



The Scallop

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Niantic



Speakers

August 31, 2022
Eileen Rau - Zone Foundation Coordinator

Birthdays

Donna L. Gada
September 1st
David Schmitt
September 5th
Norman Peck III
September 7th
Alan Wilensky
September 13th
Daniel R. Cunningham
September 16th
Michael Barnett
September 17th
Cheri Meier
September 17th
Laura A Frisch
September 17th

Weekly Bulletin 8-17

By Debbie Delorimiere on Saturday, August 20, 2022

When I Needed a Hand, I Found a Paw



On the second Wednesday of every month, Niantic Rotarian and Service Projects chair Laura Frisch volunteers at the Veteran's Coffee House at VFW Post 5948. Here she met Brian Burrige, East Lyme's Veteran Representative. Brian also does double volunteer duty as a board member of the Forever In My Heart Foundation. When Laura learned about this Foundation and its mission to acquire and train service dogs for veterans with post-traumatic stress, she invited them as our special guests for this week's meeting. Vice President Doug Sanders also presented information for us, and brought along two unique helpers.

Finn, a golden lab still in training, wagged his tail and chewed his leash while dutifully waiting next to his handler, Brian Burrige. Finn is the last dog to take part in the York Correctional Institution training program since Covid prevented normal access. Qualified prisoners are responsible for training and caring for the dogs during the week, and then are picked up and brought home to fosters on the weekends. The program will be returning to normal with more dogs to train, and weekend fosters are needed. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about fostering a dog, reach out to the Forever In My Heart Foundation.



Banner, a fully trained shepherd, also stood by his handler, Doug Sanders. His ability to sense his handler's emotions was on point when Doug became emotional in describing the incredible benefit the dogs provide to their veterans. Banner focused on Doug and was able to provide a soothing presence. Due to allergies, Banner can't be placed, so he stays with Doug and acts as the Foundation ambassador. Banner was also able to detect that our favorite Flanders Fish waitress, Kathy, was afraid of dogs. As she passed around him, he laid his head to the floor, as if to send the message that he was not a threat to her.



It costs \$25,000 to train one dog. This does not include any unexpected medical treatments that may be needed. Currently, dogs are provided to accepted veterans at no cost. One dog in their care is in need of double hip surgery, which will cost close to \$10,000 when done. Laura Frisch was happy to present a check for \$650 to the Forever In My Heart Foundation.

Club Business

No winners for the raffle this week.

We have the Foundation Zone Coordinator visiting in September, as well as the District Governor, so please plan on attending.

September is also time for PIE SALES!! A special email will be sent on Pie Sales, so get ready to sell!! Can we beat last year's top dollars sold??