



Rotary Club of Waterbury, Connecticut

Founded 1917

District 7980

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The eCritique

November 20 , 2007 Meeting



2007-2008 Officers

Susan Sprano, President
Scott Griffith, President Elect
Bernie Dzinski, Vice President

Ralph Richard, Sergeant-At-Arms
Clif Cotter, Secretary
Dan Donato, Treasurer

NEXT MEETING: December 4, 2007 12:15pm
Board Meeting at 11:15am

From Our President...

Our meeting of November 20th started without your well intentioned president. Luckily Rose Marie was present and being the quick thinking past-president that she is, she led the meeting just like the old days without a missing a beat. **We were joined by special guests**, Majors Ingar & Bill Furman from the Salvation Army. Major Ingar was suffering through a bout of laryngitis, so she brought her 'mouthpiece' (major Bill) to do her talking... okay Don ... yes, it is rare where a wife **actually asks** her husband to speak for her... the key phrase here is '**she asks**'. Major Bill delivered a wonderful message of hope & sharing; reminding us of all the good work the 'Army' does, and reminded us that they couldn't do it without help from organizations like ours.



We requested 50 'Angel Tree' tags again this year, which were passed around to the membership. Most were taken, but there are some left. If anyone missed the meeting and would like to participate, or if you came across that perfect toy at a price you couldn't pass up and need a kid to give it to they'll be available at Tuesday's meeting – or call & I can mail it! I think that Ingrid tried to add a tag of her own... who could blame her... nice try. Ingrid, we'll have to make sure that 'Santa' brings you a gift at our holiday party.

Ted Martland requested that the membership consider participating in the '**bell ringing**' in front of **Howland Hughes** as we have in the past. Major Bill provided us with some dates that we could fill, and Bernie is going to coordinate shifts. The dates we've selected are December 7th & 14th - both Fridays from Noon- 3pm. There are other shifts available on Thursday the 13th and Saturdays the 8th & 15th... you can contact the Salvation Army (203.754.7056) directly if those dates will fit into your schedule better. So put on your best Christmas hat and mittens and let's go raise some money... and Rotary awareness!!!!

Speaking of Bernie... he was once again the king of fines... and what a good job he did! Everyone who missed the dictionary project was fined... I think he had an axe to grind there, he was an hour late getting home...eek! But really – how much trouble could he have been in? ... he was at Bergin Funeral Home with a bunch of stiffs... no I wasn't talking about the Rotarians... we actually put the '**fun**' in funeral that night.



Ingrid gave us an update on the Christmas Party... I knew we had the right girl in charge! It sounds like its shaping up to be a great evening. Rose Marie offered to send out reminder cards, and to fill in as the RSVP contact while Ingrid's away. The cards have already gone out, and some of have already responded, that Rose... she's right on top of things! This is an event not to be missed. With John Ford, Michael Steir, Rudy Mazurosky, Roberta Massey and Vince Ganci in the house... coupled with our own Bill Conda- (is he even stateside?... or has a disgruntled boyfriend caught up with him?), Bob Smith(Bill's evil twin), Dan Donato, Clif Cotter and Scott Griffith (the bowling boys)... you can be sure they'll be plenty of laughs. In that grouping you have alcohol distributors (not boot-leggers), attorneys, undertakers (we already discussed how there can be 'fun 'in funerals), a financial wizard, and a classic salesman... and a true gentleman... we'll either end up in church (oh, Bruce Steinway can help us there!) or in jail.

Roberta Massey is looking for some talent to entertain us at the Holiday party. She's has lined

up one of the exchange students to sing, but is looking for reinforcements. No Bill – not that kind of talent... actually, is that really talent or just parlor tricks? Seriously – anyone with connections to someone who could provide some entertainment please call Roberta at 729-203.729.3762. Any local students who play instruments or sing would really be nice!

Yours truly paid Pat Moran's fine for having her picture appear in the paper. I made sure the photographer was not taking my picture... so I guess she was set up... but it was a great shot and publicity for the club. Yeah! Thanks for taking one of the team Pat!

Ellen Pollack, one of our prospective members joined us for lunch and was entertained by the charming Don Cipriano. Don appeared even more charming when he forked over a check for his contribution to the "Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure" book donation to the schools. Thanks again Don – they were a big hit!

Ellen has the inside track with Roberta and Steve Salasa and the chamber. She knows EVERYONE, so I'm sure we can expect great things from her once we've got her safely tucked away into our membership.



Thanks to coordinating with Roberta, **our remaining "Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure" books will be sold at Howland Hughes and the Festival of Trees** from Dec 2nd through the 14th. If you are interested in one before they all go – contact me and I'll put them aside for you... \$15 each. Even Don paid \$30 for two... and he donated 27 to the schools!

Ernie's Pink Water filter is amazing; we collected another \$43 dollars. It's like those baby bottles from the 70's that filled up every time you tipped them over. I swear it's all about Ernie's good karma. Now if we can just get a martini glass to do that... right Bill... Bob? Or a wine goblet - Ingrid... Dan? Okay – any self-filling beverage will do! While we on the topic, we are well on our way to supplying another school with FOUR more filters...(\$100 = 4 Bio-sand filters for schools).

PIGGY BANK update – the next group's whose PIGGY's are due in are: Scott Griffith, Joe Jarjuara, Fred Luedke, Chuck Lacerenza, Al Lussier, Ted Martland, Ingrid McGowan, Beth McGrath, Ed Montambault (com' on Ed – you won't even have to sell a car!), and Pat Moran. This is quite a smashing group, and I expect we won't have near as much trouble gathering funds from them as that first group. Just wait until my grouping is due- should be right around tax time...I'll make the IRS look like little old ladies.



It's almost time for another meeting, let's see if our wayward members show up –does Bill know where we meet? Word has it he's been looking for us at Carmen Anthony's. Bill, Bill, Bill – we suggested that you get Carmen to join us, not for you to join him. Rocco is still trying to corral those last evasive ducks – give it up! We'll buy more! There's a rumor that Ralph is starting his own bank – no, no Ralph – although you remind us of Jimmy Stewart because you're so nice, we don't want to have to reenact 'It's a Wonderful Life'.

Please remember that we can accomplish miracles if we work together! And bring a friend-they won't join if we don't ask.

Susan

Inspiration:

How often do you let other people's nonsense change your mood?

Do you let a bad driver, rude waiter, curt boss, or an insensitive employee ruin your day? The mark of a successful person is how quickly she can get back her focus on what's important.

Sixteen years ago I learned this lesson. I hopped in a taxi, and we took off for Grand Central Station. We were driving in the right lane when, all of a sudden, a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his breaks, skidded, and missed the other car's back end by just inches! The driver of the other car, the guy who almost caused a big accident, whipped his head around and he started yelling bad words at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was friendly. So, I said, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!"

And this is when my taxi driver told me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck. "Many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of

disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it. And if you let them, they'll dump it on you. When someone wants to dump on you, don't take it personally. You just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on.

You'll be happy you did.

I started thinking, how often do I let Garbage Trucks run right over me? And how often do I take their garbage and spread it to other people: at work, at home, on the streets? It was that day I said, "I'm not going to do it anymore." I began to see garbage trucks. Like in the movie "The Sixth Sense, " the little boy said, "I see Dead People."

Well, now "I see Garbage Trucks. "I see the load they're carrying. I see them coming to drop it off. And like my Taxi Driver, I don't make it a personal thing; I just smile, wave, wish them well, and I move on.

One of my favorite football players of all time, Walter Payton, did this every day on the football field. He would jump up as quickly as he hit the ground after being tackled. He never dwelled on a hit. Payton was ready to make the next play his best.

Good leaders know they have to be ready for their next meeting. Good parents know that they have to welcome their children home from school with hugs and kisses.

Leaders and parents know that they have to be fully present, and at their best for the people they care about.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let Garbage Trucks take over their day.

Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so... Love the people who treat you right and forget about the ones who don't.

Rotary News

It is with sadness that we remember PDG Ed Osterman who passed away this week. For your information, calling hours are at Honan Funeral Home, 58 Main St., Newtown on Sunday from 3-5 and 7-9; Mass will be celebrated on Monday at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown at 10:30 am. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Newtown Rotary Club Foundation PO box 263, Newtown, CT

From Pamela S. Akins - District TRF Annual Giving Chair

I thought you might want to see the latest EREY Newsletter. Click on the following link to a place on the RI website where you can sign up for notices of the EREY newsletters.

<http://www.rotary.org/en/Contribute/Funds/EREYnewsletter/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

Here is the link for the November newsletter:

http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/erey_news0711_en.pdf

Thanks for all you do to support the Foundation.

The Gates Foundation has awarded The Rotary Foundation a \$100 million challenge grant in support of our goal for a polio free world. It is the largest single grant to a volunteer organization. [More information...](#)

December is Family of Rotary month. Remember to plan activities that include all Rotarians and families. Contact resource coordinator Ed Sheehy (jeeb@snet.net) if you have any questions or to let him know how your club plans to celebrate the *Family of Rotary*.

Are you planning to have a participant in the **Four Way Test Speech Contest**? All information is on the website (Vocational) but you can contact the Chair, David Schmidt at dschmidt@mail.fairfield.edu.

The Amber Alert program is asking for assistance in identifying locations to hold sessions. Perhaps each club can appoint someone who is familiar with the community to let us know where events are so that Amber Alert can have a presence. Please contact Bob Vetter at 203-748-1105 or bob@cdscorp.us for more information.

Club Assignments

Projects

Remember to keep Sue updated on the progress of your projects. As soon as you have an event scheduled be sure to let Sue and Teri know so that it can be added to the web site and newsletter calendars! You can email: info@WaterburyRotary.org. Download the list of [Project Assignments](#).

Speakers

We each must arrange for a speaker - let Teri & Sue know who you have lined up for your day **as soon as possible** so the information can be added to the calendar... there will be fines for duplicate topics... so be creative!! You can email: info@WaterburyRotary.org. Download the list of [Speaker Assignments](#).

Prayer Assignments

Please share some words of inspiration with us...and yes even a prayer... If you are not going to make a meeting please be sure that you switch with someone! Download the list of [Prayer Assignments](#).

Full list of all assignments is also available for [download](#).

Upcoming Meetings

December 4	Board Meeting, 11:15am Meeting, Waterbury Club 12:15pm
December 12	Holiday Gathering & Festival Of Trees Howland Hughes, Bank Street, Waterbury 5:30 to 7:30pm \$20/person
December 18	Meeting, Waterbury Club 12:15pm
December 26	Note: The Monthly Fellowship Cocktail Hour date has been changed to the Holiday Gathering on December 12.
January 1	No Meeting - Happy New Year!
January 15	Board Meeting - 11:15am Meeting - Waterbury Club - 12:15pm Speaker: Keith Barbaria, NBC - Understanding the switch to digital television and how it will affect you
January 29	Meeting, Waterbury Club - 12:15pm
January 30	Monthly Fellowship Cocktail Hour Sponsored by The Waterbury Rotary Club Waterbury Club - Cocktails @ 5:30pm

[Download the full year Meeting Schedule](#) - updated 10/16/07

This is your newsletter - please contribute news, events, photos and other articles that would be of interest to our members. Send your submissions to info@waterburyrotary.org by the Monday before each meeting to make that week's edition.

Waterbury Rotary Club

www.WaterburyRotary.org

info@waterburyrotary.org

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