

Reporting ZOOM Meeting of 22 March 2021

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 3/15 Best Buddies

This Week: 3/22 Laura Marx & Charlie Buchanan –
Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar

Next Week: 3/29 Dr. Eric Yager, Virologist

Coming Up: 4/5 Linda Conley – Who killed Betty Conley?

Note: Regular ZOOM Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm.

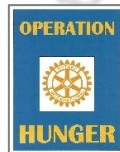
Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer ZOOM ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

*Please suggest future programs to Darlene Bower & Dan Stec.
Find us at bhblrotar.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

Announcements

- All were welcomed to the meeting by President Gregg Schorr who recited the Rotary-International Vision Statement.
- Peter Parker led the recitation of the Rotary Four-Way Test.
- Mary Anderson said that 150 Care Cards had been made of which 100 were Gini Whetten's work. Gregg offered the challenge of his reimbursing Happy Dollars accounts for the creation of additional cards.
- Darlene Bower has created and sent out the order form for the Drive-Thru Dinner scheduled for Wednesday 21 April. It can be filled in, scanned and emailed to Gregg Schorr, or filled in and photographed with a cell phone and texted to 518.258.2906 or called in to that number. All meals are to be pre-ordered. Promotion by members to their friends and relatives will be important. Members are encouraged to sponsor meals for folks in need. Mary is looking for volunteer helpers. More information can be found on the website, the Toolbox and Facebook.
- Operation Hunger continues with the collection of food and its delivery to the Galway Food Pantry.
- Mike Brewster conducted Happy Dollars with his usual enthusiasm and good humor.
- We had our first occurrence of being Zoom Bombed during the evening presentation. During screen sharing a loud rock-and-roll singer performed until Gregg, our host, ended the performance



by closing the session. Participants gradually returned to the original meeting.

Capital-Region Sponsor-A-Scholar

Laura Marx and Charlie Buchanan

Darlene and Gregg introduced Laura Marx the Executive Director and Charlie Buchanan the founder and Chair Emeritus of Capital-Region Sponsor-A-Scholar, which connects promising students with the mentors, resources and opportunities that help them earn college degrees. Their experience shows that a college degree is the best way for low-income students to have greater health, lifetime earnings and economic stability. Their focus is on residents of Albany, Troy and Schenectady. Over 280 of their scholars have gone on to earn degrees.

They work with local school districts, volunteer mentors, families and the Scholars themselves to provide individualized academic support, financial assistance and ongoing mentoring and guidance. Each scholar is aided to design their own pathway to college, based on their goals and strengths. The program stays with them from high school until they earn a degree. With every Scholar who earns a degree, the community is stronger and every Scholar inspires another, younger student to pursue their dreams. Their Scholars earn college degrees in record numbers. More than 69% earn two or four-year degrees. They credit their successes to the advice of their dedicated mentors, the financial assistance from their Sponsors, and the support from our staff.

Scholars: CRSAS works with students from Albany, Schenectady and Troy, NY. Most of their Scholars are the first in their families to go to college.

Mentors work with students to help them gain the skills and confidence to graduate from college.

Donors provide funding for the college readiness programming and student sponsorships that transform the lives of our Scholars. Each scholar requires \$10,000, including a \$6,000 stipend paid over their education both to help with expenses and encouragement to stay with the program. It was suggested that several Rotary clubs might choose to jointly support a student in the program.

Serve with us – the world is waiting

Reported by Fred Bailly