

Program: Dan Stewart – “New York State Commission of Correction”



Dan Stewart (left) answering a question posed by Dan Heath of the Press Republican

NYSCOC Commissioner and former Plattsburgh Mayor Dan Stewart explained the genesis of the Commission of Correction in one word – “Attica.” Their goal is to provide a safe, stable, human correction system in NY.”

Stewart said the facilities the Commission of Correction oversees includes 63 county jails with 16,801 inmates, Rikers Island with 13,493, NY State prisons with nearly 60,000 inmates, and another 300 local police department facilities.

The COC handles complaints and grievances, and Stewart said most of these originate from county jails, because prisoners in county jails have yet to be properly classified. Once they leave the county facilities, prisoners are placed in the proper type and level of facility.

Complaints are addressed within 30 days, and grievances within 45 days. Why deal with a prisoner’s grievances? To keep bad situations from getting worse. One jail refused to provide soap to inmates while another refused tampons for female prisoners. The COC is suing that county.

Stewart cited the “Bucky” Phillips case, in which one state trooper was killed and two others shot. It all began over a missing piece of cheese in Phillips’ lunch, and a series of unfortunate events unfolded, some of which could have been avoided if addressed earlier.

The COC does have personnel management discretion, so there are limits to how it addresses concerns. The commission oversees the building of new facilities, setting capacity limits. Actual utilization is planned for 80% of capacity.

Questions:

“Is there a federal equivalent to this NY State commission?” Not that he is aware of.

“Will the change in the Rockefeller laws (on sentencing in drug cases) affect facility population and usage?” Stewart said it may not reduce the number of inmates, but shift more to the county facilities.

“What about the closure of Camp Gabriels?” It has to

be looked at as a business decision instead of a political issue, which it became. The COC exists to remove politics from such decisions.

“10 years ago there were 71,000 incarcerated in state facilities, now there are 59,000. How will this affect the North Country?” No comment – that is up to the Governor’s office.

With the presentation on the Commission of corrections concluded, Stewart addressed other questions.

“Is the war of words between you and Mayor Kasprzak over?” He answered that hopefully, yes it is over, and in his view it is done. Mayor Kasprzak is a victim of a situation that is none of his making but rather the result of reductions in the state pension fund. Stewart said that the city also was impacted during his years as mayor, and it is getting even worse for the current mayor.

“Are you, or were you a visionary when it comes to Plattsburgh?” He replied “Some called me a salesman for the city, and I don’t mind that description.” The city has had a “can’t do” attitude, and Stewart said “Why not?”

This Week

Vice-President Bonnie Black stood in for Pres. Steve today. The club serenaded Keith Tyo with musical birthday wishes.

John Boule and his committee conducted a clever quiz promoting the upcoming Paul Harris Fellow dinner and reception. One table won 3 months of immunity from fines. You can also go to the website to nominate a fellow Rotarian for the Paul Harris Fellow award at www.plattsburghrotary.org/plattsburgh/harrisfellows.asp

Adopt-a-Highway clean-up duties will be held on Thursday, April 30. Volunteers will meet in the parking lot of the Ninety-Nine Restaurant (adjacent to the Best Western Inn) at 3:45 p.m. Chair Jay Kerley unveiled brand new day-glo green Rotary T-shirts that volunteers will wear at the clean-up event.

Fishing Tournament is June 5 – 7; signup sheets were circulated.

Carmen Carpentier presented a \$500 check from the Small Gifts Committee to Hill and Hollow Music. Kellum Smith & Angela Brown talked about its 2009 Franco-American music series and thanked the Club for the check by providing a number of free CDs.

Guests: Bob Grady, Press Republican (Bob

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Meetings	
Wednesdays 12:15 p.m. Elks Club, Plattsburgh	

Parks); Julie Weber (Ewa Jankowski); Ann Meskunas, Kellum Smith and Angela Brown, Hill and Hollow Music – (Carmen Carpentier); Kerry Chapin – (Ronna Bosko).

Visiting Rotarians: No Visiting Rotarians today...everyone must have been tuned to Radio Day!

Happy Thoughts: Today was Rotary Radio Day! Good luck, and thank you to all the Rotarians who committed their time, efforts and financial support to this successful fundraising event.

50/50: The pot was up to \$3,245. Keith Tyo, picked the Ace of Spades. Call it karma for all the hard work Keith does for Plattsburgh Rotary or maybe it was because Pres. Steve wasn't there to do the West Chazy Shuffle! Congratulations to Keith Tyo and we hope this contributed towards you having a very Happy Birthday!!!



(L-R) Paul Raino from the Plattsburgh Rotary Sunrise Club along with Bonnie Black and Stan Ransom of the Plattsburgh Rotary Club read commercials for businesses who supported Rotary Radio Day while Hometown Radio announcer Charlie Stone managed the console in WIRY's new studios.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 2009
- April 30 Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup
- May 2 District 7040 Assembly
- May 29 Paul Harris Dinner
- June 5-7 24th Annual Fishing Classic
- June 10 Rotary Golf Tourney
- June 21-24 RI Convention in Birmingham, England
- 2010
- June 20-23 R I Convention in Montreal

ON-LINE MAKEUP: www.rotaryclubone.org

NEARBY MAKE UP LOCATIONS:

Mon.	Burlington	12:10pm	Wyndham Hotel
	Canton	12:15pm	Best Western
	Ottawa	12:30pm	Ottawa Marriott Hotel
Tues.	Plattsburgh Sunrise	7:30am	Elk's Club
	Saranac Lake	7:30am	Hotel Saranac
	Massena	12:15pm	Elk's Lodge
	St. Albans	12:15pm	Masonic Temple
	Montreal	12:30pm	Holiday Inn-Pt. Claire
	Grand Isle	6:00pm	So Hero Congregational
Wed.	Middlebury	7:15am	Rosie's Restaurant
	Albany	12:15pm	Wolferts Roost Ctry Club on Van Rensselaer Blvd.
	Tupper Lake	12:15pm	Pine Grove Restaurant
	Potsdam	12:15pm	Sergi's Banquet Hall
	Watertown	12:15pm	Best Western Carriage House
	Chateaugay	6:15pm	Leonard's Cherry Knoll Rest.
	AuSable Forks	7:00pm	Ambulance Hall (no meal)
Thurs.	Williston	7:15am	Will Federated Church
	Lake Placid	7:30am	Howard Johnson's
	Watertown AM	7:30am	Best Western Carriage House
	South Burlington	7:30am	VT National Country Club

Upcoming Programs:

April 15 - Bruce Delventhal along with several Plattsburgh coaches, SUNY Athletic Programs

April 22 - Steve Engelhart, AARCH, *What to Do With the Crown Point Bridge*

April 29 - Dr. Zachary Clements, Inspirational Speaker, *"Chicken Little Need Not Apply"*

Programs/Duty Roster:

www.plattsburghrotary.org/plattsburgh/memberduties.asp



THE ROTARY CLUB
 P.O. Box 86,
 Plattsburgh, NY 12901
 On Lake Champlain
www.plattsburghrotary.org
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FIRST CLASS