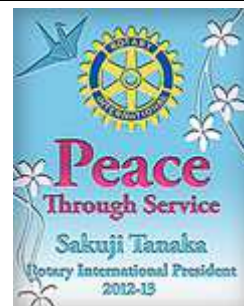




ROTA-BITS



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

VOL. 14, NO. 3 * July 19, 2012 * EDITOR: * DOUG GROSE*

LAST MEETING

Reported by Bob Zyromski

Sgt.-at-Arms: Mr. Lariccia

Prayer: Jack Butler, grateful for good food, pleasant weather . . . and “the odds and ends we sometimes don’t appreciate.” (Was he referring to a couple current members, maybe?)

Guests/visitors: Cheryl Noviski presented her (evidently still-appearing-in-public) mate Deb Foley from United Way.

Rotabuck/WFD: Dr. Macy’s 788 won Bob Sustar’s draw of a Joker. Evidently Dr. E waived the joke-telling requirement for another attempt, which rendered a mere three of Hearts. The good doctor then dunned a couple bankers for bucks before determining no ‘word’ appeared in the current newsletter. Ethical resiliency notwithstanding, our editor also yielded a buck for his omission.

Announcements: Senor Quinones was imperative that members who appear at LaMalfa next Thursday won’t eat. Those who show up to enjoy the delicious sites of the Y’s Dream House will, however, enjoy a tasty lunch provided by the LaMalfa gang.

Fred Fearless indicated that at 11:00 a.m., prior to our 7/26 meeting, the bone-marrow committee will meet and strategize for this fall’s drive.

Prez Tom noted that “official” Bread Days are September 15 and 16, with deliveries the following day. A calendar with upcoming dates of import is available on the registration table. District

6630’s annual traipse to the Tribe game is Friday, August 31.

PROGRAM: Guidestone: Solutions for Children, Families and Communities

Bill Robertson introduced three staff from the highly successful Berea-based social-service program that’s now nearly 150 years old: VP of Advancement **Alex Petrus**, Program Manager **Holly Hummel** and Assistant Director of Workforce Development Programs **Susan Lagina**.

Guidestone started in 1864 as The German Methodist Orphan Asylum, a home and shelter for children orphaned by the civil war or as a result of parents contracting tuberculosis from Berea’s sandstone quarry mines. Soon its mission became broader, simply to help people out of poverty and into productive lives. Varied means prompted several name changes over the years.

Alex Petrus stressed the agency’s deliberate commitment to – sometimes extreme – program flexibility. Guidestone’s comprehensive, integrated approach treats an individual community’s unique needs in its own way. Lake County needed job training. It now has the Lake W.O.R.K. Program – work, opportunity, retention, knowledge. Franklin County had mental health issues. Guidestone counselors now work for better mental health in homes. Columbus simply wanted the agency to stimulate change toward better social services. Guidestone now has a \$3.5-million operation there. All locations with the goal of getting people turned around and developing more-independent lives.



Alex Petrus opens the program on Guidestone. Photo by Dan Welker.

“Whatever it takes to get families productive,” Petrus noted, is also the goal of Cleveland’s “Family 360” program. In addition, an education focus provoked by Cleveland public schools’ performance insufficiencies has resulted in Stepstone Academy, a new charter school in the city’s Central neighborhood. Its “no-excuses” culture attempts to foster lifelong learning, and expects students to get into and graduate from college – and then become productive, involved citizens.

The Academy’s unique education model is a far cry from the city schools’, currently with a graduation rate of less than 60 percent. Three schools in the Central area are on “academic emergency.” Many kids are fatalistic about their future. They’re convinced they can’t succeed. The Academy’s program is com-

mitted to changing that attitude elementally.

Holly Hummel's chronicle approach to describing welfare families' tortuous life cycle of failure was most enlightening. Her situations were based on a typical low-income family with a monthly allowance of \$400.



Holly Hummel reports on Guidstone's efforts in Lake County.

In a job interview, for instance, an employer dismisses a prospective employee because of a candidate's ragged clothes. Or companies mandate online applications. But low-income job-seekers have no computer or skills. Or a prospect spends money on shoes, pants and the like, but the rent is due soon. Or a flat tire prompts the need to ride a bus to work. But how will the problem be fixed for tomorrow?

Luckily, the Painesville-based Lake W.O.R.K. Program, in partnership with Lake County Job and Family Services and Guidestone, helps local parents of dependent children who currently receive county benefits.

Imagine the challenges for many welfare parents. They haven't completed high school. They lack training of any kind. Have few life skills. Have no clue how to put together a resume. Don't

know the first thing about computers.

But the program provides solutions. It includes four weeks of job-readiness training with Guidestone including Bridge Out of Poverty, customer-service skills, resume-building, mock interviews, communications skills and computer/Microsoft literacy.

Program partner Painesville ABLE provides twice-weekly on-site GED and literacy tutoring. And may include at least four additional weeks of job-search assistance, work-site experience and interview-preparedness support.

Participants initially perform work-site experience on a *voluntary* basis. And then an overwhelming number secure employment at local businesses such as Quail Hollow, Giant Eagle, MJM Industries, Golden Living Center and more.

Participants also get up to \$100 to support job retention during their first year of employment.

The good news: Since the program's inception in January 2010, 150 participants have gained employment, and 96 percent remained employed at least 90 days.

In a follow-up Q&A, Guidestone staffers appealed for local employers to consider program participants as potential employees. Petrus, in particular, stressed the high program expectations demanded of participants, and the continued emphasis on planning. He asks them, "How do you get to work if you have a problem? What's your Plan B? Plan C?"

No drug or alcohol testing? Petrus and staff are blunt. "You have such issues, you simply don't get a job. The decision to use or not is yours."

Petrus explained another approach with prospects, telling them, "Do the job with grace, enthusiasm and vigor. You'll be on the job with many different kinds of people you're not used to. So what? Focus on the job. Get it done. And you'll get through"

For further information on this eminently success program, go to: Guidestoneohio.org.

To contact Alex Petrus: alex.petrus@guidestoneohio.org. 440-260-8341.

Also: holly.hummel@guidestoneohio.org. Susan.lagina@guidestoneohio.org.

DIRECTIONS To the YMCA Dream House:

From I-90 take Route 44 south to Colburn Rd. Turn left on Colburn, then turn left into Cambden Creek Estates. Follow the signs to the Dream House.

JOCOE'S JOURNAL

Returning from a trip to visit my grandmother in Canada, I was stopped by a state trooper in New York for exceeding the speed limit.

Grateful to have received a warning instead of a ticket, I gave him a small bag of my grandmother's delicious chocolate chip cookies and proceeded on my way.

Later, I was stopped by another trooper.

"What have I done?" I asked.

"Nothing," the trooper replied with a smile, "I heard you were passing out great chocolate-chip cookies."

Once my divorce was final, I went to the local Department of Motor Vehicles and asked to have my maiden name reinstated on my driver's license.

"Will there be any change of address?" the clerk inquired.

"No," I replied.

"Oh, good," she said, clearly delighted. "You got the house!"

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 18 - Board Meeting at Panera's Bread, 7:30AM

July 19 - Off Site - YMCA Dream House visit.

July 26: Becca Steele – Korean trip
September 10 – First Woodworking at Broadmoor for the new school year.
August 15 - Board Meeting at Panera's Bread, 7:30AM
August 31 – District Night at the Indians Game
September 15 through 17 – Bread Day – Making, bagging and delivering bread.
September 19 - Board Meeting at Panera's Bread, 7:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

July 2 – Nancy Brunner-Sanden
 July 6 – Bob Boyd
 July 6 – Dave Lehmer
 July 9 – Marty LaMalfa
 July 31 – Roger Sustar

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?

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2011\2012

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 Bob Boyd PHF
 Mike Scruggs PHF
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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 makeups;

MONDAY

Willoughby at Gavi's, 12:00 PM

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Burton-Middlefield 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).