



"ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD"

Spoke 'n Wheel

The Weekly Broadsheet of the Winter Park Rotary Club

The Opening Bell

by President Bryan Thomas

Back in the days when County Fairs provided the most engaging entertainment, their midways routinely offered a challenge of a chap's strength. A column with a bell on top could only be rung by application of prodigious power of a sledge hammer to the lever launching the clapper. All visitors undergoing testosterone bloom were challenged to give their best shot. Such tests of manhood have largely passed away because of this age of electronic amusements or, alternatively, loss of profit when such as Secretary Jeffrey grabbed prize after prize by engaging his fortunate combination of skill and brute strength. When Jeffrey rings the Rotary bell to signal initiation of yet another in a series of stirring weekly Zoom gatherings, you are watching and listening to a bell striker extraordinaire. And so it was that Monday's assembly got off to a ringing start. Gary Brewer invoked. The Pledge got pledged. "God Bless America" via U-Tube provided real music from real musicians as opposed to the amateurish croaking when the club chorus attempts Song of the Week.



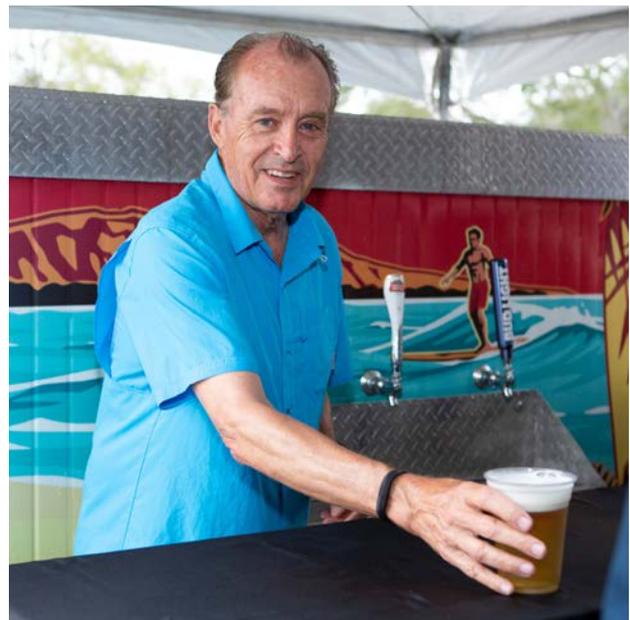
CRAIG DELONGY: LOOKING SHARP ON PARK AVENUE



Straight to the program. Craig DeLongy, proprietor of three shops on The Avenue (Current, John Craig and the pop up directly north of City Hall), spoke to effects of Covid on retail, loss of Luma and landlord/tenant relations during difficult days. Without Park Avenue our community loses much of its civic appeal. If you want to see retention of “extraordinary”, go out of your way to support local merchants and restauranteurs that pay taxes, create employment, provide personal service and draw visitors to our fair city. And, Dudes, if you want to look like a million, Craig can fix you up for less than a million.

GARY BREWER: ROTARIAN OF THE WEEK

Gary Brewer stands at the ready to accept such assignments as come along to advance the Rotary cause. Good example: his thoughtful and well-rendered invocations during October. He provides a great example of setting one’s default answer to “yes”. Let that be your first instinct when called on. Without service there is no point to Rotary.



DAVID PRATHER OFFERS CHALLENGE GRANT

David Prather offers you a hot opportunity to participate in a challenge for the benefit of Winter Park Rotary Charitable Foundation, Inc.

He wishes to commemorate his 25 years of Rotary membership as of November 1st and volunteered to post up to \$100 for each year in that quarter of a century on condition other members match it \$ for \$. This opportunity closes 25 days from October 26 – that would be November 20 for those of you lacking access to a calendar.

Each \$100 donation will earn you a pluck for the black tie Valentine's Dinner. The odds are 25 to 1 for each Benjamin; the payoff has a retail value of \$5000 and might even be considered priceless by your companion for that special evening celebrating romance.

To participate, send your check payable to Winter Park Rotary Charitable Foundation, Inc. at PO Box 1416 Winter Park FL 32790. Please make notation that the donation is incident to the Prather Challenge.

The winner will be announced at the meeting of November 23 – plenty of time to rent a tux or a tiara. Thanks to David for coming up with another way to provide funds for the many 501c3 in Winter Park depending on us.

If you have an idea, now is the time to speak up. Our customary fund raiser might not be possible but the needs have not gone away.



Rotarians Steve Kramer, David Prather and Jim Hardy take a break from their hard at work digging water wells in Costa Rica

50/50 DRAWING. Our Zoom Raffle is changing! We're now doing a 50/50 raffle that pays out to the raffle winner when the cash prize totals \$100. You still participate in the same way as the previous raffle, with one entry for \$5 and six entries for \$25! Congrats to our most recent winner Anne Sallee!

The Weekly Theme: Pins

EDUCATION, ROTARY, AND ONE CAMPAIGN BUTTON (ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR) WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS WEEK'S CONTEST. THE WINNER, WITH BEST BACKGROUND SETTING AND NUMBER OF PINS IS KATHLEEN PETERS.



TOM



SARAH



KATHLEEN



GORDON



BUTCH



ROSEMARY



BRYAN



KIM

THEME FOR THE COMING WEEK: COWBOY HATS

Take advantage of our 'Dress to Theme' competition by wearing or bringing an item that fits the theme of our zoom meeting! This week's theme is "Cowboy hats"! Be sure to add some 'yee-haw!' to our meeting, because the winner of our Dress to Theme competition receives an entry into our 50/50 raffle!



"When a cowboy wears it, it is a cowboy hat."

WELCOME TO JOHN

ONE STEP CLOSER TO BLUE BADGE



John Strudwic, retired banker and concerned citizen, made his maiden appearance with some optimism he will be recruited to augment our force. ABR, team. Always be recruiting. Growth is a sign of good health in any organization. With the manner of world class leadership currently in office, anything short of doubling the membership should be considered an insult to the concept of devotion and persistence.



Karen Gourlay parlayed her draw of a free swing to share what is on her mind with advancement to the coveted rank of Blue Badger (which is entirely different than a Wisconsin Badger). She delivered her classification speech including a skillful statement of why a person becomes a Rotarian and what Rotary does for its members. Richard Yount up next week for 60 second commercial.

The bell used in Rotary meetings started to represent, as on the ships, order, discipline and the time to guide us through the weekly hour and a half meetings. The bell informs us with its sound the beginning of the Rotary meeting, at which time people present should stand, same as at the end, in order to salute the national and Rotary flags.

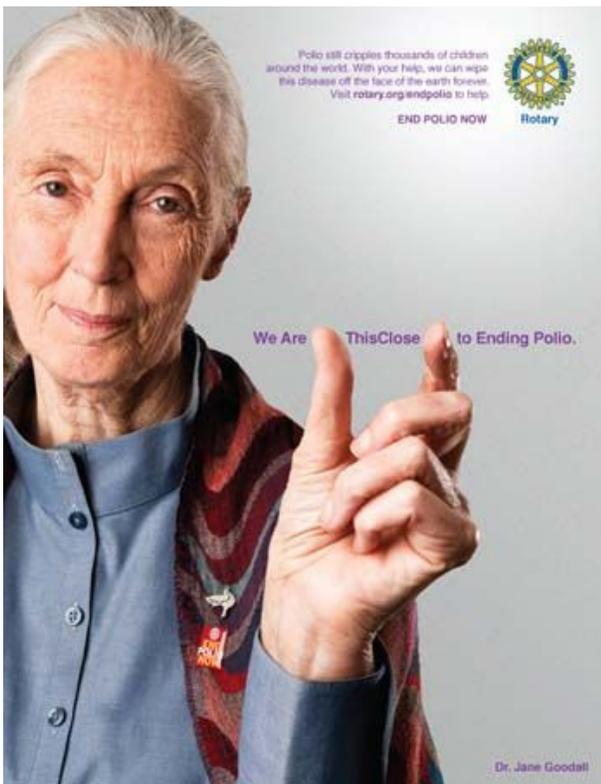


October 26th SPEAKER :
Orange County
Preparatory Academy -
Melody Gomez: Director
of
Student Services

Hope you will join our
fellowship at noon next
Monday. The Zoom
counter needs to bump
up to the 60's and 70's.

Caveat: a certain amount of effort goes into publication of "Spoke 'n Wheel". In these Covid conditions, this is an attempt to keep members who cannot attend aware of the content of our meetings. Zoomers totaled 50. Those of you not Zooming at noon on Monday ought to take a minute to peruse the minutes of what you missed.

There being no other business to conduct, the 50 Zoom participants signed off with recitation of the WPRC unique version of the 4 Way Test: true, fair, kind, useful.



CLUB LEADERSHIP Officers

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Vice President: Don K. Hulslander
President - Elect: Anne Sallee
Treasurer: Debra Backer
Secretary: Jeffrey Blydenburgh
Frank Salerno: Sergeant at Arms

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Lania Crouch **Lauren Cooper**
Steve Kramer **Butch Margraf**
Kristin LeFleur **Justin Levy**
Richard Yount **Kim Groves**

Special Advisor: JoAnn Beck

Spoke 'n Wheel

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