

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org ,

District 7980

July 8, 2020

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

From the Editor's Desk:

With trepidations having the Gavel Dinner moved inside due to rain, it appears that everything worked out quite well. Masks were worn most of the time, except for dinner, and spacing was fairly good, though not always up to a totally comfortable level. The dinner was tasty, the guests fun to see again, and it was nice for all of us to finally be with each other face to face. Alon Sapir of the Tribury Club dropped in, so did Caryl Lucchesi's daughter, and our ADG attended and swore us into our various offices. The Spoke "Put a Caption on the Photo Contest" was successful beyond the expectations of your Editor. Enough material was gathered to put in the Spoke for quite a few issues to come.

It was good to get out and about. In 20 days we will find out if we beat the bug. I'm sure we did. Be well everyone and keep in touch with the club on Zoom.

Ralph

Tary's Rotary Minute:

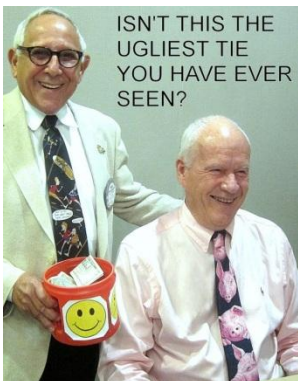
For a time, back about 50 years ago, our Danbury Rotary Club had picnics at The Bennett Park in Bethel and one year our President decided to have a contest about which Rotarian had the best legs. Well guess who the prizes went to?



John Lucchesi, Joe Bolduc and Bill Morse all of whom won a bottle of Pepsi Cola, worth 5 cents a bottle then. Those old empty bottles now cost a fortune on eBay. Today, with women in Rotary, I doubt such a contest would fly. Of course, the ugly tie contest still has "legs."

Tary

(File Photo Courtesy of the Spoke)

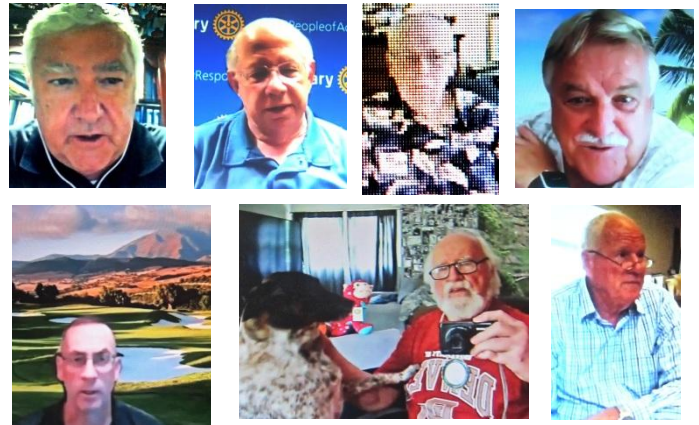


1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Our Meeting was Virtual Again.

The following individuals attended our virtual luncheon today:

Barry Rickert, Jeff Kass, Marvin Paige, Ray Kish, Frank Scahill, Ralph Welsh and Tary Tarlton. Mark Havira and Kristen Keil were voice, only.



We're were all excited about the Virtual Raffle. It looks very promising.

We also found out why Kristen was so busy she could not attend the meetings—the mortgage market went crazy with the bank, at half staff, at home, having to process more loans in 2 weeks—more than they had processed in 30 years. Wow! Everyone is well, and we were all getting ready for the Gavel Dinner that evening.

Gavel Dinner at the Ridgewood: Hooray!

It was a great evening. **Tary Tarlton** and **Frank Scahill** won The President's Award, and the following individuals received Paul Harris Awards:

- Mark Havira
- Anita Ragona
- Ralph Welsh
- Jeff Kass
- Frank Scahill
- Fred Kayal
- Delia Espinal
- Bob Vetter
- Sheila Vetter
- Suzanne Vetter



Spoke 7/8/20 Page 2

Our ADG, Chris Hoeffel, swore the Board of Directors in, and installed the Club officers. We heard a message of hope from ADG Chris, a message of thanks from outgoing president Allison Fulton, and inspiring messages from Tary Tarlton, and our incoming president, Frank Scahill.



ADG Chris Hoeffel Tary Tarlton Allison Fulton Frank Scahill



The new Board of Directors: See masthead (some absent)



Paul Harris Awardees present: Frank Scahill, (Pres. Allison), Ralph Welsh, Jeff Kass, Delia Espinal, Fred Kayal, and Kristen Keil.



Paul Harris Awardees, absent: Mark Havira, Sheila Vetter, Suzanne Vetter, Bob Vetter and Anita Ragona.

Seen at the Gavel Dinner:



Rotary Club of Danbury 2020-2021

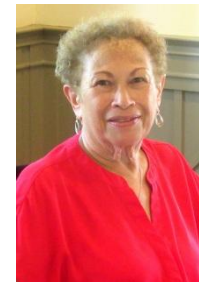
Officers:-

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| President- | Frank Scahill, Jr |
| Pres. Elect | Delia Espinal |
| Vice President | Kristen McGrath Keil |
| Secretary- | Dr.Mark Havira |
| Treasurer- | Tary Tarlton |
| Sergeant at Arms- | Edward Walsh |

Directors-

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Anita Ragona | Delia Espinal |
| Robert J. Vetter | Jeffrey Kass |
| Dr. Mark Havira | Kristen McGrath Keil |
| Tary Tarlton | Frank Scahill, Jr |
| Allison Fulton | Dr.Ralph S. Welsh |
| | Dr. Fred Kayal |

No Spoke issues missed since 1/4/06
 Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh
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And the Winners of the Spoke Photo Caption Contest are:

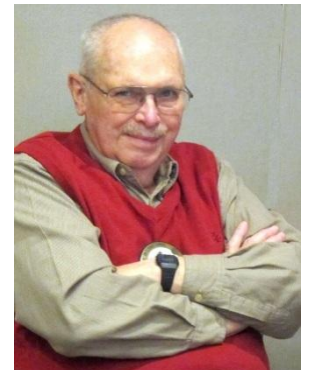
1st Prize: Wayne Curtis

2nd Prize: Frank Scahill

3rd Prize: Chris Curtis



*What is this CVS coupon doing in here?
First (Wayne Curtis)*



*I did it again,
and no one
knows.
Second (Frank
Scahill)*

The contest was done blindly, by taping out the names on each of the ballots. The contest was judged by your Spoke Editor, Ralph, his granddaughter Ern, and his daughter, Regan. Each answer given was judged on a scale from 1 to 3, and then all of the ones were evaluated together. Several were so good it was hard to make a choice. Barry Rickert had the highest average score, and both Bonnie Kish and Frank Scahill a close 2nd, but we will share the best of them with all of you in future editions of the Spoke. Thanks for all of your great captions!



*I don't know what was in that drink,
but my hair wasn't curly before I
started to drink it. Third (Chris
Curtis)*

Ed Note: The gifts, a plush toy and a really nice umbrella, will be sent by mail. Email me where to send them.

A Message from our Incoming President, Frank Scahill:

This year has been incredibly challenging for all of us. The Covid-19 pandemic has saddled us with a number of problems to face, some of which we have been able to overcome, and some of which we just have to accept and incorporate into our lives.



Our club has been meeting on Zoom every Wednesday, at noon, as a result of this. We have done our part to help with the pandemic thanks to Allison Fulton's leadership. We delivered Personal Protection Equipment to skilled nursing facilities that were in desperate need of it. Danbury Hospital, the Community Center for Behavioral Health, and Regional Hospice were recipients of the PPE. We donated over \$1,000 to local food banks. We also pushed through a Rotary Global Grant to pay for approximately \$93,000.00 worth of surgical equipment and supplies for the APROQUEN Burn Center in Nicaragua, a true gift of life inspired by Carl Bailey and his ongoing and really remarkable humanitarian efforts. Our Scholarship Awards are coming to a conclusion within the next week or two, and we will be awarding a number of scholarships to another group of outstanding students in need.

All of the above has been accomplished via the Internet and on the phone. The pandemic has not, and will not stop the 'good' that Rotarians do here, or throughout the world.

Our dues for this year will only be \$150 for all of our regular members--honorary members do not pay. Since we are not being billed for lunches, we have no expenses other than our dues to Rotary International and Rotary District 7980. I will let you know as things progress and the social distancing rules are relaxed—and how we will be handling our meetings in person again. Right now there are no plans to return to the hotel. We suspect it will be no earlier than the end of July and possibly the end of August. We did have a person to person Pass the

Gavel dinner at the Ridgewood which went very well. It was great to see everyone face to face. We will be working on how we can meet and interact safely in the future. There are still a number of unknowns, but we want to be careful about how we make the transition. We are gearing up for our major fund raiser which is the Card Raffle. One of the positives that was forced by the pandemic is an on line program we will be able to use to do virtual fund raising now and in the future. More information on this will be forthcoming.

We still need people to help out with club activities. I will provide information on how you can assist us later. This can be done from home and does not require person to person contact for you to help the club. We want to involve everyone in the club and work on adding membership so we can do what Rotarians do best--help people in need. Not being able to go out does not mean not being unable to help. We can each make an impact and I hope all of you will be willing to lend a hand.

If anyone is in need of assistance for medical supplies or shopping runs, please let me know. If there are any other issues you need help with, please let me know. We will get through this pandemic together.

The Zoom meetings will continue at 621257872, and for the Board 467979495. Join us each Wednesday at Noon—but above all stay well!

Frank Scahill
President, Rotary Club of Danbury, 2020-21



Allison Fulton passes the gavel to Frank, July 8, 2020