



The Spoke



August 23th, 2017

Club Helps Kids Start School Year!



Steve McIntosh gets thanks from President **Jon McLeod** for his donation of \$125 Happy\$. On the Monday before school started, Steve discovered that some students at Bonita Elementary School would not have backpacks to start the school year. With the support of the club's leadership, **Steve was able to deliver 125 backpacks** for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders in time for the new school year. Great job of support for our public schools!

Last Week Meeting ...7

President **Jon McLeod** was at the wheel. **Wayne Neller** presented the invocation; **Roger Brunswick** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and Past President **Stephanie Kissinger** stumbled through the Four Way Test.

Jon noted that we are still looking for a song leader. Roger Brunswick courageously stepped forward to lead the singing of *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*.



Chris Riesen announced the next social will be **Tuesday, September 12th**, 5pm at Momentum Brewhouse. Already, 25 people are signed up. There will be **hors d'oeuvres, fellowship, and a drink ticket**. \$25/pp.

GT Tasso says the Estero Rotary Club is looking for foursomes for its **Golf Tournament** Saturday, September 23 at Vasari.

GT also reports there will be a **meeting for students and parents** interested in participating the the RYE program on August 31 or September 19th.

Scott Anderson says he is working on the Christmas Tree orders for this year. This will be his last year as chairman and he is looking for a co-chair.

Roger Brunswick Time

Ike Lichtenstein was happy to celebrate his birthday, anniversary, contract on his condo, and an upcoming trip to Hawaii.

Roger saluted **Nancy Ross** who was attending her first meeting since her July 12th surgery. Nancy is slowly regaining her strength and “independence”.

President Jon offered \$14 Happy\$. One for each night before his daughter gets married and moves away.

Roger reported that his wife, Anita from Bonita, had spent two nights in the hospital and is home after having her medications adjusted.

Roger pointed out that PP **Stephanie Kissinger** is the star of a Waste Management commercial being shown locally. However, she was not wearing her Rotary pin when the commercial was shot! She offered \$20 as penance for the indiscretion.

Then Jon took over and fined Roger for forgetting to introduce guests.

Dave Langendorfer, long time Rotary Regular,
is now a dues-paying member of the club.
Welcome, Dave



Last Week Speaker



Ita Neymotin was our speaker Wednesday. She leads the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel for the 20th Judicial Circuit.

The Office of Criminal Conflict steps in to represent people who can't afford their own lawyer but whose case could be a conflict for the public defender's office.

Lawyers from the publicly funded agency also work on dependency cases, helping to reunite parents and children. She oversees 140 lawyers throughout 14 offices in 14 counties.

Ita saw the worst of humanity when she was a child. She and her family fled the Soviet Union after her grandfather's execution. "We became the enemy of the people," They settled in the United States as political refugees when she was 6.

"I am lucky enough to live in this country. Unfortunately, not all countries have such a great judicial system. Some justice systems, like the one I came from in the former Soviet Union, are seen to be based purely on luck."

There were difficult times when the family landed here. The Cold War was on and Russian immigrants were not well received. Despite the hardships her father never lost sight of the importance of freedom in America and never gave up on the pursuit of freedom for his parents.

"My parents and I escaped from a life of Soviet oppression, from a society devoid of human rights. Because of this, the passion I have to represent those who can't afford representation in their Constitutional Freedom was born."

Ita warned, "Our justice system is a gift, not an entitlement. We must work to protect it. For only it can truly protect all of us."

She said, "I think it is unfortunate that people don't realize how lucky we are to have freedom of speech. But that being said, I think there also has to be respect...freedom of speech is different from being hateful. I think these two boundaries need to be better established."

From: *The Spoke* archives:

10 Years ago

Ben Nelson Inducted

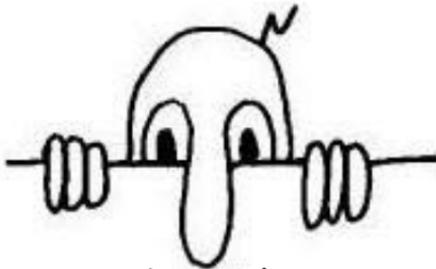
John Mathes introduced **Ben Nelson**, who he proposed to Bonita Springs Rotary. Ben's roots are deep in Southwest Florida. His grandparents homesteaded on Pine Island in the 1920s where his father was born. Ben's parents moved their family to Bonita Springs in 1959 where they owned a hardware store for many years. Ben has owned and operated Nelson Marine Construction since 1981. He builds sea walls, docks and boat lifts.

5 Years ago

Bob Lombardo provided the framework of a new fund-raiser approved by our Board—a Theater Production scheduled for Christmas Season 2013. It is anticipated that this production will be fashioned as a live radio show (calling to mind the Grand Ole Opry or A Prairie Home Companion.)

This Week

Adam Botana presents a
surprise Rotary Program



50/50 \$500

45 Cards Left

Including 3 Aces, Joker

**Jon McLeod drew the
9♠ for \$5**



The 50/50 is \$500

Birthdays

No Birthdays

Rotary Sings: School Days

School days, school days

Dear old Golden Rule days

'Reading and 'riting and 'rithmetic

Taught to the tune of the hick'ry stick

You were my queen in calico

I was your bashful, barefoot beau

And you wrote on my slate,

"I Love You, Joe"

When we were a couple o' kids

This Morning's Invocation

O God, we come humbly into your presence by this avenue of prayer, expressing both our gratitude for gifts received, and our yearnings to be used as gifts to others.

To that end, grant us visions of service yet unrendered, an awareness of goals yet unattained and hopes yet unrealized.

Give us zeal and power to bring to reality the good and worthy things waiting to be done, and confirm our efforts by your assistance without which we labor in vain.

Strengthen us now by food prepared and enjoyed.

Enlighten us through productive conversations, and go with us as we return to waiting opportunities to make the day better for others.
Amen.

Rotary International

Ian Riseley

Rotary Club of Sandringham, Australia

District 6960 Governor

Bobbi Bird

The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Area 2 Assistant Governor

Joe Faerber

Estero Rotary Club

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**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

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