

January 4, 2017
Volume 21, Issue 25
www.boonerotary.com

Rotary Buzzer

December 28
No Meeting

January 11
Jack Lashier,
Brian Mehlhaus,
Program Chair

January 18
Lee McNair, Program
Chair

January 25
Auction Kick Off

February 1
Susan Herrick, Program
Chair

February 8
TBA

February 15
Megan Houston,
Program Chair

February 22
Jeff Anderson, Program
Chair

March 1
Auction Work Day

Jeff Anderson, Editor

Pres. Troy Thompson

Dist. Gov. Chris Knapp

ADG Steve Dakin

RI Pres. John Germ

2016-17 RYE Students:
Raquel Palomero
(inbound)

Isidro Gonzalez
(outbound)

www.liveloveitaly.blogspot.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thanks again to Mary for taking notes in my absence this past week!

Pres. Troy called the first meeting of 2017 to order and welcomed Cathy Hakanson who visiting as Rees's guest on Wednesday. There was a reminder given about the Iowa Energy/Polio Plus game that will take place at Wells Fargo Arena on January 28th. Kurt has tickets if you'd like to purchase (or donate) tickets for the game. The tickets are

\$16 and the Iowa Energy donates back \$8 from each ticket to our District's Polio Plus fund.

HELP!

Susan needs to change her program from February 1 to any other day for Raquel's program on her experiences as a RYE student. If someone can switch, please contact Susan.

CLUB VISIONING WORK SESSION

Our Club Visioning work session will take place on Saturday morning February 4th starting at 8:30 and will conclude by 12:30. This process will help us chart the future direction of our club, so please try to attend if at all possible. A signup sheet for the session will starting going around.

Sergeant at Arms

Sergeant Cody collected a Happy Dollars from a number of members in hopes that 2017 will be a great year. Megan offered to give \$5 on behalf of anyone who was willing to volunteer to take her twins to the dentist later that afternoon. Brian paid a dollar for his trip down south and George

was looking forward to his granddaughter who has been studying in Israel coming home on January 10th. Dave was pleased that the KSU Wildcats were victorious in their bowl game and paid a buck to promote the Boone Community Theatre's upcoming production on Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite".

Dinner shows will take place on Feb 9 and 10 and require that reservations be made ahead of time. Susan, Bob and Raquel were looking forward to going to Newton for the inbound/outbound student get together last this (now past) weekend.



Boone County Freedom Flight

Quote of the Week

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man (or woman!).

Benjamin Franklin



Kurt introduced Dick Thul and Don Batt for the Boone County, Iowa Freedom Flight. Dick is the Commander of the Local American Legion and Don is the President of the Boone County, Iowa Freedom Flight. A group of local veterans started talking about doing their own Boone County Freedom Flight and were given advise from the Ames group on how to proceed and set it up. They now are a corporation set up with the necessary ID number. An early fear was that they would have enough vets but not enough money. As it turned out it was the opposite, more money than vets. They ended up with 165 people including 147 vets (11 WWII, 32 Korean and 104 Vietnam/Vietnam era) with 47 wheelchairs, 13 guardians, 4 medical personnel and 1 reporter. The only complaint they had from those taking the trip was “too much food”!

They had a sendoff ceremony on Sunday which about 1,400 people attended. They left Boone at 4 a.m. and had an escort all the way to the Des Moines Airport. Along the way many people were out alongside the road to cheer them on and give them a proper send off. They were in Washington D.C. by 9 a.m. and the first stop was Arlington National Cemetery for the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Chuck Lovin and Marty Danatt were the Boone vets that were allowed to lay the new wreath on the tomb. They then toured the Vietnam, Korean, WWII and Iwo Jima memorials.

The cost per person is about \$800 which includes busses, airfare, shirt and hat for each veteran and guardian. Because of the generosity of the people in Boone County they ended up having money left over. Since the last flight, they have lost six veterans who had gone on the flight so they decided to do another flight this year. They still need to raise

\$150,000 for it. They have chartered the plane already which will leave on October 3, with the sendoff ceremony on October 1 at the BHS gym. Veterans interested must fill out an application, which is checked carefully, and be a Boone County resident. They must have served in active duty or been deployed to a different location during the conflict. Because the money raised is specifically for the veterans to take the trip, no family members are allowed on the flight, but they can meet their family veteran in Washington and travel with them there. They order an extra bus in Washington for just that purpose. The flight is filled through word of mouth and advertising. They have been doing presentations around town and at the nursing homes to get the word out.

A soup supper fund raiser will be held at the Boone Historical Center on January 28 from 4:30-7:00. There will be raffle tickets sold for prizes including a new TV.



Kurt along with Richard Thul and Don Batt of the Freedom Flight

See you...tomorrow!