrich F C  
Dave S  
Ed J  
Becky W

**Thur 5/12 after P.M. VFW  
Accept Beans, Mac, Potatoes**

Peter S  
Terry O'N C  
Bob L  
Dave L  
Bill S  
Domenick C

**Fri 5/13 VFW 2 P.M.  
Clean & Cook Potatoes**

Domenick C C  
Daniela Q  
Bill S  
Pete L

**Fri 5/13 Pick up Hot Dogs**

Bob L  
Ron R

**Sat 5/14 1:30 P.M..  
Pick up Sauce Amaz Grains**

Heinrich F C  
Brad A  
Steve H

**Sat 5/14 11 A.M.  
Cut Tates, Heat up Mac, Beans**

Brandon S  
Dave L  
Bill SC  
Dan G  
Pete L

**Sat 5/14  
Set up Patron Signs**

Dan A C  
Scott B

Mark DeBacco

**Sat 5/14 11 A.M.  
Set up Grills & Cook Meat**

Mark F C  
Hunter F  
Brandon S 10 to 12  
Enzo S if in town  
Pete L

**Sat 5/14 Runners 3 to 6 P.M.  
Fill Hot Boxes Deliver to Servers**

Lou H C  
Dan G  
Vin B  
Pete L

**Clean Dishes as Needed**

Lou H C  
Vin B  
Bill F  
Kitchen crew

**Set up Parking 3 P.M.**

Dan A C  
Scott B  
Dave D  
Pat G  
Ned H  
George W

**Bring Trash Bins to VFW 2PM**

Ron R

**Set up Room 2:00 P.M.**

Heinrich F C  
Bob L  
Nancy R  
Terry O'N  
Tom W

**2:00 Fill Condiment Bags**

Boris G C  
Dodie L  
Tom W  
Bob R  
Peter S

**3:30 Fill Plates in Behr Portions  
Team One 3:30 P.M.**

Dennis B C  
Tanya T  
Mary Beth C  
Ken B

**Team Two 3:30 P.M.**

Nancy R C  
Connie B  
Nicole S  
Paige W

**Deliver Meals to Pines, Time TBD**

Becky W

**3:30 Pack Food Bags**

Warren & Pat K  
Doug W  
Jean W  
San  
Karen Z

**Distribute Rotary Info 3:30 P.M.  
in parking lot**

Newcomb L and Ed

**Take Money & Tickets 3:45**

Terry O'N C  
Alex F  
Tom W

**Photos 3:30 - Patron Signs for TYs**

George W C  
Boris G

**3:30 Deliver Food to Patrons**

John B  
Bob H C  
Cindy H  
Tom VanB  
Andrew S  
Bob R

**6:00 Clean Up – all hands on deck**

## March 28, 2022

Pres. John rang us in. Dan G led us in the Pledge, and Fr. Robes Pierre L delivered the invocation.

Dinner was served: tossed salad (choice of house dressings), assorted rolls (fresh baked), three slabs of roast pork (au jus), demi potatoes, and select kernels of corn. The flavor of the kernels generated considerable debate. It was revealed, by an anonymous tip, that OJ had been added to the corn.

In honor of Viet Nam Vets Day, Pres. John recognized Doug, Terry, and himself as Vets. Thank you, gentlemen, for your service.

GUESTS: Maureen introduced our Brazilian Guests from the Rotary Friendship Exchange - Nora and Rinaudo. A banner exchange followed the introductions. Nora informed us of the many activities sponsored by her Club of 18 members, founded in 2001.

Bob R attended again as a prospective member.

CALENDAR: April 11 is the Tri-Club dinner at Agatina's., April 29 is the District Conference.

Red Raider Picnic Plate—Sell your tickets!

Maureen announced that John will be an Honor Flight Attendee, returning to the ROC Airport Sunday, April 3 at 11:15 for a greeting. Congratulations John; we hope to hear about your experience.

PROGRAM: Andrew conducted a game of “Guess the Rotarian” by presenting a number of clues: We quickly solved the mysteries: Ed J, Ron R, and Doug W.

Our very own vaudevillian, Boris regaled the crowd with a bunch of zingers. His Viagra line was truly a crowd pleaser. What a fabulous, corny gent is that Boris! He's got a “million of 'em”.

HAPPY DOLLARS/FINES: Heinrich—Cabo San Lucas trip.

Dennis—new client

Marg—return to church worship, Amerks game, found cell phone

Newcomb—something about a dead laptop

Becky—got a laugh from Boris

Pete L—Alma mater AIC hockey tourney win

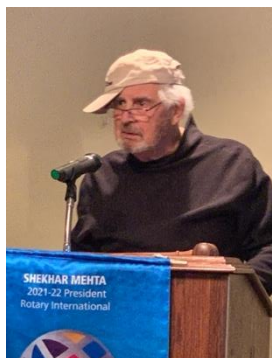
Pete S—FL trip-no golf, PGA tourney, Blue Jays games

Ned-finally going to visit Mom

Bob Ruhland—married 38 years; wife returning from trip

Maureen—Brazilian guests

Warren—recalled his trip to Aruba



BIRTHDAY: Here's to Nancy R!

Fairport Rotary **April 4** meeting was held at Eagle Vale Golf Club. President John called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

DINNER: Tossed salad with creamy ranch/Italian salad dressing, Penne pasta Bolognese, coffee and Tea.

PLEDGE: Marybeth C

INVOCATION: Mark F

GUESTS: Roberta B, Wendy and Bob R

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John thanked The Linders, Newcomb, Tom VanB, Mark DeB for attending the Welcome Home Ceremony yesterday as The Honor Flight members returned to the Rochester airport. Welcome Home poster that Maureen and his sister Carol made was viewed on Channel 10.

District Training Assembly: This Saturday at Honeoye Lake Central School.

Tri Club Meeting with Brighton and Spencerport next week, April 11, Agatina's Restaurant, 2967 Buffalo Road. Cocktails at 6:00 Dinner 6:30.

District 7120 District Conference, Oswego, April 29, 30, May 1. See District website for full information  
Red Raider Picnic Plate: Saturday, May 14, 4:00 -6:00. Please get out and see your tickets. Enzo and Pete L have each donated \$500. In tickets for Pines of Perinton residents. When selling tickets please offer that the person could donate their ticket to a Pines resident if they give excuses. Then give Terry the \$ and Tom W the ticket with Pines written on the back. Bob L will be passing out the assignments for the work schedule for that day. Bob will ask Becky to send them out.

Literacy: Rotary Reads coordinated by Dan A will be May 2-6 at Jefferson Avenue School. Please sign up to read to one of the kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes. (Since meeting, date has changed to the end of the school year.)

Dennis let us know that he is volunteering for American Diabetes Association, Tour de Cure, Saturday, June 11 and more volunteers are needed for that day. Please contact Dennis at [dbehr@financialguide.com](mailto:dbehr@financialguide.com) or 585-208-4757

#### ROTARY FOUNDATION MINUTE:

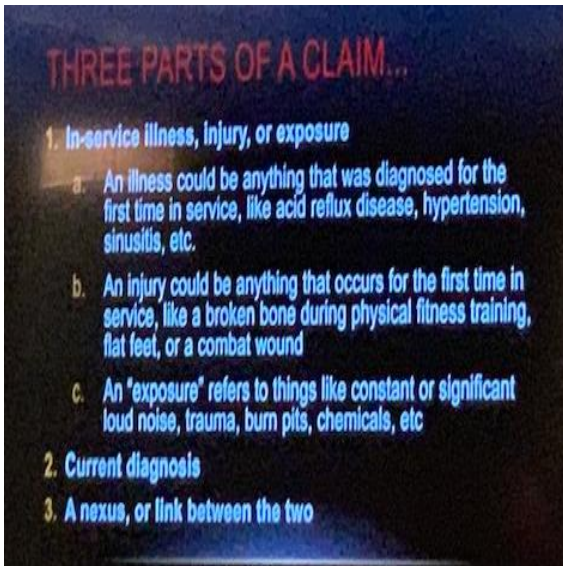
Tom W encouraged us to read the April Rotarian message from Foundation trustee chair John F Germ, Seize the moment, spotlighting our values and core development. April 19 is Paul Harris's birthday, a perfect time to see what our money can do. As the world faces war, drought, fires our support is encouraged. Please talk with Tom or John.

#### PROGRAM:

Boris introduced Nick Stefanovic, born and raised in Rochester. He joined the Marine Corp in 2002, served multiple tours overseas and honorably discharged in 2006. Like many veterans who return home, his transition was difficult. In 2009 Nick found his salvation in a veterans Treatment Court. He used this program to reintroduce himself to the structure and motivation that the Marine Corps had provided him, yet he lacked after his discharge. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Substance Abuse Counseling and became a therapist. He began public speaking from the perspective of a veteran who struggled with adapting to a civilian mindset, speaking at conferences and events across the country. He earned his Masters Degree in Public Administration, has worked as a Judicial Assessment Specialist for NY State Court System, a consultant for justice for Vets, authored a national publication "Barracks Behind Bars".



In January 2018 Nick was appointed to Director of the Monroe County Veterans Service Agency. He continues to advocate for Veterans on all levels and Board of Director of Veterans Outreach Center and various other boards.



Monroe County Veterans Services Executive Nick delivered a presentation in which he stated that the job of the agency is to represent the veteran. speaking about the many benefits that Veterans are elidable to receive. The greatest aspect of his job is to make phone calls to veterans telling them of the award they will receive. He told the story of a veteran who lived on his own and had mental illness. People knew when he would receive his check and strong-armed him for the cash. Veterans Services was able to assist.

If you are a veteran, it is very important to have your DT14 in your procession when applying for benefits. Hearing is straight forward; mental illness and chemical exposure are more complex. For example, the VA has a list of diseases that are linked to Agent Orange. Sometimes they do claims for decades after service ends.

Getting out in the community is one of the benefits of the job. Developing programs to help the veterans are beneficial as the Dryer Program where veterans meet to fish, bowl, archery outings.

Asking for Fairport Rotary’s help Nick said he is the chairperson for the War on Terror Memorial that will be located near the Vietnam Veterans memorial in Rochester and funds are needed for the project. Nick was thanked by President John and presented with a coffee cup.

50/50

Won by Tom W who was sitting next to Bob L so the luck must have rubbed off! Tom pulled the Q Clubs and took home \$11, leaving the big pot of \$111 to grow.

John thanked Roberta, Wendy and Bob for joining us.

QUOTE:

One cannot control the length of their life but can the width and depth!

NEXT WEEK: Tri Club meeting



Fairport Rotary Newsletter **April 11**– Special Tri Club Meeting at Agatina’s Restaurant. Hosted by Spencerport Club, with Fairport and Brighton Club.

Spencerport members greeted us and sold 50/50 raffle tickets. The bar did a big business as we gathered and socialized.

Tom Weldgen distributed tickets for the \$15 Fairport Rotary Red Rider Plate on May 14. Tom will have tickets at all meetings between now and the event – no matter what our location. Call or text him if you need more tickets in between.

We were gavelled to order by Spencerport Master of Ceremonies, Dave DeMers (MC)– incoming Spencerport Pres and District 7120 DG Elect, Elect – for 2024-2025 year.

Pledge led by Joe Marasco and 4 Way Test by Michele Mihalitsas. Invocation / inspirational quotes by Ralph Brandt.

We broke for buffet dinner of crab stuffed haddock, baked chicken, ziti, roasted potatoes mixed salad, bread and coffee bar –PLUS celebration dessert cake!



MC began with introductions of key visitors – DG Janet Tenreiro, Ralph Brandt DG Elect, Elect, Chuck Gannon Area 9 District Governor, Kosmos Mihalitsas Spencerport Club President, John Hall Fairport Rotary Club President and a PDG, and Ram Shrivastava Brighton Club President.

MC introduced speakers for evening Robert Duffy, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, and Heidi Zimmer-Meyer, President of Rochester Downtown Development Corporation.

Our first speaker, Heidi Zimmer-Meyer, President Rochester Downtown Development Corp. Heidi has 38 years involved with the last 18 years as President. She has a Master’s degree in economics and degree in real estate and development. Heidi told us she is approaching retirement and evaluating, but not quite ready yet! Heidi gave a great presentation of past significant history for Rochester, from the days of Kodak with 60 plus thousand local employees, to the current approx. 1,500. Loss of 90,000 jobs from merge away of one bank – the First Federal building suddenly vacant. Xerox and many other buildings empty or heading that way. 330,000 people downtown in 1960 – about 122,000 now! Why? What drove this - general moves out of urban and into suburban life – not just here – nationwide. BUT we have seen some significant positive changes as well. Different from other major cities, the loss of our big employers left behind significant smaller companies and a very heavy emphasis on technology and medical services. The development of Innovation Square – old Xerox is being totally redeveloped to provide housing for college students. 18 colleges evaluating and potentially using this facility to provide housing for student and young professionals to work for, and with, local companies through their college mentoring and technical trade programs.





\$2.5 billion has been invested in the downtown Rochester region and over 200 companies are growing here and involved with the redevelopment of the area. Focus in next few years on changes to street level of business and shops and to providing the reason for these new residents to want to STAY in Rochester – convenience, safety, evening and weekend entertainment, etc., and they are not committing to houses as much.

MC then introduced Robert Duffy – 1992-1998 deputy chief of Rochester Police department, Bachelor's in Criminal Justice in 1993; 1998 to 2005 Chief of Department. Then City Mayor from 2005 to 2009 and in 2010, he was called up by Governor Cuomo to serve as Lieutenant Governor to 2014. Not really what he was looking for, but he learned a lot about many things and made fantastic connections throughout the state and other businesses. He knows now that he can pick up the phone and get help or answers on almost any issue.

He came back here to the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce – a group encompassing 9 towns of the Finger Lakes. He is a strong believer that working together, everyone benefits and all of us are moving forward to a fantastic growth future.

He looks at Greenville, NC. They re-developed their downtown area around the water – we can do this and better! We have a more expansive area and great cross connection. We need to focus on crime, policing, and creating new ways to keep our youth in school, motivated, and to see that they develop great skills and good paying jobs – these efforts will continue to build on each other. We have 6000 open jobs NOW. Our youth can be trained and fill these jobs, helping new business to grow and hire more.



Rochester is listed as #1 in US as the next region of Tech Centers! He has great confidence in both the Mayor and the County Manager – despite different party affiliations he has watched them, and they are extremely effective working TOGETHER and getting others to work as a group for a better common good through job placement and workforce development.

Bob recommended a good book – Jump Starting America – really great insights into revitalizing our country.

Two great speakers giving us different perspective, and while acknowledging crime issues in some areas, also focusing on attacking the root causes and getting crime under control – and they are making progress in this critical area.

MC then called on the three club Presidents to briefly update on their clubs. John Hall led off with report on our membership, including strong continued growth, re-deployment of our efforts as we lost major prior fundraisers and reacted to the last 2 years of covid impacts and zoom meetings. Successful Pasta Dinner on drive thru pick up basis, and new Picnic Plate last year with year 2 coming up on May 14 – likewise with drive thru only allowing us to serve more.



Ram from Brighton discussed their location – closest to the city and with many strong long term businesses. They were home to Past DG Milt Matthews – developer of the District Governors Hospitality Program for visiting DG’s. He encouraged us to consider hosting to meet great people from around the Rotary world. He noted that by 2030 we have to be electric on cars. Town of Brighton and RIT have programs together working on engineering these all-electric cars and other fossil fuel alternatives.

Kosmos, now serving for a second time as President, thanked his members for all their help with the event tonight and his wife for the great meal service! The club also reacted to covid issues and zoom meetings. They served meals at open door mission; they adopted a family of 9 at Christmas. They held an annual ziti dinner before covid and had annual geranium and poinsettia sales. They have now done a very successful drive through Beef on Weck dinner – worked very well!

Final item of business, MC drew for raffle prize split \$150 as their fund raiser, and \$150 for the winner – the Magic Number held by – Domenick Cecconi. Dom immediately contributed this back to Camp Haccamo! Very generous and classy - many thanks Dom!

Meeting formally adjourned, but many stayed for general additional “mingling” – a very nice night, great meal, and well organized by all friendly members of the Spencerport Rotary Club!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Weldgen



**MEET**  
**ENJOY LEARN**

Oswego, NY • April 29, 30, and May 1, 2022

**RECONNECT**  
OSWEGO

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Rotary  
District 7120  
Hosted by Canandaigua Club

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

To Register: [www.districtconference.org](http://www.districtconference.org)