

ROTA-BITS

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

VOL. 14, NO. 32, FEBRUARY 14, 2013 * EDITOR: * DOUG GROSE*

February is World Understanding
Month in the Rotary International
Calendar

LAST MEETING

Reported by Bob Zyromski

Sgts.-at-Arms: Fred Lariccia, Kevin Kissig.

Prayer: Elfie Roman, grateful for the current weather and fine fellowship we enjoy. And calling blessings on our Rotary good deeds. She particularly implored our earnest divine supplications for Doug Grose's granddaughter who is gravely ill.

Editor's Note: Joan and I very much appreciate all of the thoughts, concerns, and prayers coming to us from this group, as does our daughter Diana. I'm sorry to have to report that we lost our dear Ashley on Tuesday afternoon.

Guests/visitors: Cheryl Noviski presented photographer Jane Knausz; Nancy Sanden brought associate Jeff Hathy; and Mark Ruth introduced Big Brothers/Big Sisters' Tina Clifton.

Rotabuck/WFD: With the pot upwards of \$1,800, shekel steward Estadt's draw-er could render a mere seven of Diamonds, followed by an anti-climactic announcement of "no word for the day."

Announcements: Vickie Wildeman reminded us that our upcoming tasting blast will be Saturday, March 16 at Honda of Mentor. She touted the extensive selection of liquids available for imbibing and schlepping home. The event still needs auction items! She also lauded the great sponsors now on board, like Lake National Bank, Fredon, Johnnycake Financial and many more. Register online! It works! No kidding!

Prez Tom sez so!

T.R. Hach entreated us to help out our fine Rotarian pals in that club to the east by attending a fundie March 2, 6:00 p.m. at Hellriegel's Inn in P-ville. It's \$125 per couple. T. R. pumped for maybe a wine basket or similar, especially with folks like Nancy Sanden who seem so replete with such liquid treasures.

Ex-prez Wayne expressed delight and satisfaction that, at the recent district foundation meeting, Curt Jones was awarded his Paul Harris award, level II. And that our club was extolled for our 2012 individual member donation commitment of 100 percent.



Past President Wayne displays the award we received from District 6630. Photo by Dan Welker.,

Prez Tom, for the club foundation, presented Learning About Business Executive Director Mike Jablonski a check for \$750 to support that one-of-a-kind youth entrepreneurial program. Mr. J ticked off significant LAB

numbers: its 34 years of dynamic LAB Weeks for local high school rising juniors and seniors; its free \$1,000 scholarships for the 62 worthies chosen from 100+ applicants; the 330+ MHS and LCHS alums of LAB; and more. (See photo below by Dan Welker). He invited us to join some of our members already involved on LEC's campus this June 16 to 21. Check out learningaboutbusiness.org.



Marty LaMalfa actually admitted (and humbly so) to being captain – despite two left feet – of the opposing bunch for this Saturday evening's Harlem Legends tiff at Mentor High's gym. He has tickets for the fundraiser. The world-famous itinerant hoopsters always provide way more antics and fun than any human can usually stand. So you oughta check it out.

PROGRAM: Bob Mastronicola: Lake Erie College VETS program.

The retired Army vet helped establish the college's veterans' program – Veterans Education & Transition Support – February 14, 2011.

VETS assists veterans and families personally and educationally at one of the few local colleges with a serious emphasis on such support. The program is available for everything from

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF MENTOR, OHIO

LEC admissions procedures to GI Bill benefits.



Bob Mastronicola addresses the Rotary Club of Mentor., Photo by Dan Welker.

Mastronicola's official mission: The V.E.T.S. Coordinator provides benefit and education counseling, program information, referral to various agencies, and will assist eligible students to receive education benefits under various state and federal programs while maintaining a congenial working relationship with the Veterans Administrations and other agencies serving veterans.

Lake Erie's home to a bevy of student vets is called "The Bunker," a welcoming space where Mastronicola and his crew advise about admissions, transfers, benefits, tutoring, parking, relationships with the VA center in Painesville, and much more.

On-campus programs blossomed following World War II when nearly 50 percent of college students were vets. With their comparable experiences, sense of camaraderie and "unit mentality," vets pulled each other through college. The vast majority of U.S. campus vets were 25 to 29 years old. The result: a college graduation rate of 78%!

Mastronicola was *emphatic* that LEC's VETS program was attempting to duplicate what happened on campuses during the late '40s and early '50s. His take: "Today's veterans want to be in college, they have decided to serve their nation, and they're eager to complete their **next** mission, **GRADUATION!**"

Today, vets can become quite iso-

lated during their re-entry into society. It's a very different world. They can't talk about their military experiences. They relate mostly to other veterans. Spouses naturally have become independent.

In this tough economy, vets struggle to find jobs. Couples wonder if now is the time to start a family. Vets fret about being able to handle tough academics. It's no wonder divorce and suicide rates are higher among vets.

Mastronicola also graphically described a vet's psychological state following life with a military mindset: a heightened sensory awareness of sights, sounds and smells; identification and closeness with one's military unit; regimentation into highly structured and efficient routines.

It's no wonder reconnecting with friends is more difficult than expected. Or that ex-military folks express the SCF (Stupid Civilian Factor) so frequently in an easy-going, laissez-faire society. Generate a "new normal"? It's not so easy. And life at home or on campus just doesn't have that edge and adrenaline high associated with wartime duty – qualities that insured survival during combat, but simply do not work in the classroom!

So, with GI Bills' funding so liberal and available – \$14.3 billion in the last three years alone – education becomes a natural and salutary avenue in life-after-service.

Federal funding covers college programs, apprenticeships, specialized-training academies, even flight schools. In some cases, spouses and children are also eligible for grants.

Educational programs are indispensable to vets since, because of privacy issues, the VA is required to keep no record of vet service and discharge, and so has no direct link to care for them.

Mastronicola noted that his 60 or so vets at Lake Erie receive roughly \$15,000 per year plus \$1,100 per month living allowance. At the private institution, that doesn't cover full tuition costs. The college's collaboration in the tuition-funding Yel-

low Ribbon Program provides for the usual \$9,000 deficit: it picks up half, and the government the other half of the payment balance.

With 2.3 million men and women now on active military duty – with a significant number continuing to be discharged – such educational programs will play an increasingly important role in American society.

Ohio ranks fourth – behind Texas, California and Florida – in the number of vets having served. Northeast Ohio colleges are particularly sensitive to veterans' needs and have developed very effective programs. In addition to Lake Erie's 60, Lakeland serves roughly 40 vets, CSU about 600, Cuyahoga Community College 2,000, and John Carroll 45.

Mastronicola's mission and calling: "It's **our JOB** to help our veterans become successful member of our society again!

"After all, we are the 'one percent.'" Meaning the small but privileged part of the American population that has served in the military.

KUDOS

To long-time Treasurer Curt Jones on the District 6630 recognition reported by Wayne Brodhan.



Curt Jones and his better half Suzanne after receiving the well-deserved award. Photo by Wayne Brodhan.

MORE KUDOS

To the following Rotarians who helped Broadmoor students construct special Valentines on February 4: Vicki Curtis, Fred Lariccia, Kevin Kissig, Lou Kreider, George Maier, Jack Butler, Bob Wigton, Karen Bowersox and of course Bill Pickett, who gets special KUDOS for constructing all the components. See photo below, sent in by Vicki Curtis.



JOCOE'S JOURNAL

A tough old cowboy from South Texas counseled his granddaughter that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gun powder on her oatmeal every morning.

The granddaughter did this religiously to the age of 103 when she died.

She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, 25 great-great-grandchildren, and a fifteen-foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

UPCOMING EVENTS.

February 14 – Special Valentine's Day Meeting at M Cellars in Austinburg, Ohio

February 20 – Board Meeting

February 21 – Sub Zero Mission Liz Cimaglio

February 28—Michael Deemer Down-

town Cleveland Alliance

March 11: Woodworking at Broadmoor School. 1:00PM to 2:00PM

March 16: Annual Beer and Wine Tasting Event. 7PM to 10PM at Honda of Mentor.

March 20: Board Meeting, 7:30AM

March 21: - 4-Way Speech Contest

BIRTHDAYS

February 5 – Kevin Newcomb

February 12 – Amy Kapostasy

February 15 – Bob Sanderson

February 16 – John Wilson

February 19 – Scott Marn

February 22 – Tom Hough

If I have missed anyone, please call 257-9827 or email d.grose@sbcglobal.net

THE 4-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do...

Is it the Truth?

Is it Fair to all concerned?

Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?

Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

OFFICERS

MENTOR ROTARY CLUB

2012\2013

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Tom Hough PHF

Immediate Past President

Wayne Brodnan PHF

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John Solich

Vice President

Amy Kapostasy

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Bill Robertson PHF

Tom Weiss PHF

Bob Boyd PHF

Cheryl Noviski

Tom Lemire

Membership Chair

Vicki Curtis

WHERE WE MEET

LaMalfa Center,
5783 Heisley Road,
Mentor, Ohio
Thursday at 12 Noon

OUR MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 1177
Mentor, OH 44061-1177

OUR WEB SITE

www.mentor-rotary.org/

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

www.rotary.org

MEETING MAKE-UPS

Following are a few nearby Rotary Club meeting sites and times for make-ups;

MONDAY

Willoughby at Gavi's, 12:00 PM

TUESDAY

Painesville at Hellreigel's Inn at 12:00 Noon.

WEDNESDAY

Burton-Middle field at Welshfield Inn Banquet Hall, 14001 Main Market Rd., Burton, at 7:00PM

Cleveland East at Nighttown Restaurant 12387 Cedar Road Cleveland Hts. At Noon.

THURSDAY

Cleveland at Windows on the River in the Flats, Bridge View Room, Third Floor, Windows on the River, Powerhouse. Nautica Entertainment Complex, 2000 Sycamore at 12:00

FRIDAY

Chagrin Highlands (Beachwood area): at Mitchell's Fish Market, 28601 Chagrin Blvd., Woodmere (at Eton Square).