

## Reporting ZOOM Meeting of April 6, 2020

### Calendar of Events

**Last Week:** 4/30 ZOOM meeting  
**This Week:** 4/06 Artificial Intelligence  
**Next Week:** 4/13 To Be Determined  
**Coming Up:** 4/9 BOD via ZOOM.

ZOOM Meetings are held 6:00 pm until further notice.  
Watch your email on Monday morning for the ZOOM meeting number and password. You can use them to sign on before the meeting time to prepare to participate.

Check us out at [bhblrotary.org](http://bhblrotary.org) and on Facebook

Silas rang the bell with help from his kids and opened our ZOOM meeting with: *"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves"*.

Dan gave a thoughtful and meaningful invocation, and we had a moment of silence respecting the passing of a colleague.

(It was wonderful to see so many faces from our club plus several guests including our DG Richard Griesch and Larry Jones our ADG. *I counted 32 respondents to Mike Brewster's Happy Dollar roundup!* editor)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MEMBERSHIP** – Mary reported that the committee would be meeting soon via ZOOM.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** – Beth asked Silas to put up all of the members present on one screen so she could take a screen shot to post on Facebook.

**FOUNDATION** – Tom told us that an anonymous member had donated \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation and put the club in for points.

**SERVICE – HELPING HANDS, HELPING HANDS** Linda LeTendre (in her words: "In addition to a physically and emotionally grueling work situation, ER/ICR nurses and doctors are scrubbing their hands raw in this pandemic!

Let's say, "We see you. We know it's a horrific situation. We appreciate and thank you for your service" by delivering some extra strength, high quality hand cream for these departments at Saratoga Hospital. A friend is selling some to me at cost as her way of saying, "Thank you." She is not making a dime. The cost is \$9/tube."

Linda has ordered several hundred dollars' worth. The Ballston Spa and our club can partner with this project. She is asking Gini to design labels that will say, *"Thank you from Rotary"*. Jon suggests that both clubs be recognized on the label along with the Rotary logo. DG Richard Griesche suggested that this project might be unique enough to be worthy of a district grant and would like to meet with Linda to explore the possibility. Individuals who would like to donate can do so by sending a check to Linda at: 34 Greenfield Ave., Stg. Sp. 12866-1503. Linda plans to look into being able to donate with Venmo and PayPal. Any amount is welcome. Stay tuned! Linda also reported that her small curb library is doing a brisk business, since so many folks are staying at home these days.

"Service above self"

A VISIT FROM STEVE CAINE: (your editor invited Steve to weigh in on living with the current pandemic in Florida)

Hi from your southern BHBL Rotary club representatives in Coconut Grove, Miami, FL. At Gini's request I am happy to report of the goings on locally and how we are handling the situation. Like you, we are sheltered in place. Everything but the essentials is closed, including golf courses. Ugh! The mayor has established a curfew from 10pm – 5am. The governor has mandated a statewide stay at home order. Miami is heating up the number of Coronavirus cases, but hospitals at this time have adequate capacity. Nancy and I live on the 17th floor of a condo so must take an elevator. Only those living together can get on the elevator at one time. The gym and pool in our building are closed. Volunteerism is starting to blossom. A lady in our building is making face masks and people are complying with the CDC recommendation to wear face masks. Local Rotary Clubs are starting to give more cash to local food banks to feed children and families who need help.

Nancy and I are lucky. We don't have to worry about jobs, food, and our kids are all in good shape. Food is delivered to our home from supermarkets. We take long walks; do yoga and Pilates using programs on the tube. We have ordered weights and TRX straps. Nancy takes Spanish lessons via SKYPE and does needle point. I am taking a couple of courses now on line from the U. of Miami's "Osher Life Long Learning Center". We're getting time to read. I talk with my kids daily, my brother weekly. The family had a virtual dinner on Sunday. We've had several virtual cocktail hours with both Florida and NY friends via ZOOM. We'd planned to drive home late April, but are now reevaluating.

I hope every one of you and your families maintain your health and positive outlook. I continue to be grateful and proud to be a member of a great little club that punches far beyond its weight. Cheers, Steve.



## RICHARD ARTHUR – Artificial Intelligence and Machine Collaborating with People

Rick presented a wide ranging overview with slides of a complex and fascinating subject, much of which is new to most of us. He told us that artificial intelligence, machines and people are all collaborators. It's an innovation ecosystem used worldwide by GE where safety is critical and expensive. When equipment shuts down, AI sensors/data keep it running longer. He explained that the world is volatile, complex, uncertain and ambiguous. Using AI in problem solving, risk and cost are reduced. Its goal is problem solving. It begins with a mental model built to share, externalize. Manufacturing, now primarily digital, uses AI based on modeling. Speaking about modeling, Rick said, "All models are wrong but some are useful." Software, simulation and modeling are used to run scenarios to learn what will happen in the real world. It allows us to design and use machines faster and in more complex ways. AI is machine learning. Machines are great collaborators with repetitive tasks, good with consistency; they are concurrent and complex and have precise, fast turnaround. They are most efficient when they have a lot of data. An example is self-driving cars.

(Whew! As a non-technical person, this is the best I could do from the notes I took. Feel free to correct, revise. I have asked Rick to email a summary of his talk.)

Reported by Inky Fingers