



THE SUNRISE CIRCUIT

Newsletter of the
Stuart Sunrise Rotary Club, Florida

October 1, 2015

Pledge by Jim Rick Zurich

Prayer by Gary Damen

- . Gary showed up to sell 50/50 tickets and I can't remember who won
- . Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) in Boca on October 17th; contact Jenny if you want to attend
- . Rock enlisted Paul, Brenda & Harry to pour beer at the Craft Beer Festival to benefit ARC on Saturday, September 26th and forgot that he couldn't show up. That cost him a buck,
- . Jenny announced that Scott Eccelston is resigning and that Jim Taylor is still in the process of knee replacement and recover
- . October 24 is POLIO AWARENESS DAY - Jane Mills passed the POLIO PIG last week and collected \$142.68. Paul and Brenda announced that they will bring the "change bucket" every week for us to throw our spare change in for the month to donate towards Polio as well. Paul and Brenda have also made a 3-year commitment to being International Foundation chairs and educate us on the importance of Every Rotarian Every Year and the general fund.
- . Audrey Ballantyne (yes, THE AUDREY BALLANTYNE) is back and she received a call from the Prime Minister of Dominica, which suffered \$2 billion in hurricane damage recently. They are desperate for help (clothing, etc.) and Audrey will get the specifics and pass along to us how we can help.
- . Mike C. announced that 17 students attended the Interact meeting this week and charter night will be held on December 17th.
- . Jo Horton is being honored as a Health Care Hero this morning (Editor's note - SHE WON!!!!!!!!!!). That will cost her a buck or two.
- . Club Corp Classic is October 9th, which is also when we draw three tickets for Be A Tourist in Stuart. Tom encouraged everyone to use social media - he posted the prizes on his Facebook page and sold three tickets in about 5 minutes.
- . Meeting on November 19th is from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Flagler Center in downtown Stuart. We are sponsoring the Palm City Chamber social breakfast that morning as part of the Tykes & Teens Festival of Trees and Lights. This is a great opportunity for recruiting members.

John Gonzales led a rousing round of money-collecting as Sergeant At Arms.

Lots of happy dollars and one notable sad dollar. Jack Langhorne announced that Pat has entered into the care of Hospice. We love Pat & Jack and wish them grace and peace during this extremely difficult time. Please reach out to them in your thoughts and prayers.

Sue Whittington introduced our speaker, Laurie Gaylord, superintendent of Martin County Schools. Laurie's presentation included a lot of notable facts and information - here are the highlights:

1. Martin County School District (MCSD) is 2nd largest employer in Martin County.
2. The Board approved a \$253 million budget on September 8th; and the General Fund Balance has grown from 2% (which is under the state mandate) in 2012 to 4% in 2014-15, which helped improve the district's rating from Fitch and Standard & Poors from "negative outlook" to "stable."
3. All students in the district must take a virtual class at some point during their public school education. We currently have 19,262 students and enrolled between 500 and 1,000 new students this year.
4. 50% of our students qualify for Free/Reduced meals; 38% of students are minority and 20% are Second Language learners (state average is 17%). There are 160 homeless children in our school district. We graduated 1,351 students in 2015, 53 with an IB diploma and 21 with an Associate's degree. \$5,116,786 was given out in college scholarships.
5. We are a high performing district - all 4 high schools are "A" and we have one of the highest graduation rates in the state with SAT and ACT results higher than state or national averages. We have 25 career academy programs in 3 high schools and 7 career & technical programs in 5 middle schools.
6. Among the exciting new programs in the schools are the Martin Family Language Involvement Program and Team Green (we had a presentation from them in August) which pairs peer mentors with developmentally challenged children for recycling programs - this will be introduced into 10 elementary schools this year. Laurie shared information on several other wonderful initiatives such as the Environmental Studies Center.
7. Laurie thanked our club for all our involvement in schools with Rotokids, Interact, dictionaries and scholarships, and encourages us to visit the schools. She ended with her favorite quote: Nothing is more important for the public welfare than to form and train our youth in wisdom and virtue. Benjamin Franklin.

Susan Dawson Whittington



Be A Gift to the World!