

THE BULLETIN



A PUBLICATION OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PLATTSBURGH

BULLETIN # 1012

The Four-Way Test

October 14, 2009

1. Is it the TRUTH? 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?

3. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

4. Will it be BENEFICIAL TO ALL concerned?

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www.plattsburghrotary.org

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Program: Wallace Westfeldt – *The Kennedys, At Arms Length*

Westfeldt opened his remarks by stating he knew of the Kennedys, but not as intimately as Judith Exnor, Marilyn Monroe, or the Kennedy wives -- Jackie, Joan or Ethel.

Westfeldt said that Jack Kennedy's assassination obscured most of what he accomplished during his presidency. Kennedy once said he liked politics, because it was the way a president got things done.

Westfeldt said an advisor for Kennedy kept a card file of detailed information on every member of the Senate and House. Kennedy also made sure that only good news came from the White House; bad news was issued by cabinet officers.

He closed 17 interdepartmental agencies saving taxpayers \$800,000, and in his first 60 days in office, Kennedy sent numerous draft bills and messages to Congress, communicated with eight foreign leaders, made 12 public speeches, and helped his staff answer more than 50,000 letters that arrived each week. He once said, "Under our system of government, the president is everything or he is nothing."

Westfeldt said that Kennedy liked the Washington reporting staff and would spend time with them even as he secretly sent 20,000 troops to South Vietnam, which ended in a lengthy war that eventually led to the downfall of two other presidents – Johnson and Nixon.

Robert Kennedy was different that his older brother. As Attorney General under his brother, "Bobby" set his sights on Jimmy Hoffa. After Hoffa was indicted by a grand jury, Westfeldt said he covered the trial in Chattanooga, Tenn. Westfeldt said that he had been informed by Kennedy's assistant, John Seigenthaler, that an important witness would testify. It was a local Teamster's union leader. After Hoffa was convicted, Westfeldt was asked to speak with Kennedy by telephone. When asked for Hoffa's reaction after the verdict, Kennedy was told that he turned ashen and gritted his teeth. "Kennedy, in that whispery voice, said 'That's just what I wanted to hear.'"

Westfeldt met Bobby Kennedy in the Plaza Hotel (New York City) a couple of years later. Kennedy told him that he was going to run for the U.S. Senate in New York state. Westfeldt said he called him a rich carpetbagger and that his plan was disgraceful. Kennedy won that election on his way to his run for the presidency, which ended with his own assassination.

Edward "Ted" Kennedy could (would) have become president, Westfeldt said, "...had he kept his zipper up and his hands off the bottle." Westfeldt said the Kennedy became one of the most powerful senators in history. "He became powerful because he mastered the legislative system," said Westfeldt.

Westfeldt said Kennedy worked very easily with Republicans as well as very conservatives Democrats from the South and specialized in health care reform. In the last election, Kennedy gave his support to Barrack Obama only after Obama promised to make reform of health care his first major legislative goal if elected president.



LEIGH MUNDY, NORTH COUNTRY CULTURAL CENTER FOR THE ARTS BOARD PRESIDENT, WITH WALLACE WESTFELDT.

Westfeldt said he met Ted Kennedy only once prior to an interview with NBC's John Chancellor, and he found him to be very accessible and a very nice guy.

Westfeldt said that he doesn't expect any of the younger Kennedy clan to go into politics. He did say that if Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg lived in Massachusetts she probably would have a good chance of getting elected to the U.S. Senate.

THIS WEEK:

Visiting Rotarians: Connie Fisher (Sunrise Club)

Guests: Leigh Mundy (Bob Parks); Courtney Chandler (Brain Hammond); Kathleen Garenani (Mary Anne Bukolt-Ryder); Jennifer Meshinelli (Vicki Marking).

Membership Committee Report: Jack Prim said that the committee membership attendance rate is slightly below 70% for the month of September, which was better than the previous two months. However, we are in the bottom half of the 66 clubs in the district. Twenty-six people had 100% attendance while about three-quarters of the club's members had above 75% attendance. There were fewer people below 50% than in the past.

Jack also announced that beginning this week, emails would be sent to those who did not attend the meetings to let them know they were missed and to urge everyone to do makeup. He also announced that committee assignments will

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL	
President	John Kenny
Rotary District — 7040	
Governor	Arnold Lawrence
ROTARY CLUB OF PLATTSBURGH	
President	Bonnie Black
First V.P.	Colin Read
Second V.P.	Jon Cooper
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Ellen Bouchard	Vicki Marking
Jody Carpenter	Don Moore
Cornelia Forrence	Robert Smith
Robert Frenyea	Keith Tyo
Bulletin Editor	
Amy Kretser	
Meetings	
Wednesdays 12:15 p.m.	
Elks Club, Plattsburgh	



ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY: SIX MEMBERS OF THE CLUB ATTENDED THE SPECIAL WORK PROJECT AT BEARTOWN SKI AREA SATURDAY, OCT. 10, TO CUT AND TRIM BRUSH AROUND A STREAM/DITCH IN FRONT OF THE LODGE. BEARTOWN WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE CLUB'S HELP AND WOULD LIKE US TO RETURN. SEEN HERE ARE (L-R): STEVE FREDERICK, TIM BOSHART, ERIC EAGLEFEATHER, AMY ASADOURIAN, KEITH TYO AND CORNELIA FORRENCE.

be circulated in the next two weeks. The Membership Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month and everyone is invited to attend.

District Conference: Oct. 17/18 in Kingston, Ont., Canada.

Next Board Meeting: Noon, Monday, Oct. 19. Red badge members are encouraged to attend.

International Convention Committee. Committee members are Rod Giltz, Ewa Jankowska, Alice Church, Marsha Cook, and Colin Read. Pres Bonnie will establish a date and time to meet soon and determine how best to coordinate transportation, etc. with the other clubs in the area.

Food Shelf Report: Elle Berger reported that \$51 was collected this week compared to regular \$20.

Fines: Bob Frenyea (\$2).

Bonnie's Bucks:

- Elle Berger has placed on each table a guide acquired by the League of Women Voters explaining the two proposals on this November's election ballot.
- Jody Carpenter announced that her two daughters completed a challenge to fill a Rotary Polio Plus box.
- John Seiden said District 3 held an open house at its Fire Station on Hammond Lane and had the Rotary Smoke trailer on display. He also announced that the club will be receiving the balance of the money for the Rotary house built this year.
- Tony Searing wanted to publically thank Eric Eaglefeather for the care he provides to animals, such as the cats recently abandoned in a trailer.
- Cathy Forget thanked Pres. Bonnie and Marie Alexan-

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Upcoming Programs

2009

- Oct. 19 Board Meeting, CCC Dining Hall, PARC
- Oct. 21 Richard Kessel — NYPA Role in Economic Development
- Oct. 28 Congressional Candidates Forum

June 20-23 RI Convention in Montreal

2010

Programs/Duty Roster:

www.plattsburghrotary.org/plattsburgh/memberduties.asp

ON-LINE MAKEUP:

www.rotaryclubone.org

NEARBY MAKE UP LOCATIONS:

Mon.	Burlington	12:10 p.m.	Wyndham Hotel
	Canton	12:15 p.m.	Best Western
	Ottawa	12:30 p.m.	Ottawa Marriott Hotel
Tues.	Plattsburgh Sunrise	7:30 a.m.	Elk's Club
	Saranac Lake	7:30 a.m.	Hotel Saranac
	Massena	12:15 p.m.	Elk's Lodge
	St. Albans	12:15 p.m.	Masonic Temple
	Montreal	12:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn-Pt. Claire
	Grand Isle	6:00 p.m.	So Hero Congregational
Wed.	Middlebury	7:15 a.m.	Rosie's Restaurant
	Albany	12:15 p.m.	Wolferts Roost Ctry Club on Van Rensselaer Blvd.
	Tupper Lake	12:15 p.m.	Pine Grove Restaurant
	Potsdam	12:15 p.m.	Sergi's Banquet Hall
	Watertown	12:15 p.m.	Best Western Carriage House
	Chateaugay	6:15 p.m.	Leonard's Cherry Knoll Rest.
	AuSable Forks	7:00 p.m.	Ambulance Hall (no meal)
Thurs.	Williston	7:15 a.m.	Will Federated Church
	Lake Placid	7:30 a.m.	Howard Johnson's
	Watertown AM	7:30 a.m.	Best Western Carriage House
	South Burlington	7:30 a.m.	VT National Country Club
	Champlain-Rouses Pt.	7:45 a.m.	Jreck Subs, Champlain
	Malone	Noon	Gallagher's
	Colchester-Milton	12:10 p.m.	Hampton Inn
	Ogdensburg	12:15 p.m.	Gran-View Restaurant
Fri.	Burlington Sunrise	7:15 a.m.	Ethan Allen Club
	Old Montreal	12:15 p.m.	Holiday Inn Select

der for their efforts at Senior Celebration Day. She also thanked Sara Rowden and Carmen Carpenter as the Booby Sisters at Girls' Night Out Tuesday evening.

- Mary Anne Bukolt-Ryder provided \$20 in honor of Rod Giltz and Sara Rowden becoming stars of television (in reference to Bill Owens' congressional campaign commercials). Rod spun and each paid \$1.

50/50: The Pot has risen to \$725 and we're looking for the Two of Hearts. Kerry Haley picked the Five of Spades.

TRIVIA
Rotary

Did You Know...?

What Club made Rotary "international"? Chuck Papke had the correct answer — Winnipeg Rotary Club was organized Nov. 3, 1910.

FIRST CLASS



THE ROTARY CLUB

P.O. Box 86,
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
On Lake Champlain
www.plattsburghrotary.org
Charter Granted: April 1, 1926