2.10.22 Rotary Minutes

Present: Mary Bouchard, Shelly Bullock, Zoren Bullock, Peggy Haine, Michael Jimenez, Joan Munich, Kathleen Overbaugh, Tom Overbaugh, Angel Stillions, Durand VanDoren, Frank Zgola

Guest: Meaghan Sheehan Rosen, Friendship Donations Network

Absent: Joseph Barrett, Mark Baumann, Neil DeRaiche, Ben Guthrie, Dennis Guy-Sell, Mary Guy-Sell, Cindy Kain, Bill Overbaugh, Darlynne Overbaugh

President Kathleen introduced our guest speaker, Meaghan Sheehan Rosen, coordinator of the Friendship Donations Network. Started in 1988 by Sara Pines, before most people were aware of how much food goes to waste, the Network rescues fresh, nutritious food and distributes it for free to those who need it. Food donors include grocery stores, bakeries, neighborhood gardeners’ front-porch food hubs, farmers, and college dining halls. While it’s estimated that 40% of food produced in the U.S. goes to waste, the Friendship Donations Network distributes what it gleans to food pantries, hot meal programs, and other nonprofit food distribution organizations. They are known for their quick turnaround and efficiency, and most of the pickup and delivery Is done by volunteers. They have storage at the Just Because Center, and work with such food distribution partners as Loaves & Fishes, food pantries, OAR, and Tompkins County Department of Mental Health. They feed the undocumented, and make home deliveries where necessary. Their goal is to connect food with people as simply and efficiently as possible, and they rescue approximately 1,500 pounds of food a day, and serve about 2,000 people each week, working with 50 distribution partners. Following their example, other food rescue organizations are starting up all around the country. Asked if there was anything they need, she summed it up in a word: volunteers.

**Club news:**

Angel had to decline the coming year’s presidency as she will be away at school for a good part of the year. Tom Overbaugh was “volunteered” to serve in her place, and he graciously agreed to do so. Durand will be our president the following year.

Tom and Angel met to figure out whether it will be feasible for the club to sponsor a Golf Classic this year. Angel was able to reduce affiliated tournament expenses by $1,200, and they are planning to go ahead with it. A tentative date of Friday, July 8 has been put forth, pending approval by the Trumansburg Golf Course. They are counting on donations of cases of wine from local wineries and hole sponsorships from local businesses to help finance this popular fundraiser.

It was decided that chicken barbecues would again take place on the third Saturday of the month from April to October, and again on Election Day. Mary Bouchard offered to get permits from the Tompkins County Health department. June 18, the third Saturday of that month, is also the date of Porch Fest. Zoren is working on expense figures for the barbecues. Since prices of everything have gone up, the club may have to raise its chicken dinner prices. Expect a report soon.

Plans for the Supermarket Sweepstakes and the Rubber Duck Race are moving ahead, and Mary Guy-Sell is designing new posters and tickets to sell.

Mary Bouchard is headed for Alaska in March to do tax preparation for the Alaskan Native population, and she will try to make contact with Rotary clubs there. She is also competing in a curry cooking contest at Seneca Lake Brewing Company this weekend. We wish her luck!

**Happy dollars**

Michael for Julia’s being accepted to UMass Amherst

Durand, thinking about being president after Tom, and also because we’re halfway through February

Kathleen for being on DuoLingo 300 days in a row

Angel $5 for having received her certification from RLI (Rotary Leadership Institute), and because her dog’s cancer is localize

Michael, for Tom’s agreement to be our next president

**Upcoming speakers**

March 3: Tylar Henson, Red Cross

April 7: Ethan Cramton, Ulysses Youth Program (their Rotary BBQ is scheduled for April 16)

TBD: Bill Overbaugh, on the NYS Climate & Community Investment Act