

“The Mirror”

CHARLOTTE ROTARY CLUB – 8/27/2019

GREETER: Michael Armitage greeted us all with a smile.

INVOCATION: Kathie Cook led us in prayer.

SINGING: I was tied up helping Ed with A/V issues during this time. But if I heard correctly... Gregg lead us in The Four Way test song, Happy Birthday to Sam Davis, a Grandma song for Amy Gilson and America The Beautiful.

VISITING ROTARIANS: Jackie Jennings-Carter and Sharalyn Davis from Battle Creek.

GUESTS: None.

JR. ROTARIANS: Summer Break

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ★ Jackie Jennings-Carter announced that tickets are available for the district raffle and encouraged us all to buy one. The proceeds go to fund the many wonderful things Rotary does. One of those things is grants. Our club actually received one of those grants this past year to fund a vocational scholarship for a Charlotte outbound senior.

SPOTLIGHT: Bob Leeser gave us a brief recap on his history. Doc was born and raised in Bellevue. He was 1 of 5 kids. He explained that his father was very well known in the county. Bob wasn't able to get away with much because by the time he got home, dad would already know what he had done. He went to college at Ferris State (which was Ferris Institute at the time). When he finally graduated he had a degree in Pharmacy and a wife. He went to work as a pharmacist in the down river area. Then he got the itch for school again and went back to Wayne State to become a doctor. Upon graduation he stayed in the Detroit area working until the smoke of the riots persuaded him to leave. He next landed in a magical little town name Charlotte where he "practiced" medicine for many years. Bob said he has done a lot of things in his time and had a lot of fun. None of the least has been his time with Rotary. He has been a member of Charlotte Rotary since 8/1/1973.

50 / 50: Amy Gilson sold tickets today. She had Mary June draw the winning ticket which just happened to be Amy's. She took home \$32 in winnings.

SGT-AT-ARMS: Amy filled in for the MIA Pablo. She first fined herself for winning the 50/50. That asked that at least one member from each table share something they we happy about. Many shared things they were happy about. Subjects included new grandchildren, children back to school, building remodels, football season starting, and more.

PROGRAM: Ed Foster introduced Sharalyn Davis of the Cereal City Battle Creek club. Sharalyn is recently retired from the VA where she worked for many years as a music therapist. She came to us today to share about her recent experience as one of those "Dam Rotarians". She took part in a rotary trip to India to build a dam. This trip she took part in was the 8th dam Rotary has built in the last 8 years and the hope is to build 10. The dam's purpose is to collect large amounts of rain water during the monsoon season in early spring before the area receives no rain for very long periods. Doing so will over time raise the water table in the entire area as well as provide ground water to help water crops and keep animals. This allows for 3 growing seasons which has a huge impact on

the economy of these areas. Below I found a tidbit on the internet which gives additional information on how these "dam Rotarians" are helping in India.

"As rivers go dry, and temperatures climb, environmentalists predict that freshwater may be the most critical issue of the 21st century. Since 2010, the Rotary Dream Teams have come from around the world to work on Water Conservation Projects in the heart of India, to increase groundwater levels in arid areas. Centuries of failed crops had crushed the Will of the local people to participate in projects for the general good of their communities. Each Dam has a cascading effect on the well-being of communities.

Improvement in Health, Literacy, and Education among women & children has followed Economic growth.

Project Benefits

- > Higher Groundwater Table
- > Improved crop yield
- > Healthier livestock
- > Increased family income
- > Recharge of defunct wells within each village
- > Less time for women to fetch water from distant wells
- > Time for gainful employment of women - more income
- > Children complete school – no need to start earning

Check-dams, once built, do not need recurring maintenance costs. With one Masterstroke, these projects strike at the core of social deprivation to provide Sustainable Incomes, Sanitation & Health, Education & Equal Opportunity."

One final interesting statistic on these dams is that they are not millions of dollars to build as they would be here in the US. The dam that Sharalyn helped build cost just a little over \$50,000, a small amount of money to make a huge impact on a region. As Forest Gump says "That's all i got to say about that".

NEXT MEETING – September 3, 2019 – RYLA attendee Justin Dykstra

Until next time,
Go Green!

SEPTEMBER DUTIES	
ATTENDANCE	Eric Crandall
GREETER	Anthony Faulkner
INVOCATION	Brian Lautzenheiser
MIRROR	Tyler Pray
SINGING	Chuck Archer
SGT-AT-ARMS	Amy Gilson (Barrel)
	John Newland (50/50)
	Paul Tomasek (S&T)

CHARLOTTE ROTARY **PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2019 - 2020**

- Sept 10 – NO NOON MEETING-** Duck Race at Bennett Park for all members to attend
- Sept 17 – Fundraising – Sam Davis**
- Sept 24 – Youth Exchange – Doug Buck**
- Oct 01 – Invocation – Wally Miars**
- Oct 08 – Membership – Gregg Guetschow (+ 10)**
- Oct 15 – Sgt-at-Arms – Tyler Pray**
- Oct 22 – Polio Eradication – Ed Foster**
- Oct 29 – Red Badge – Sam Davis**