

## From the Editor's Desk:

Just before Joe Biden selected his running mate, he held a note with the comment under the name of Kamala Harris which read "Don't hold any grudges." That comment suddenly hit me hard. I had just had an email spat with a lifelong family friend, and was ready to terminate the friendship immediately. In retrospect, the conflict was silly, and I now realize that all of our friendships are like a beautiful flower garden. Untended, and un-nurtured, it will wither and die.

We have disagreements with people every day and somehow usually find a way to smooth them over. A minor slight should never end years of friendship and good will. Rotary is like a family, and we will, from time to time, be offended by something a fellow Rotarian did or said. Learn to look the other way. It will blow over sooner than you think. Political differences are no exception.

During this pandemic we need to hang on to our Rotary friendships as we never did before. It is important to our own psychological health, and for Rotary as well.

Ralph

## Tary's Rotary Minute:

In 1964 our Danbury Rotary Board of Directors apparently adopted two new rules. The first one specified that any member who came late to meetings would be fined twenty five cents. Rule two threatened that you would be fined fifty cents if you left a meeting early. The new rules were seconded and apparently passed, but I failed to turn up any more information on the subject. Apparently they lacked any teeth, since I do know that our Sgt at Arms has never fined any of us for these ignoble infractions—and if he were to do so, they wouldn't work too well in a COVID world—plus the fines would have to be upgraded just a mite (25 cents is now worth \$2.10; 50 cents is now worth \$4.20) .

Tary

**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

## The Meeting was Virtual, but due to a Scheduling Snafu, Ron Holtz was Unable to Attend; Barry Rickert filled in Admirably. We will hear from Ron on Rotary Membership Next Week--



Of course we knew our former Fire Marshall, Barry Rickert, is a hero, but didn't know some of the stories that make it so.

When he was in his 20s and learning how to take calls from the dispatcher, a small boy ran into the firehouse and shouted, "Please help me. My mother is going to kill my baby brother." The dispatcher called the police while Barry ran across the street and found a distraught woman holding a baby with a butcher knife resting on his throat. Barry convinced her to hand the baby over to him, and met two policemen running up the steps with guns drawn. Two lives were probably saved that day, including the troubled mother's.

While serving as Danbury's Fire Marshall, a person shoved some burning material through the library book depository doing severe damage to the building and contents. Rotary provided funds for new books, and Barry was instrumental in changing the way books are deposited in libraries worldwide. He also forced a national mandate on fire doors, when he discovered a lumberyard could legally sell a sticker you could put on any door certifying it was a fire door. Much more to come.

**Other Meeting Attendees were l to r:** Jeff Kass, Marvin Paige, Frank Scahill, Bob Vetter, Ralph Welsh and Tary Tarlton.. Mark Havira was voice only.





**Rotary**

**Most Financially Sound  
Largest  
Most Powerful  
Networking Service  
Organization**

Whose flag is recognized in more  
Countries than any other flag in the world

**Every minute of every day Rotary:**

- \* Feeds someone
- \* Houses someone
- \* Vaccinates someone
- \* Performs surgery on someone
- \* Comforts someone
- \* Provides clean water to someone

**THIS IS ROTARY!**

<b>Rotary Club of Danbury 2020-2021</b>	
<b>Officers:-</b>	
<b>President-</b>	Frank Scahill
Pres. Elect-	Delia Espinal
Vice Pres.-	Kristen Keil
Secretary-	Dr. Mark Havira
Treasurer-	Tary Tarlton
Sergeant at Arms-	Edward Walsh
<b>Directors-</b>	
Anita Ragona	Delia Espinal
Robert J. Vetter	Jeffrey Kass
Dr. Mark Havira	Dr. Fred Kayal
Tary Tarlton	Frank Scahill
Kristen Keil	Dr. Ralph S. Welsh
<i>No Spoke issues missed since 1/4/06</i>	
Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh	
203-938-2820 / rswelsh@mail.com	

**Virtual Luncheon Speakers:**  
 9/30 Ron Holtz, Growing Membership in a Pandemic  
 10/7 Richard Land, Elder Law  
 11/11 Alyson Marcucio, Elder Financial Abuse

**Mark Twain Quotes:**  
 -A clear conscience is a sure sign of a bad memory.  
 -If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you do read it you're misinformed.  
 -Kindness is a language the deaf can hear, and the blind can see.  
 -If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between dog and man.

**We Didn't Have an Award for a Covid-19 Mask at Shred Day, but we should have:**

