

It was a full house this week with many faces we haven't had the pleasure to see in a while. We also had a nice collection of guests and maybe some potential new members. So glad to see so many in attendance. It made for a robust gathering, to be sure.

Our presenter for the meeting was the one and only, truly amazing super Rotarian... Eloy Nunez. He shared his vision of Peace and Conflict Resolution, how it applies to the efforts we make in our club and with rotary international. Within our district reach, we have supported the Ukrainians by providing local doctors who volunteered to train medical support within Ukraine, as well as help establishing refuge for those escaping and re-homing here. Locally, we support the Relief Share (medical supplies) program and Rise Against Hunger. Internationally, Rotary offers International Scholarships and programs, including the New Generations Program and the Peacebuilders Club. We learned that Next Generation is focused on Interact/Rotaract age participants and provides for networking, exchange, and extended projects that build good will through service. One activity is assembling together around the "Peace Pole". The Peacebuilder Club is an international group that communicates through zoom and emails. It is an opportunity to share ideas on peace all over the world with other like-minded Rotarians. Speaking of sharing ideas, Eloy then went on to share how a need became an idea that, after 4 years of development, is now in the process of being implemented. The program is called "The First 30 Seconds". In an effort to save lives and livelihoods, this program hopes to educate young drivers on the proper way to respond after a traffic stop. With the proper understanding, all parties will lower the stress level and illicit a better response. It is the proper response that will keep the peace officers as well as the driver from unnecessary harm. What a great idea! And as we learned, there are many of us in the room that have a driving story to tell---right Lead Foot Brannen???!!

#### Other News:

\*The Scholarship Chair/Committees Reported –the three High School Scholarships are selected and will be announced May 9, Fairman Committee has made their selection and will also be announced.

\*Grants – John Marmish announced the recipients this year were: PACE, Blessings, SOS, Community Food Bank

Special thanks went out to all the teams that worked on reviewing all the materials for scholarships and grants.

\*Education Foundation – will be in need of hygiene products to distribute to the students for the summer. Our club will be involved in a collection of goods.

#### Dates to Remember:

April 20 – Rise Against Hunger Crystal River High School

April 24 – Food Distribution with Feed Citrus at the Fairgrounds

April 25 – Upward Bound at Citrus Springs Community Center

May 30 – Blessings Pantry Pickup

Extra Effort: The Downtown Club is asking for volunteers for their Bike event on May 4.

H/S - \$195      50/50 - \$48 to Bonnie Rybak

It's National Communications Week – thank your 911 workers – they are truly your 1st responders.