

Butler A.M. Rotary Club
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Cletus Scalo at 7:22 am.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Henry Thibault
The Invocation was given by Clint Champagne

Guest Speaker: Lynn Motyl, Leadership Butler County, and Slippery Rock University
Guests: Ralph Davidson, retired; John McCool, PrePaid Legal; Richard Goldinger, Butler County District Attorney; Jim Thompson, Steinheiser Propane; Amy Lavorini, Butler County Children's Center; Betty Fitzgerald, Clearview Federal Credit Union; Keith Graham, Butler Eagle; Kathy Breese, Northwest Savings Bank; Carol Howryla, Community Development Corporation; David Bartbe, Walmart; Ron A. Jones, Ronald D. Jones Financial Associates; Margie Walsh, VNA.

There were no happy bucks given this week.

There were no birthdays or anniversaries to announce this week.

President Scalo presided over the meeting, which was held at Conley's Resort. He welcomed our guests. He reminded the members the annual flower pulling and highway cleanup will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2009 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Those who are volunteering should meet at the flower beds at the corner of Hansen Avenue and New Castle Road. After finishing there, we will proceed to the clean up project at the intersection of Routes 422, 68, and 38.

President Scalo also reminded members to mark their calendars for the Rotary Sweetheart Gala to be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010. All members are asked to be involved in the planning and implementing of this event in some way.

The Nominating Committee chaired by Candy Hartley will be calling members about filling open positions including one Board member and Vice President. The election will be held December 8, 2009.

Our next speaker will be Chris Zeigler of the Butler-Freeport Community Trail on Tuesday, October 27, 2009.

President Scalo welcomed the members of the 2008/2009 Leadership Butler County who attended the meeting. He congratulated them on completing this leadership training program. The LBC's goal is to build a network of community leaders. Each year the class has a project they work on together which will improve the quality of the lives of people in the community in some way. This year's class chose to make emergency starter kits for seniors who live senior housing complexes. Like Rotary, their primary goal is service to community. He paralleled their community service projects to the projects the A.M. Rotary has completed through the years.

President Scalo called upon Membership Chair Ron Jones to give an overview about our Club. Ron told the group we usually meet at the Butler YWCA on Cunningham Street at 7:00 a.m. every Tuesday. Everyone who attended as a guest was given a Membership packet which included a coupon for a free breakfast at one of our meetings. He encouraged all our guests to utilize this coupon and join us for another meeting in the near future.

Ron told the group he was a Charter member and had been asked to join by John Capers. When he attended his first meeting he was asked to be part of a highway clean up crew, and has been an active volunteer ever since. He also told the group about the Kid's Zone Playground which we

built at Alameda Park. This handicap accessible playground was the single largest project ever undertaken by any Club in Pennsylvania. Our Club raised over \$500,000 to build it. Ron talked about the group of people who are members of our Club, who always pitch in to do whatever project it is that needs to be completed.

Ron showed one of the Membership packets which includes an application, list of Officers and Directors, and a list of the projects we've done. There is also information about Rotary International. He said that there are Rotary Clubs in every country in the world. He asked our guests to read the brochure about curing polio. Our goal is to completely eradicate polio throughout the world, and there have been over 2 billion children inoculated so far. Ron invited the guests to call one of the officers or Board members to learn more about Rotary, and said he hoped they would seriously consider joining us.

President Scalo called upon our secretary, Cindy Harbison to say a few words about our Club and some of the ways we work to make a better community.

Cindy spoke about how being a Rotarian has affected her personally and enabled her to make a positive impact on the community. She talked about being known as "one of those people" who have cleaned up a highway, flipped pancakes to raise money for Lifesteps, held a picnic for children with disabilities, planted beautiful flower gardens, shoveled gravel and mulch to help build two playgrounds, and helped the Salvation Army to distribute toys at Christmas. She also talked about not being a personally wealthy person, but how she was able to financially support students who needed scholarships to BC3, purchase goats for poor farmers in other countries, raise money for children with autism, and help to raise over \$30,000 to help provide health care for people who needed it, but couldn't afford to pay for it. For her wealth of knowledge, personal growth and life-long friendships throughout the community she gave the credit to being a Rotarian.

Cletus Scalo then introduced our speaker, Lynn Motyl. She talked about Leadership Butler County which was started in 1993 and is affiliated with the Butler Chamber of Commerce. It is also sponsored by the Zelig/Harmony Chambers, BC3, SRU, United Way and Butler County Convention and Tourism Bureau.

LBC is a nine-month program designed to build leadership skills in the people who participate. It is guided by a 20 member Board of community leaders, many of whom have been graduates of the program. There were 24 graduates last year and the current class has 23. Class members must submit a resume, three references, be sponsored by the organization for which they are employed, and pay a \$1,200 tuition fee before they are accepted. There are partial scholarships available to those who wish to participate, but cannot afford the tuition fee.

Over a nine month period class participants learn about teamwork, human services & volunteerism, media and political process, local government, businesses in Southern Butler County, health care organizations, education systems throughout the County, public speaking, and leisure activities that affect quality of life.

The graduation ceremony is held each year at the United Way annual meeting. Each class is required to work on a service project that will enhance the quality of life for Butler County residents. This class chose to make "Emergency Starter Kits" which were distributed to senior citizens living in various senior housing projects throughout the County. Kits included bottled water, first aid kit, pad & pencil, emergency blanket, whistle, and other items. There is also room in the bag for the seniors' medications. The kits can be easily transported by a senior even if they are using a walker or other device for mobility.

Lynn Motyl gave brochures and applications to Cletus Scalo so that anyone in the Club could apply to be a member of the next LBC class if they choose.

President Scalo then presented certificates of achievement to the members of the class who were present at our meeting. The other class members will receive theirs at a later time.

The Rotor Fact for this week was about the Rotary Foundation. Each Rotarian contributes \$25 per quarter to the Foundation, which supports many different things. One of the main things the Foundation supports is the eradication of polio. Microsoft founder Bill Gates has pledged \$200 million to the Rotary Foundation and challenged Rotarians to match his donation. This is all targeted to eradicate polio throughout the world.

Other Club business:

Ron Jones said we need to begin discussing the event we will hold on December 11, 2009 which will be titled "The Best Christmas Ever". We will be working with other groups such as the Salvation Army for this event. Cletus Scalo added there will be a brainstorming session for ideas for this event, and he hopes we will all volunteer to be involved in some way.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Betty Fitzgeralds.

There being no other business, President Scalo adjourned the meeting with the Four Way Test at 8:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Harbison, Secretary