



ROTARY 2008-2009 *Make Dreams Real*

THE ROTARY CLUB

P.O. Box 86, Plattsburgh, NY 12901
On Lake Champlain
www.plattsburghrotary.org

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BULLETIN #950

July 16, 2008

This Week:

- The District Governor is scheduled for the program in two weeks (July 30th). President Steve would like to have the Board of Directors meet at 11:00am to welcome him.
- July 21st board meeting is at Clinton Community College's main campus in the Cougar's Den.

Visiting Rotarians: Ronnie Round from TX

Guests: Rebecca Ransom (Stan Ransom); Rick Leibowitz (Colin Read)

Fines: no

Happy Thoughts: Sara Rowden completed the mountain to lake ride on Sunday!

New Member Talk: Ron Grahm: (note: the sound system was quieter than usual and it was hard to hear much of Ron's talk—forgive the scant details). Ron came to Plattsburgh from Burlington with his wife several years ago. He has enjoyed his time and his job as a CPA on this side of the lake. He is from the suburbs of Montreal and still has a lot of family in Canada. As children they made frequent trips to Plattsburgh for camping and recreation and Ron has been very comfortable here. His 4 1/2 year old son Jack and his wife are happy to be here. Ron thanked Rose Anderson for sponsoring him. She has been a neighbor and good friend to his family.

Our Program today is Past President Jack Dee on the role of a Social Services Lawyer.

Jack began early in today's program as his rigorous court schedule requires his attention after his presentation. He explained that when his team is in court, little things (like lunch) pale to insignificance when compared to what they are working on. Two cases today

included a serious case of child neglect and the other involved two children being raised by their adult sister.

Jack's immediate office is in Clinton County and he has been in that office for 28 years. He finds the job agonizing, but what helps to make things better are the outstanding people Jack works with. The foster care parents are truly unsung heroes. When they identify parents who've done an abysmal job, they find the kids to be especially difficult. The kids act out to get the little attention they do get. For these children getting the back of the hand is better than getting ignored. Foster parents take the children, sometimes in the middle of the night, into their homes and hearts. They treat the children like they ought to be treated and Jack is very proud of their work.

Jack can't say enough about the staff he works with. There are new challenges every day, new laws, new guidelines... It makes "challenges" the bread and butter of their workday.

Their mission is to preserve families, increase family strength, sustain and protect vulnerable citizens, and increase accessibility to health care services. They provide leadership and guidance. The Dept. of Social Services is a complex, multifaceted department that works with other agencies including BHSN, the School Districts, CVPH, and the Health Department.

Some of the work done at the department doesn't involve Jack (accounting, employment assistance etc.).

The Legal Unit: Twenty-eight years ago, Jack was the only lawyer in the department and he quickly saw there was too much work. They hired a 1/2 time attorney which wasn't enough and a few years later they hired a man who came from Brooklyn Law School—

DATES TO REMEMBER:

7/21 Board Meeting CCC Main Campus (Cougar's Den)
 7/30 Quick Board Meeting at 11am prior to regularly scheduled Wed. meeting.
 10/25-27 District 7040 Conference

the finest in the country (Jack went there) and he's been with the department for 20 years now. As the complexities and cases have increased, it became impossible for them to cover it all. For every hour in court you need 2-3 hours of preparation. There are not enough hours in the day to match the amount of time they spend in court. Jack said confidently, "Our little law firm is the most productive, effective law firm in the county. It's a great use of tax payers' dollars." One of the things they do is represent the child support enforcement unit which is an open account with 3,990 cases. That is just for child support. In 2000 their total collections was \$9.9 million. Almost \$8,649,000 went into the hands of single parents which keeps children off of public assistance.

Child Protective Unit: Child Protective Services are available round the clock 24/7. Anyone can make a report. Each and every call is investigated within 24 hours and in 60 days the case is wrapped up. In 2007 there were 1,327 reports made (2/3 were unfounded).

Preventive Services Unit: This unit attempts to prevent the placement of children outside their parents' care. They provide parenting classes and many other services to families needing help.

Adolescent Services Unit: This unit works with youths on truancy, drug/alcohol use, behavioral issues etc., by bringing professionals from different fields and agencies together to create solutions.

ON-LINE MAKEUP: www.rotaryclubone.org

NEARBY MAKE UP LOCATIONS:

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

Did You Know...?

Rotarian Bill Chiang of San Francisco, California was in China when the recent devastating earthquakes hit. He was there on business and has continued to be an integral part of Rotary International providing aid to the families hit hardest.



PROGRAM	July 23	July 30	Aug 6
GREETERS	Telemedicine Howard Lowe	District Gov. Visit Peter Bashaw	Innovative Ideas, Public Housing—Allan Hipps
HOSPITALITY	Joann Rushford -Gow & Lee Salzman	Bob Smith & CJ Soper	Al Sweenor & Alvin Tripp
BLESSING	Paul Sands	Rosemary Souza-Botten	Keith Tyo
INTRODUCTIONS	MaryAnne Bukolt-Ryder	Peter Cadieux	Jack Dee
PROGRAM INTRO.	Tony Searing	Sylvia Stack	Sandra Walker
THANK SPEAKER	Corn Forrence	Pres. Steve Frederick	Howard Lowe
NEW MEM. TALK	John Seiden	Rod Giltz	Courtland Wood
SEASONED MEM.	—	—	—
FOOD SHELF	—	—	Alice Recore

50/50: The pot is worth \$577 and Tammy Bell picked the 2 of spades.

Make-ups: None

The Four-Way Test

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?