



HOT POTATO

Number 36, Volume 10

April 24, 2007

Rotary Club of Wayland, New York, D7120

Patrice Lysell, president

Thomas Quinlan, secretary

Miserable, Snowy April Weather on Tax Day

It was the second week in a row for the month of April with snow on Rotary meeting night. Eleven Rotarians showed up nevertheless, but I think this was the first time this Rotary year when we paid for more meals than served by The Miller House. I may be wrong, but we are a long way from the 7 and 8 when I first started my second stint with the Wayland Rotary club. I was happy that I didn't spend the evening in some line at the post office up in Rochester, but it was small consolation for the huge checks Uncle Sam and Mark would soon be receiving. Personally, I think Spitzer has mishandled the weather. His first 100 days have been cold, and the misery continues. Not a good a start!

The Miller House served yet another new dish, which was the subject of much analysis around the table. It was served over rice with a side of green beans, mushrooms and almonds, which may have been the reason why it took a long time to nail it down. "Hunter's Chicken" (translations are Cacciatore, It., Catch-A-Tory, En.) was the final guess, which was confirmed by Kelly. I think we would have recognized it faster if served over spaghetti. The dessert featured a brownie with fruit filling and nuts on top.

Tom Quinlan had to pay \$5 for some extra weeks in Florida. They had met a lot of people with connections to our area, among them Bud and Sue StGeorge. Bud was actually back in session too, so Pat collected another \$5 from him, perhaps reduced because Bud brought back makeup cards. Good to have you back.

Don Griffing didn't get much time in Florida when he went down to bring his mother and motor home back north. He also had to turn around and drive back to Maryland to celebrate a relative. The \$3 seems too stiff for this ordeal.

Rev. George Smith offered a happy buck for a very good attendance at his churches over Easter.

Bob Oswald threw in a happy buck for being exhibited in NYC, and for placing 15th among a thousand. Wait, I should clarify that Bob exhibited pictures down there, and didn't actually travel there to exhibit himself (I doubt he would place 15th in that category). Bob also plugged the "Habitat for Humanity" silent auction, which takes place on April 28, starting at six and dinner at seven for \$35. Call Bob if you're interested. Bob has participated in their projects for several years.

Sharon Vogt missed the meeting two weeks ago because of her dog's surgery, and scheduling problems around the procedure. She was able to make up last Tuesday, taking advantage of our day off last week. The dog is doing better, so she contributed a happy buck.

Tom Didas took advantage of last week and traveled to Myrtle Beach with the trailer and all but one of the family. He was stiffed with the same \$5 as the snowbirds.

Business

We received an invitation from the Art Teachers at WCCS to attend the annual exhibit of students' works on May 15. We have traditionally supported this with a donation toward the prizes presented to the winners. Since Treasurer Nancy was not present, we could not get a figure for the amount we usually give, but a motion was made to find out what that is, and to continue the support. The motion passed.

We were getting ready to discuss the Children's Theater Group, but another solution was proposed by Bob Oswald. The Livingston County Chamber of Commerce currently harbors several citizen's groups under their umbrella for basically the same reasons. Don Griffing will contact Dianne McGowan about this possibility, which could potentially work even better for the group.

President Pat had investigated the Adopt-A-Highway matter and found that our contract had expired for lack of activity during the at last three years since I rejoined the club. She wanted to know if the club would be willing to invest in vests and bags, so that we wouldn't have to blow away a small fortune in time and gasoline to pick up and return the paraphernalia at the end of the earth as we know it, - Hornell. It would also make scheduling easier. Jim Burns volunteered to pick up, and Tom Quinlan said their

van makes daily trips to Hornell. The idea was abandoned. It was agreed not to try to make the Lions club look bad by biting over two stretches. We'll do only 63 in the new contract, opening the other for them.

Bob Oswald had a chance to tell us about the nearly flooded PETS training he attended in Binghamton a month or so ago. He came away with a lot of ideas, such as ways to raise money for Paul Harris Awards through special dinners, etc. Bob was enthusiastic about trying some of the stuff at our club. I think we are in for a very good next year.

Sharon Vogt had a final matter she wanted to bring up, prefacing it with a recapture of her relations with Deanie Traphagen in Rotary, and reminding us how much the Traphagens have given to Rotary. She was very disturbed by the closing remarks of the last Hot Potato, where I implied that I wasn't looking forward to Art's habit of, as I see it, putting a damper on things by reminding us of how lazy and unproductive we are. This was inappropriate she thought, and I agree with her. It may even be called vindictive to try to make fun of this habit. I'm not a Christian, but I think that the old "turning the other cheek" thing is a fine thing to live by, and I failed. I'll try to leave vindictiveness out of these pages, and leave it to others at the meetings, of whom I have accused it here before.

Your President Pat is very upset over my writings, and the controversy I cause. Let me assure everybody, she doesn't suggest or condone what I write. That "acidity" is not her style, you probably all know, but I found it hard to observe what I've seen this year, and what I have seen for years before. So I started spouting off when it was hitting closer to home with Pat not looking forward to meetings anymore. That's an explanation, and no excuse. President elect Bob has vowed to get the board of directors to function (*another thing I failed, and other past presidents may not even have tried*), and keep most business out of the regular meetings. I think he has the stuff to pull it off, and the club is a little different than it was seven years ago. I hope that some things do change, - the end of "ambush proposals."