

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

[www.danburyrotary.org](http://www.danburyrotary.org) ,

District 7980

January 2, 2019

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### From the Editor's Desk:

**I was not legit, but now I am!** In July of 2017, I was surprised by an



award I was totally not expecting. I was flabbergasted when, at the behest of the Rotary Club of Danbury, DG Trish Pearson presented me with an impressive eagle trophy, and a beautiful framed certificate

honoring me for 50 years of Rotary Service. I took that pride with me to a Florida vacation where I announced my honor at the Rotary Club of Key Largo, and was given a standing ovation. Several months later, while looking through an old membership roster, I discovered a shocking truth. I had not been a member for 50 years. I had only been a member 48 years. I had joined the Bridgeport Club in 1969, and transferred to the Danbury Club in 1976. My 50 years in Rotary had suddenly become fraudulent.

I discussed this problematic turn of events with my daughter, Regan, my granddaughter Erin, and my Grandson's Jason and Ian. All recommended that I keep the certificate and trophy, to return it would be an embarrassment to all of those involved in planning the presentation, and I should just hope to live out the next two year—and as of this week I am now legit. I can now brag about my accomplishment free of guilt and personal embarrassment. Hooray, hooray! **I have truly been a Rotarian for 50 years.** The trophy is no longer in mothballs, and is displayed proudly on a bedroom shelf. I will treasure the honor the remainder of my life. By the way. No issue of the Spoke has been missed for 13 years, as of January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Yours in Rotary Service, Ralph

1/9/19 Fran Norman, Habitat for Humanity

1/16/19 Lindy Cyr, TBICO

1/23/19 Speaker needed; suggestions accepted

#### Area Make-ups-

Mon. 12:15 pm, Norwalk, Norwalk Inn

Mon. 6:15 pm, Newtown, Newtown Country Club

Tues. 12:00 pm, Wpt, Branson Hall at Christ and Holy Trinity Church

Wed. 12:15 pm, Danbury, Ethan Allen Inn, Danbury

Wed 6:15 pm, Ridgefield Dinner Club, Bernard's, 20 West Lane, Ridgefield

Fri 7:30 am Westport Sunrise, The Westport Inn

Fri. 12:15 pm, Wilton, Marly's Bistro

**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**No meeting today; It is "digest the New Years meal" day.**

### Tary's Rotary Minute:

It is a bit of an embarrassment that we calculated the years



Ralph Welsh had served as a member of Rotary and arrived at 50. When he was elected our club president in 1982, his bio noted that he joined our club in 1976—transferring from the Bridgeport club of which he had joined in 1969. Somehow, it seems that 1976 became 1966 somewhere in the calculation process—which would still have made him a member for 51

years. Hmmm. That doesn't quite explain matters, either. I suspect we should have used our I-Phone calculators, and then compared results. In any event, Ralph was given 2 years of additional fame of which he failed to capitalize on being a stickler for the truth (4 Way Test you know). Then again, is he sure he didn't join the Bridgeport Rotary in 1967? Just a passing thought. In any event, we will make a sticker to place over the date on the certificate----but only if he so chooses. Yet, all in all the ceremony was rather nice, wasn't it, and it was a total surprise.



#### Rotary Club of Danbury

Officers 2018-19

##### President-

Pres. Elect:-

Vice Pres.-

Secretary-

Treasurer-

Sergeant at Arms-

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Anita Ragona

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Tim Seibert

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Frank Scahill, Jr

Edward Walsh

John Murphy

Jeffery Kass

Tim Seibert

Frank Scahill

Dr. Ralph S. Welsh

*No Spoke issues missed since 1/4/06*

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