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The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

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Partin, Guy Quinn, Steve McIntosh, and
Tom Burgess

The Spoke

The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs
Chartered November 3, 1978



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

Meets every Wednesday at 7:30 am
at Bonita Bay Club

The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

P.O. Box 474

Bonita Springs, FL 34133

www.bonitaspringsrotary.org

The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs



Week 35

February 29, 2012

This Week: Terry McMahan

Terry McMahan President of Hodges University will be our speaker.

Last Week Meeting

President **Jim O'Leary** presided. He lamented on the death of **Herb Barnes** noting that Herb at 85 had been energetically picking up trash on a Rotary project only four weeks ago. **Bobbi Bird** offered an invocation. **Dawn Colechio** led the Pledge of Allegiance and **Wendy Aresenault** received the 4-way test. **Ron Anderson**, led the singing of *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*.

Announcements

Sandy Scoggins needs some team members for the Relay for Life. There are no minimum sponsor \$ requirements. The walking is over a two hour period and is not a power walk. Sandy wants as many team members as possible.

Thanks to the support of the Club Foundation we were able to complete two projects last week. **Steve McIntosh**, with the help of the Estero High School Rotaract Club, delivered the personalized "I Like Me" books to all Bonita Springs kindergarten students in the public school system. The principal, Dave Short, reported some parents were in tears at the ceremony.

The next day **Jim O'Leary** and **Ray Faubion** presented "The Last Egret", a Charlie Pierce environmental Adventure Story for Children, to the Bonita Elementary School fourth graders. The teachers and

principal were very happy and grateful to have the books. Principal Short has invited the author, Harvey Oyer, to speak to the children at the school.

Last Week: Health Care

Marjorie Rubacky



introduced **Paul McGrath**, a 1965 Harvard Law graduate who had distinguished careers in private and public law practice. Paul held up a copy of the Constitution and said, "We live under this 220 year old document, but live in a world that the

founding fathers couldn't have imagined in their wildest dreams. The obvious question is can we still govern ourselves effectively under this ancient document? Can we deal with critical problems like health care?" He said the founding fathers intentionally set up a weak government, spurning the European model. He quoted Thomas Jefferson, "A government big enough to supply everything you need is big enough to take every thing you have."

He noted that every other industrialized democracy has a universal health care system that is much less expensive than ours. Great Britain started in 1911, 101 years ago. In the U.S. we have never had a national health care strategy or plan. Instead health care arrived in

bits and pieces over the years; Veterans' Care, Medicare, Medicaid, deductibility of health care expenses for employers. "The result, somewhat sadly, is runaway costs, almost no competition or free market mechanism, poor incentives, and millions of people left out of the system and subject at best to third rate health care. In this country attempts at broad reform have always failed because of the usual constitutional difficulty, opposition by big Pharma, organized medicine, and most importantly the fears of those already covered."

After the 2008 election, the Obama administration launched a massive healthcare legislative effort. Paul said that the plan gave little thought of applying market forces or fixing bad incentives in the system and continued employer coverage of employees but massively increased the employer mandates.

He feels the plan ignores that fact that in international competition the health care burden along with the regulatory and litigation burden combined with higher labor costs price many of our manufacturing business out of the market. But instead of trying to reform the system the legislative effort was moderately focused but massive. The main goal was to cover all U.S. Citizens who were not already covered including those with pre-existing medical conditions.

The law immediately faced broad political and legal attacks. The principle point of attack is the Individual Mandate. However without this provision it would not have been possible to fund the plan.

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the cases and has allocated more than usual time for oral arguments. Paul predicts the Court will decide the case by split decision, in June or July, and may end up overturning one or more provisions of the law. "This will not solve the healthcare issue. A cost tsunami is on its way whether we like it or not."

Paul used the issue of contraceptive coverage in health insurance to show the difficulties of

dealing with problems in a planned strategic manner. Church hierarchies claim the requirement infringes on the religious rights of their organizations, while the employees claim the hierarchies are infringing on the rights of employees who are not catholic or who don't follow the hierarchies dictates on birth control. He said, "This is another demonstration that the more the government tries to satisfy our needs, the more bitter the arguments that ensue are among the public."

He said, we have had these contentious debates throughout history. Discussion is the most healthy thing that goes on in this country. Notwithstanding, he believes our form of government is the best form of government ever developed by man. It is and was meant to be, inefficient. It was meant to deal with problems over time and we have dealt with our national problems over time. Slavery is the exception but the Constitution was written in such a way that it was always going to be a problem. However, over the years we have gradually dealt with the social, diversity, and fairness issues. We have dealt with wars and peace, and the most important we have remained cohesive over the years. We tend to deal with problems when crises arise. We will deal with health care. There isn't any other choice.

On government he says, "Is it efficient? Was it meant to be efficient? Heck no. It deals with problems over time. Most important is that over the years we have been as cohesive as almost any government in the world's history. We shouldn't throw all that away."

Tom Burgess said it well, "This is the first discussion of this topic that i've been to that sheds more light than heat." Thank you, Paul.



Let's Sing, Rotarians!

I've Been Working On The Railroad

I've been workin' on the railroad
All the live-long day.
I've been workin' on the railroad
Just to pass the time away.
Can't you hear the whistle blowin'
Rise up so early in the morn.
Can't you hear the captain shouting,
Dinah, blow your horn!

Dinah, won't you blow,
Dinah, won't you blow,
Dinah, won't you blow your horn!
Dinah, won't you blow,
Dinah, won't you blow,
Dinah, won't you blow your horn!

Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah,
Someone's in the kitchen I know,
Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah,
Strummin' on the old banjo.

Fee-fi-fiddle-dee-i-o,
Fee-fi-fiddle-dee-i-o,
Fee-fi-fiddle-dee-i-o,

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\$\$\$ 50/50 \$\$\$

This Week's Big Prize: \$1,117

Last week a disappointed Rick Barber
drew the 8♠ to win \$5



\$1/ticket. 3 for \$2. 10 for \$5. 25 for \$10.

Happy Birthday!

Steve McIntosh Feb. 25

Roger Brunswich Feb. 26

The Spoke Folk

Editor - Greg Holtz
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The 4-Way Test
of things we think, say or do.

Is it the **TRUTH?**
Is it **FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?**
Will it build **GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all **CONCERNED?**

Rotary Habitat Workday.



Ron Anderson Photos

Fifteen Rotarians and friends spent a Saturday working on a new Habitat for Humanity home in Bonita Springs. Thanks for your efforts.



