

SPOKES

FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENN YAN
BOX 512, PENN YAN, NY 14527



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Please Join Us! Tuesdays at Noon – Top of the Lake – 301 Lake Street, Penn Yan

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The Colorful History of our Goal (Jail)



Yates County Sheriff and Elias pose for posterity

Five jails in 193 years, and three of them were burned down. In each case, the fire was set by an inmate, and one was set by a man who'd been arrested for ARSON!!!! Long time Sheriff **Ron Spike** showed us pictures of the different jails and retold the many tales. Starting in 1958, when his dad was elected Sheriff, Ron, brother and mother moved into Jail #4. The front was the sheriff's and family's living quarters, the middle was the sheriff's office, and the back was the actual jail cells. Ron showed where 4 prisoners had punched a hole through the brick wall and escaped. All but one were recaptured; some as far away as Elmira. He is the one escapee from Yates' many jails.

The first jail was in the then courthouse. That building lasted from 1823 to '34. The next, or second burned after several decades and the third one was built where the war monument now stands. It was gone by 1903. The fourth was built on Liberty Street behind the new courthouse. In 1977-79, that jail was converted to an office building when the present Public Safety office building and Jail was built where formerly stood a hotel on Main Street opposite the court house and memorial park. Originally it housed 44 prisoners, and to cut overhead costs per capita and to earn income by boarding-in prisoners, the sheriff was able to cut jail impact on the local tax rates.

Spike went on to show the club how the how the Jail is staffed and operated. It is no surprise that the State dictates how the jail is staffed to protect the lives of the inmates (suicide prevention or other incidents) and to protect the County from liability for inmate generated lawsuits. Corrections officers must maintain sight and sound connections with the prisoners to assure their safety. Also, he provides extensive health services for inmates, such as eye glasses, prescriptions, addiction cessation, etc. For some he helps them obtain a GED. Recently, a female inmate gave birth and is keeping the infant with her in the jail. It is her right, so the sheriff has to find funds some wherein his budget to purchase diapers.

Staffing requirements over the years have increased, but through various modifications to the jail, the sheriff has managed to get offsetting staff reductions. Recently, in the kitchen, he reduced staff by converting to pre-cooked meals purchased through the state corrections system. Ideally, the sheriff would like to work with town/village justices to coordinate nights for court appearances and transportation. Overtime is a killer. Continued

Jail continued.

Sheriff Spike reported that there has been a disproportionate increase in the number of females being incarcerated, and that a lot of the inmates are there due to direct or indirect connection to drugs. Heroin continues to be a growing cause for police action.

Psychiatric cases or difficult youth offenders cause an increased cost of incarceration. These offenders are housed outside the county, as far away as Long Island, and at very high daily rates. On the other hand, some prisoners are doing concurrent jail time for other crimes in other jails at no expense to Yates County.

Sheriff Spike mentioned that a new jail, using the “pod” design are more economical to staff. Using the same staff he has now, he would be able to increase capacity from 62 (58 average) to 133. Years ago, Yates County housed 25 prisoners from other counties and the federal government. Now that is down to 6-8 and doesn’t generate the same level of net income per prisoner, however, it does lower the per capita costs of overhead or fixed costs.

The Sheriff mentioned that before he arrived at the noon meeting, he had participated in a drug bust at 8 AM, and at 10 AM was reading books in the Elementary School.

Discussions by your Board

Corporate membership discussion is ongoing. **Sue A** met with **Jerry Macaluso** to discuss/copy what they did in his club. Some changes were suggested after they have adopted the policy, and other directors suggested that this membership option be presented along with a revised policy on corporate annual sponsorship.

On the **Student Exchange** front, **Stacy W** reported that we will be getting a female from Slovakia. He asked that members who enjoy youth service might want to tag along with him in his last year of this important program area.

Planning for the **District Assembly** is going forward very smoothly. Everyone is up to date on their assignments and commitments. **Stacy** is looking for a half dozen to assist with parking at 7:30 and a similar number to work on selling 50/50 chances. It could be the same people if they want.

With a few unsold items and bills yet to come it, **Tom M** reported for **Carol W** that it is likely that the Auction has cleared \$11,000 net profit. A few donated items have arrived late, and those will be put to good use in the silent auction at the Assembly and Conference.

The Board appreciated the usual great job **Don O** does on applications for the District Simplified Grants. Application for the 8 Benches along the **Outlet Trail** is being submitted today. Don updated the Village on Tuesday. Since the Village will own and maintain the benches, the board was concerned that we should look forward to helping with maintenance. Since our name will be on the benches, we might want to plan some money to take care of graffiti and storm damage after the village has exhausted its resources. On the subject of the Outlet Trail, **Don O** mentioned that we might want to consider volunteering to maintain a section of the trail. President Bob mentioned his support and a positive discussion with Yorgen about organizing trail as well as road cleanup outings. Friends of the Outlet has an agreement that they use with volunteer groups, and Don O will look into this further.

Application for DSG support for Scholarships is being completed this week. Board approved the expenditure of \$2000 as local share of the grants and submission.

Sandi P reported that Can Hunger balloting boxes are out. Construction sites are: Skylarc Studios, Knapp and Schlappi, 5 Star Bank, the County Office Building, the Living Well, and Lyons National Bank. There was a lot of enthusiasm among the directors, especially for our **Leon F** designed wine bottle at 5-Star, and the “We Work Like Dogs” pickup truck at Knapp and Schlappi. With the pictures of dogs as driver and passenger, this is a must see submission. Appreciation was sent out to the several club members who donated cans and helped work on the Interact and Club structures. Well done everyone! **Sandi** hopes to get a count on the items donated soon.

Grandma’s Kitchen – Comments from the membership on doing this project this year ran both hot and cold. The team that met decided to go forward this year with support from individuals in the club, not as a club project. Since then, with more research, and the recognition that a few key workers will be absent on the days when we could volunteer, it looks like the most viable option is to provide some paper products and to make a commitment to helping next year. Therefore,

the Board authorized Sue A to purchase and donate necessary paper products, not to exceed \$100.

On the subject of youth, it was reported that **Interact** will meet on the second Sunday in April. They will be at the Living Well at 7 PM. **Elias** will speak on Youth Exchange. Boy's State was sent \$350 per the annual budget. Also, a \$100 check is to be sent to the Board of **Camp ONSEYAWA** for our annual golf tournament hole-sponsorship. The Board also agreed to put a full page ad for the Tournament in the Assembly brochure and waive the \$60 fee.

KidCARE has been very active this year, including sending 15 lice kits for the PY Elementary School. **Sue A** reported that the Chamber Business after Hours 50/50 raffle proceeds for April, May and June will be donated to KidCARE, Also the Moose will be holding an internal fundraiser in June. It was suggested that we remind our members monthly that there is always a need for supplies for needy kids at school.

Tom M announced that he has started filling his officer list and will be attending the President Elect Training Seminar this weekend.

News and Notes of interest

Rotary Minutes this month, thanks to **Leon F**, are inspirational thoughts from former RI Presidents. For this week, the focus was: Educate and Foster Understanding . Rotary is a universal movement to find what we have in common, not what divides us; and to raise people up through education. It sounds as wise today as it did in 1956-57.

Don O reminds us that weekly small contributions in our envelopes at the sign-in table are important and that he and Evelyn will be sending our contributions forward at the end of April. It is important that everyone, if they can, contributes a bit; and that the club reaches an average contribution level of at least \$25/person, so that we will be eligible for future District Simplified Grants.

So who is getting the **two free passes to Flights of Fancy, the Wine Classic**? It is all about sharing links to the Rotary website. **Sarah** says we are getting close to the magic mark. The 150th person sharing gets the free passes.

GO Syracuse – Make Don O happy!!!!

Elias reports that he has been travelling up and down the east coast, thanks to his host families and exchange student outings. He and the Willson family are heading to Florida, where he hopes to visit with another Finn who was sent to Tampa for exchange.

There is talk of **RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Academy** for 2016. It will be held early in the summer. Check with Diane, Jeff or Stacy if you would like to nominate someone to attend.

Interactor Ashley Owens, who has worked faithfully with the club on so many projects and is leading the PYA Honor Society initiative “Grandma’s Kitchen” talks about heading off to college for a BS in Nursing. She also dreams about a service project exchange overseas between graduation and college. Thoughts anyone???

This is also the time of the year when the President Elect starts developing his/her service project strategies and budgets for the upcoming year. If you have a pet project that you want to see done, now is the time to volunteer and work with **PE Tom May**. PETS will equip him with details of good administration and the thematic focus of our RI President Elect and District Governor Elect.

Events inviting your involvement

Mayor MacKerchar declared March “GO BLUE” month in Penn Yan. It is to draw attention to colorectal cancer screening. This form of cancer is the #2 cancer killer in New York State. Area businesses are being asked to support screening events by the Ontario Seneca and Yates County Cancer Services Program. The Clifton Springs Hospital and Clinic will do the actual screening.

KidCARE can always use your support. Bring items to any meeting.

Little Red Bookshelves are scattered around the village and could use some books from time to time. Perhaps you could drop off gently used children’s books with Sue A at LNB; or when you pass one of the bookcases that needs books, ask for donations from your friends.

The **Friends of the Outlet**, the board that is responsible for the Keuka Outlet Trail and adjacent property will be looking for directors for multi-year terms. Several directors are term limited and must be replaced by new community members. Contact Peg Thompson or Gwen Chamberlain.

Fun and Fellowship this week

Mixed weather all day – temps up to 60. We dined on a heaping bowl of salad greens, all the fixings and sliced steak or chicken. Great veggie soup on the side. Attendance was 25, including our 3 guests:

- **TJ Chamberlain** LNB bank – guest of Sue. He plans on joining the Pal-Mac Club soon.
- **Ron Spike** – Sheriff
- **Elias** – our happy, smiling, kind Exchange Student

Thanks to our Club Service volunteers for the month of March.

Set-up/take-down: Amy Hoffman
Attendance: Diane Krans
Pledge/song: Jackie Shrader
Rotary Minute: Leon Fontier
Prayer: Evelyn Emerson
Sergeant: Sandi Perl

What's Next:

- 3/22 Pet Partner Connection – Michael Bennett
3/29 Rotary International – Water and Sanitation, Cornell Institute of Public Affairs

Our Projects this Year

Sat. April 23rd – **District Training Assembly** is well planned by Sue, Diane, John and Stacy....all is going smoothly. **Volunteer, serve and feel good.**

Friday April 29th – Sunday May 1st - **District Conference in Hershey PA** Fun! Fun! Fun! There is alot to see in the Hershey area. Auto museum is high on the list...well, after the Chocolate Factory.

Sat. May 14th- **Flights of Fancy, a Finger Lakes Wine Classic.** Project leader Carol says: Look at the website. She walked everyone through the links and buttons. She urged each club member to promote the event to everyone and to reach for 10 attendees by each member. Carol and Mike L. from the Chamber have worked out a way to sell hard tickets so that members can promote and sell entry tickets...not necessarily on the Event Bright Internet site. Entry costs \$25, plus \$2 in taxes. On the Internet, it will have a small processing fee. Admission fee at the gate is \$30, plus \$2.40 tax.

Birthdays coming up

Would you believe we still don't have anyone with a March birthday?

Rotary Down Under

Last week, while doing some research on International Women's Day, it became apparent that celebrating Women's Day was a very big event on the Internet in Australia. (In fact, gender equality is one of its major service foci.) This search turned my attention back to that relatively unexplored part of the Rotary World.

There are approximately 30,000 Rotarians belong to over 1100 local Clubs in Australia. There are 21 Rotary Districts in Australia and we become familiar with several of them annually as their DGEs attend our Milt Matthew's DGE Exchange. These districts are part of Zone 8, which includes oceanic nations like Australia, New Zealand, East Timor and Papua New Guinea. One thing that impresses me about the Aussies is that two out of three DGEs I've met and the tone of their postings on the Internet is their HUMOR. Is it possible



that they have evolved a highly refined humor gene? Here is Craig Alford who rode a souped-up Hustler Super lawn mower across Australia to raise money for various club charities, including Polio Plus.

Alford, a member of the Rotary Club of Armadale and assistant governor of District 9465 in Western Australia, sells lawnmowers and other equipment at his business.



Doing a Make-Up Meeting?

Club members are encouraged to make up for missed meetings whenever possible. One can make up by:

- Visiting neighboring clubs or attending a club while on vacation.
- Log in on District 7150's Internet Club www.rotaryclubNY1.com
- Attend Interact or Rotaract meetings
- Work on a club or district committee
- Attend a district function
- When you have made up a meeting, please be sure to notify Chris Bergman for proper credit. hatzcb@yahoo.com

Penn Yan's Friends of Rotary –

Friendly's Dodge Chrysler Jeep

<http://www.friendlydodgechryslerjeep.com/>

Lyons National Bank

www.bankwithlnb.com

Roto Salt & Remeecasting

<http://www.remeecasting.com/>

Eaves Family Dental

<http://www.eavesdental.com/>

Birkett Mills

www.thebirkettmills.com

Carey's Farm and Home Centers

www.careypenny.com

Steve Owens and Classic Café

<http://classiccafedundee.com/>

Rooster Hill Vineyards

www.roosterhill.com

Simmons – Rockwell

www.simmons-rockwell.com