

Reporting Meeting of Jan 23, 2017

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 1/23: Regional Food Bank of NE, NY
This Week: 1/30: Home Protection – NY State Police
Next Week: 2/6: Off Site Social Evening @ Cock'n Bull in Galway;
6 – 7pm social hour, 7pm dinner. Cost \$15. Guest Night. *Details to follow.*
Coming Up: Banda Bola Sports Foundation – K. Banda (Scotia Rotary)
Attendance: Rotarians: 22 Guests: 0
Invocation: Dan Stec
Note: Regular meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:15 PM in the William E. Sewell Memorial Room at the Ballston Town Hall.
Please give suggestions for future programs to Jon Costolo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Peter led the Pledge, Bob Y. the National Anthem and Dan Stec provided a thoughtful Rotary oriented invocation.
- Mary Anderson announced that if you need a new Rotary Badge for meetings to please let her know.
- President Peter said that the Board of Directors approved a donation to the Schenectady Rotary Club of \$1,000 to support their Haiti water project.
- President Peter commented that the club administration must re-do the Set up and Clean up lists due to folks not able to attend meetings at which they are currently assigned. He also asked that you provide him any dates during which you will not be available for meetings.
- A very brief update was provided about John and George. We all are pulling for quick and as full recovery as possible.
- Jon Costolo collected Happy Dollars.



(The Web Site Committee in a lively discussion during their meeting held Monday prior to the club's general meeting.) This group is working hard under the direction of Beth and Tom Brownell and Ken Crotty on revising our current web site.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

January Set Up: R. Arthur, B. Lonergan, J. Fettke Clean Up: D. Stec, F. Baily, M. Anderson

North East Regional Food Bank of New York State

Mary Rainey and Sarah La Bella

HUGE GOODNESS! After Vice Jon introduced our two speakers, most of us were surprised to learn about the immense size and scope of what the NE Regional Food Bank's 62,000 square foot facility and organization in Latham is and does. With a \$7.7 million budget, donations and volunteer help as well as professional employees, it provides support to over 1,000 qualified service organizations in 23 eastern counties of NYS, from Clinton County in the north, to Rockland in the south. To garner Food Bank support, a service organization must be a 501 3C organization, work out of a facility, and 90% of the people it serves must be categorized as living in poverty. Last year, the NE Regional Food Bank provided 37 million pounds of food or 30 million meals to the needy. They also provided 200,000 pounds of fresh produce from their Prune Island Farm to locals.

The mission of the Food Bank is to acquire and then distribute donated food from the food industry to food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other charitable organizations such as emergency, senior, youth and disabled programs which feed the hungry. Donated food comes from manufacturers, wholesalers, grocery stores and food transportation companies. Most local enterprises support this program. Food is gathered, sorted and packaged at the Latham facility, and then its huge fleet of trucks distributes products throughout the catchment area. Overall, last year New York State's Food Banks fed 3 million people, and the number is growing. Although USDA has specific criteria to qualify for support, we were told that the most important element is the story and circumstances of the individuals and families that show up for help.

As a non-profit, this enterprise must constantly be in a fund raising mode. We heard about ways individuals and organizations can contribute, and also learned about the very interesting events the organization holds.

The overall system of fund raising, food acquisition, client identification and approval, and distribution constitutes a huge concept and humanitarian operation. To learn more go to www.regionalfoodbank.net. We all left with a new appreciation of food insecurity that exists in our state, and the tremendous effort being made to counter it. The evening concluded with Jon Costolo donating a check from our club for \$1,000, which has the buying power to acquire \$10,000 worth of food.



Reported by Steve Caine

