

SPOKES

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pyrotary Website: <http://py-rotary.weebly.com/>
Please Join Us! Tuesdays at Noon – Top of the Lake – 301 Lake Street, Penn Yan



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<https://www.rotary.org/en>



NYSERDA Brings Energy Solutions to New York State Homes



Guest Speaker Larry Williamson of Halco Energy (and the Sodus Rotary Club) spoke to the gathered Rotarians about NYSERDA, the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency.

According to speaker Williamson, NYSERDA receives some money from every electric bill paid to large utilities such as National Grid, RG&E, NYSEG, etc. These funds are collected and distributed to residences to make energy improvements like adding insulation, tightening the fit of windows, identifying water and power leaks, and more. Depending on many factors, NYSERDA can cover up to 100% of the cost of making these improvements.

Eligible homeowners are entitled to a free 3-hour energy audit. During the audit, the technician will identify issues with the home's energy use, using tools like lasers, heat guns, and meters. They will check for safety issues, too, such as leaking gas lines. Only 200 companies statewide are certified to perform these audits.

Once the audit has been completed, repairs can begin. Once the repairs are done, the audit is done again to confirm that the work has been successful.

There was much interest in the topic and Rotarians asked questions about solar and wind power, municipal utilities, and more. The blue skies and wind-ruffled water outside the Top of the Lake reminded us of the abundant natural resources in our region as our conversations turned toward alternative energy. The future is bright, we'll have to wear shades!

News and Notes of Interest

We attempted to sing “Don’t fence me in.” Fortunately **Lynn O.** was there to help us out, we sorely needed it.

The Rotary (Very Last) Minute from **Leon** reminded us that “we build not only in concrete, but in futures.”

Super Bob announced that volunteers are needed to help sell 50/50 tickets at the District Training Assembly on Saturday. **SPECIAL NOTE:** if you are a Penn Yan Rotarian, please do not buy a ticket to Saturday’s 50/50. We should give people from other clubs a chance to win.

President Bob announced that he and **Jackie** will be hosting the Steak-Out on Tuesday, August 23, 2016. Save the date! Perhaps the mysterious drums of Seneca Lake will be on display for us that day?

Happy Dollars Roundup:

Jorgen O. – happy tax season is over.

Sue A. – her girls have earned lots of accolades, academically, dramatically, and otherwise.

Leon – is heading out for a month at sea, sailing from North Carolina to home.

Diane – was looking very international, sporting the French flag

Mary Ellen – is a fan of her granddaughter’s softball team!

Dean – gave a quiet happy dollar

Super Bob – is celebrating lots of birthdays lately

John S. – is happy to see President Bob

Jeff – is happy to be chauffeured around by a nicely-healing Diane

Stacy – is happy to be hosting Elias

President Bob – has a granddaughter singing in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome

Don – thanks Marie for her work on multiple Rotary projects

Speaking of Marie, her ticket was the winner! The pot is at \$200. Unfortunately, she pulled the three of clubs and so the pot will continue to grow.

Events inviting your involvement

Penn Yan Community Garden – Sowing Seeds, Growing Friendships. Members and volunteers are needed. Call: 315-719-2390.

ProAction of Yates & Steuben to Host Poverty Simulation May 17 in Bath

What is a Poverty Simulation?

Millions of Americans, many whom are children under the age of 18, live in poverty every day. While this affects communities all across the country, and while we may seem removed from it, the reality is this is happening in your Steuben County communities. Many more have incomes above the poverty line, but their incomes are still low enough to qualify for programs like SNAP and Medicaid.

It is difficult for those of us who have enough to truly understand the situations that families living in poverty experience every-day -the decisions they have to make, and the fears and frustrations they feel.

Using a poverty simulation kit, participants role-play the lives of low-income families. Some are TANF recipients, some have disabilities, and others are senior citizens on Social Security. They have the stressful task of providing for basic necessities and shelter on a limited budget during the course of four 15-minute "weeks". They interact with human service agencies, grocers, pawnbrokers, bill collectors, job interviewers, police officer and others. Taking part in a poverty simulation allows participants to walk a mile in the shoes of those facing poverty.

The simulation enables participants to look at poverty from a variety of angles and then to recognize and discuss the potential for change within their local communities. The simulation was designed to sensitize those who frequently deal with low-income families as well as to create a broader awareness of poverty among policymakers, community leaders, and others.

Register at: <http://www.proactioninc.org/>

Fun and Fellowship this week

Our menu today was pulled pork, roasted potatoes, and coleslaw. Sunny and brisk with leaves popping out all over. Twenty-five Rotarians and guests enjoyed the meal. Guests were **Marie O.**, **Lynn O.** (different .O!), and speaker **Larry Williamson** of the Sodus Rotary Club and Halco.

Thanks to our Club Service volunteers for April.

Set-up/take-down:	Amy Hoffman
Attendance:	Carol Worth
Pledge/song:	Jorgen Overgaard
Rotary Minute:	Rob Schwarting
Prayer:	Evelyn Emerson
Sergeant:	Don Oakleaf (?)

What's Next:

4/23 District Assembly – All hands on deck
4/26 Whose Biography will it be?

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 a lot to see in the Hershey area. Auto museum is high on the list...well, after the Chocolate Factory.

Sat. May 14th- **Flights of Fancy; Finger Lakes Wine Classic.** Project leader Carol says: Look at the website: <http://fingerlakeswineclassic.com/> **New on the website: cooking classes!** Learn to make pizza and bread to pair with scrumptious FL wines. Lessons will take place on May 14 at Milly's pantry with Chef Jeff from the NY Wine and Culinary Center in Canandaigua. Three sessions with 12 students for \$50/person. Go to the website to register.

Birthdays coming up

Carol Worth 4/26
Warren Kinsey 4/28

Rotary in Space (Sort Of)

The Rotary Club of Space Center, part of district 5890, is in Houston, Texas. It arose in the 1960's from the rapidly-growing population of Houston and some of the founding members included some of the first astronauts. Buzz Aldrin is a Space Center Rotarian!

The Rotary Club of Space Center is home to The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is "to organize and coordinate an annual event to recognize outstanding achievements in space and create greater public awareness of the benefits of space exploration. Each year since 1987, the Foundation has presented the National Space Trophy and other awards honoring those who have contributed to our nation's space program at a gala event in April in Houston, Texas." (from <http://www.rnasa.org/>)

Their major fundraiser is an annual Shrimporee and it looks like they have a great time!



Be a gift to the world

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 –

When you shop or visit around the community thank the many merchants and patrons of our 50th Rotary Day Radio Show and Auction. Tell them that they helped us raise \$11,000 after advertising expenses this year. Their support means that we can contribute to many deserving community development projects, youth leadership development, camping for kids with handicaps, scholarships for colleges and trade schools, and more recently, our newest project – support of the Outlet Trail.