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Rotary Club of Wayland, New York, D7120

Don Griffing, president

Thomas Quinlan, secretary

Girl's State Valuable Political Education

It wasn't spring yet. By definition, it should've happened the next day, but we saw no sign of it approaching. This has been a mild winter for the most part, I'm not complaining about that, but couldn't we do without these irritating little snow falls? We are anxiously waiting for some of our snowbirds to come back too.

Pat Lysell had attended the regional PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) over the weekend. Little did she know that she'd get some use for what she had (presumably) learned right away. We waited a few minutes after 6:30 p.m., but when there was no sign of president Don, she hit the bell and got us started.

Right before the song and pledge, two young women had entered. One had visited us before, so we concluded that they were visitors, invited by Don, and bid them to sit at the table. Elise Scheid, an Interact member and previous visitor, and Danielle Sullivan had indeed been invited by Don, making good on his promise to have "Girl's State" attendees come and tell us about their experiences.

We had Lasagna last meeting, which was very tasty, and for dessert, there was a cherry Danish/cobbler like presentation.

If there were any "guilty" members at the meeting, they should have drawn a sigh of relief when Don showed up. Pat's disposition is unknown to all but the editor. Now, it will remain a mystery until she assumes power next Rotary year.

President Don came up with an almost believable excuse for his late arrival. You wondered why an experienced educator, who must have heard them all, couldn't come up with something better. Maybe a student had actually borrowed his watch and made it stop. (Would it not be more logical to bump the time forward?) He was fined two dollars for putting the two invited students in a scary position.

George Smith offered up a happy dollar, because he was just accepted by the United Church of Christ to lead their St Paul and St Peter congregations. George's previous experience was with a slightly different denomination, so it took some extra steps to be approved. He had also made up Rotary via the Internet, which sounds intriguing. The process was a bit complicated. Maybe we shall have to schedule a program on this new way to make up meetings. George had found it quite rewarding after the initial trouble.

Sharon Vogt had met with her advisor on investments. It was apparently an uplifting experience, since she forked up a happy dollar.

Girl's State

Danielle Sullivan started by giving her experience from last year's "Girl's State" held at SUNY Brockport college for a week. The objective for Girl's State is to teach how government works by letting the participants perform mock functions.

The participating girls were divided into counties, where they started new programs or improvements to programs. Committees were formed, etc. They even deliberated over how to pay for it. Taxes and fees, what else?

After serving at the county level, sights were set for "Albany," or whatever fictitious name was used. Election campaigns were designed, based on what goals they had set in their committees. It was a two-party race. They got to use real voting machines.

Danielle had a wonderful experience, and made many new friends, whom she still communicates with.

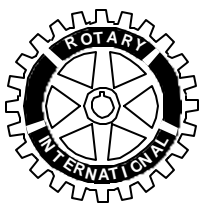
Elise also had a good time, even though her county's politics had been less successful than Danielle's. They were both very touched by a POW & MIA event, where they felt sad but very proud over our soldiers and our country.

During the questions and answers, a surprising fact was gleaned. They enjoyed the food. Sounds different than our kids.

Thank you Danielle and Elise for a nicely presented program! You clearly showed us how valuable this program is.



Danielle Sullivan and Elise Scheid.



Wayland Rotary Club
c/o Bo Lysell, editor
4535 Rt 21
Atlanta, NY 14808