

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org ,

District 7980

September 2, 2020

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

From the Editor's Desk:

There are times when having no speaker ends up in one of our more entertaining meetings. Such was the case this week. Still, the attendance remains a bit thin.

We need as many club members as possible to show up for our shredding fund raiser, September 12th, 9 to Noon at Chuck's, rain or shine. Bob Vetter will have raffle tickets on hand that day if you still haven't picked yours up from Bob's home. Sell, sell, sell.

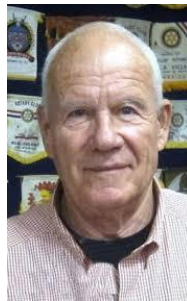
Ralph

Tary's Rotary Minute:

The District Pettengill Award is named after 1964-65 RI president Charles W. Pettengill. A lawyer, former president of the Greenwich CT Club, former DG, and close personal friend of RI founder, Paul Harris, is one of our Connecticut heroes. The University of Bridgeport and the Bridgeport Rotary club had a dinner honoring him in July of 1964, and all Rotarians were invited.

In our Rotary year 2000-01 our club won the coveted Pettengill Outstanding Club Award under the stewardship of our club president, that year, Nels DeAlmeida.

One of the last letters Paul Harris penned, during his declining years, was to his friend Charlie Pettengill. Harris wrote, "I can still appreciate the press of a warm hand and a friendly face." During our pandemic we'll have to wait for the former, but the latter is still there. Charles W. Pettengill died on November 27, 1974.



Tary



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?

The Meeting was Virtual, we did not have a Scheduled Speaker, but 3 Club Members Stepped up to the Plate with Stories involving Explosions, Damaging Hailstones, Blizzards and Flash Floods--

Barry Rickert was at the 2013 Boston Marathon with his family. His son had just finished the race, and the family was 2 blocks away when the 2 bombs went off. A few minutes earlier, they would have been at ground zero. Timing is everything.

Bob Vetter told about his harrowing experience trying to extinguish a burning couch, it kept re-igniting, then suddenly he was blown out the door off of a porch in a flash over, but largely O.K. Ralph Welsh told about his future son-in-law, Noah Scudere, who in a hazmat suit, entered a warehouse after a fire, opened a drum and was blown across the room fracturing his arm in several places.

Years ago, while in Nebraska, Ralph was driving his family back to Norfolk from S.L.C. during a raging storm, came over the crest of a hill and drove the car into a flash flood lake. A VW bug was spied floating off in the distance. Fortunately the water was receding at the time, and everyone was O.K.



Mike Kan holds up e-pic of a Texas sized hailstone

Also, while Ralph was finishing his internship in psychology in Nebraska, the family was trapped in their home 3 days due to a blizzard. On another occasion, racing to the hospital's underground walkways, a tornado caught their car and spun it around. No damage, no injuries, but a lot of raw fear.

Then there was the baseball sized hail that destroyed every roof in Norfolk, broke windows, and dented hundreds of cars—but Texas always seems to do things in a bigger way. Michael Kan produced an e-image of a grapefruit sized hailstone that crashed

through his roof. Some of the stones went through the metal roofs of cars. It was the second destructive storm that year.

All of the above proves that the pandemic is just another hazard along the journey of life.

Meeting Attendees: (L TO R) Frank Scahill, Ralph Welsh, Marvin Paige, Tary Tarlton, Barry Rickert, Perry Salvagne, Jeff Kass (who was here last week, too—sorry we messed up on that), Mike Kan, Bob Vetter and Ray Kish. Mark Havira was voice only.



Chasing that Little White Ball:

-Ed- 'Did you hear the luck of George Dunn? Tom. "No. What kind of luck? Ed—"Well sir, he lost control of his golf cart and it careened into the lake." Tom- What kind of luck was that?" Ed- "That son of a gun emerged from the lake with 150 golf balls, three great putters, and two large bass."



-Ed- "I hit a golf ball and it sailed as high as I have ever seen one go, then plopped down 2 feet in front of me." Tom- "Did your partners laugh?" Ed- "There were a few giggles, but my buddy, Jim, remained silent for a bit, then casually remarked, "Not that long, Ed, but it was straight.""

-Ed- "Did the pandemic have any effect on your golf game, Tom?" Tom- "Not that much, but while I was really sick with the virus, dragging that portable ventilator all around the course for 18 holes was a pain."

-It is better to love and then lost than to never have won at golf.

The 4 above items are dedicated to our club's most ardent golfer, our intrepid president, Frank Scahill.

Rotary Club of Danbury 2020-2021

Officers:-

President- Frank Scahill
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No Spoke issues missed since 1/4/06
 Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh
 203-938-2820 / rswelsh@mail.com

Virtual Luncheon Speakers:

- 9/9 Alyson Marcucio, Medicaid and Estate Planning
- 9/16 Barry Rickert, My first day as a firefighter
- 10/7 Richard Land, Elder Law
- 11/11 Alyson Marcucio, Elder Financial Abuse

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