

Reporting ZOOM Meeting of Aug 2, 2021

Calendar of Events

This Week: 8/2 Galway Regional Food Bank – Karen English
Next Week: 8/9 District Gov Bruce McConollee,
Live Meeting at Jenkins Park, Burnt Hills; 5:30 PM
Coming Up: 8/16 No Meeting
8/18 Informal Social Wed 5pm at Galway Rock Winery

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

Galway Regional Food Bank Karen English

This program was of special interest to the club as we make weekly deliveries of donated items. This presentation fell on the one-year anniversary of our participation. Dedicated volunteer Karen English provided us an excellent overview of the food bank's history, operating hours, clients served, sources of products for donations, program descriptions and types of services other than food they provide, and the physical layout of their facility. Karen emphasized the volunteer nature of the enterprise and emotionally spoke of how towns people really were supportive in 2020. Among the examples, an Eagle Scout created a ramp and cart to ease stocking and food delivery. Others donated food and money.

The food bank was started in 1979 and serves the needy in Charlton, Galway and Providence. It is open on Thursdays from 10:00 to 7:00pm. It is currently providing food and other aid to 76 adults, 34 children, and 36 elderly folks. Karen also mentioned that the food bank is helping seasonal workers.

In addition to our club donated items, a great deal of their product comes from the NE Regional Food bank which supplies USDA items for free. The NE Regional Food Bank also provides free products from their donated resources and minimal charges (e.g., 16 cents/lb. for bacon) for other items. Other contributors are: The Capitol Region Food Bank, The NY State Museum, Aldi Food Store and others.

Karen mentioned that they create three baskets per year which are appropriately filled for the specific holiday and family needs: one for Easter, Thanksgiving, and the 4th of July.

Other services they have provided clients are help with the Back Pack program for children, health and hygiene items, goodies for kids, and some items of clothing. They also have donated funds for deferred electric payments for the elderly.

Karen concluded with a virtual tour of the facility. Clearly, they provide a wide variety of essential, healthy goods. During the Q and A, Rotarians stressed their desire to further help, and the need to really know what the food bank's priority needs are so we can better target them. It was wonderful presentation and thoughtful exchange.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Dan reported that the annual budget was passed.
- He then, with very nice words, presented Paul Harris Fellow honors to the following Rotarians: Steve Caine, Mike Brewster, Ken Crotty, John Costolo, and Gregg Schorr. He also mentioned a thank you note from Shelter Box.
- The Galway Rock Winery Fundraiser is postponed, and an informal social there will take its place on the 18th. The plan is to have a Fundraiser there in the Spring, and one in the Fall at Wolf Hollow.
- Gregg and Peter S. described an idea of creating six month plans for rotating types of meetings between our normal programs, a social night and a service night. There was a discussion about venues, and what nights to have meetings – once a week (which night?) or differing nights. Gregg is going send out a survey.
- Linda reviewed the Seeds for Peace Concert on Aug 11. See flyer resent by Darlene. Bring your own chairs and BYOB.
- Gregg mentioned the drive through dinner on Sep 22 at the high school. Details to follow.
- The Oct 9 Golf Tournament will now have the Ballston Spa Hannaford as a major sponsor.
- Due to the challenges of Covid, Jon C. is working on what type of Apple Run to have this year. Oct 2 is slated for probable event.
- There were no Happy Dollars due to time constraints, although every one present committed to donate the "max" to the fund.

Reporter Steve Caine

Serve with us – the world is waiting