

Reporting ZOOM Meeting of 22 February 2021

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 2/15 Ray O'Connor, *She Called Him Raymond*
This Week: 2/22 Paddy Rooney, *A Vision with a Passion*
Next Week: 3/1 Mark Sheehan, Schenectady ARC
Coming Up: 3/8 Rob Raylman & Guillermo Trujillo, Gift of Life

Note: Regular ZOOM Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm.
Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer ZOOM ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Darlene Bower and Dan Stec.

Find us at bhblrotary.org and on Facebook

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves

Reverend Patrick J. Rooney STS

Paddy is an active member of the Rotary Club of York and a past District Governor for District 7390. He began by highlighting his Rotary trip to India where he spoke at two Rotary Clubs & explained that the Rotary projects such as providing wells, toilets and exterior lighting have a significant impact on the local communities' standard of living.

He then discussed Rotary International's Vision Statement: "*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.*" A vision statement is internal to an organization which articulates their dreams & hopes for the organization. Said in another way, the vision statement answers the question, "Where do we want to go." This is different from a mission statement which "tells the world what they do & how they do it."

We are divided in many ways by race, creed, ethnicity, belief, gender, age or sexuality. We have further divided ourselves into subgroups which have created a source of dissension among ourselves. Our vision statement begins with the word "Together" which does not mean we ignore the differences between us but that we intentionally set them aside and figure out ways to work together. Our willingness to set them aside make us able to achieve our Rotary goals, serve our communities or help change the world.

In December 1968, 52 years ago, Apollo 8 circled the moon and brought back pictures of the earth now known as the blue marble. This was the first time anyone could see our whole planet from a distance.

This is the only world we have at least for now and we have the responsibility to take care of it. The beauty of our world is marred by poverty, hunger, the daily difficulty of living, wars, conflicts, & disasters. Although not easy, Rotarians respond to help resolve these problems with projects, some large & worldly like ending polio and some small like clearing trash & planting trees in our local communities. We live in world of constant change. We use change to create something better, something wonderful so that our World, our communities and we ourselves are better for it. Every change is a challenge, every challenge is an opportunity and we should seize those opportunities and make them something wonderful.

Patty offered some thoughts on membership. He suggested that we should assign new members to an ongoing project rather than to a committee. We should think outside of the box for recruitment ideas. Maybe we should have a less formal structure to some of our meetings. This would encourage communication between members & increase productivity concerning Rotary activities.

Announcements

• ***This week is Rotary's 116th Birthday***

- Peter Sawyer volunteered to deliver the food collected at Gil's Garage for the Galway Food Pantry. Examples of items needed are corned-beef hash, gravy, ketchup, baked beans, canned pineapple & peaches, canned meat, (tuna, chicken). The goal is to get each member to donate one item a week.
- Gini reported that Valentine's Day Cards were delivered to the Kingsway facility and work has begun on collecting St. Patrick's Day cards. Cards & money are donated by local citizens as well as Rotarians.
- Money is also being donated for the postage for Books for Troops.
- Gregg reminded us of the continuing District fund-raising auction.
- Darlene announced that Ray O'Connor's book *She Called him Raymond* is available in hardcover (\$25) & softcover (\$15). Contact Darlene if you would like to order a copy.
- Congratulations to Linda LeTendre on reaching Medicare eligibility!



Serve with us – the world is waiting

Reported by Pete Parker