



# THE SANDPIPER



## THE WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SAND LAKE, NY

P. O. Box 535, West Sand Lake, NY 12196

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Meets 6:30 PM Mondays at The Lakeview Inn Restaurant

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## MEETING OF DECEMBER 30, 2013

PRESIDENT Stuart J. Nippes presiding

GREETINGS & INVOCATION by **Bill Whipple**

The fine invocation was by Bill Whipple, reminding us who have plenty to share with those who haven't.

Our only guest this evening was the speaker, Rob Saba  
Loveridge



shown with Bob

Welcome back to Bill Whipple



and Dudley Dorr



**SIGN-UP SHEETS:** Now that the holidays are over, there are not so many things to sign up for!

**Doors of Hope** Friday, January 3: Daniels, Patton, Gates and Ginther have signed up. More are welcome. Come and work off those Christmas cookies! Call Bryce for info at 674-5161 if you can help.

**Pasta Dinner** January 11: Ellis X2, Loveridge, Brownrigg, Metchick, Lane, Ward and Hamlin have signed up. Come and help, or just enjoy all the spaghetti and meatballs you can eat.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

After the regular meeting this evening there will be a meeting of the committee planning the **dinner for the needy in February** in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus.

President-elect Linda reported that twelve **Christmas trees** had remained unsold – they were donated to some hungry goats.

**Summerfest 2014** is scheduled for the weekend of June 14, which is Flag Day, so that will be the theme of the festival. There will be a meeting of Summerfest committee chairs and others interested preceding the regular meeting on January 13. President Stu reminded everyone that before any discussion takes place with a person or group wishing to participate in Summerfest, the appropriate chairperson be consulted.

There will be a **Division Council Meeting** at SLK on January 13.

#### PROGRAM:

Greeted by unthunderous applause, Program Chair Bob Loveridge introduced Rob Saba, representative of Albany Medical Center Hospital, to speak on updates at the hospital. Rob told us he felt especially indebted to AMC because his twin boys, who weighed less than two pounds each at birth, were saved by the skilled and dedicated staff at the hospital. The doctor who cared for the babies still works there, and that sort of longevity and retention is typical at the hospital. AMC serves 25 counties, extending into western Massachusetts. It is one of only four hospitals in the state able to provide Level 1 trauma care, the most severe. Expansion is ongoing. Room for 90 beds was recently added but all were quickly taken up, so occupancy is again at 100%. The addition is 6 stories high, but can be extended up to 8 stories; the elevator towers are already in place. The Park South expansion, for which property has been acquired, will be underway in a few months. The center now serves 600,000 patient visits a year.



Of special interest to Kiwanis are the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) and the PICU (pediatric intensive care unit), as Kiwanis has raised over \$1 million in support of the facilities. 900 premature or sick babies are served in a single year. The new NICU opened four weeks ago. Rooms are now private, so each baby has its own room with a bathroom and sofa for the family. There are a few larger rooms to accommodate multiple births. A special focus of this year's Bells of Life campaign is to provide for each room a "giraffe," a specially equipped bed which has monitoring and life support equipment and can even allow for surgery without moving the child. There are now 20 giraffes, but there are 56 rooms, so more are needed. There are also three transition rooms like hotel rooms, where parents can learn how to care for their premies before taking them home. In general, there is heightened recognition of the importance of the emotional wellbeing of the entire family to a successful outcome for the baby.

Bob Loveridge told us that at our December 14 sale of Bells of Life at Crossgates Sand Lake Kiwanis raised \$1079 (\$3 per minute!), and he presented a check for that amount to Rob. Pat Lane pointed out that our young people, especially Key Clubbers, are more successful than adults at approaching potential donors, as "no one wants to say no to a kid." She suggested that we could recruit more Key Club volunteers for the Bells if Rob came to talk to them. He offered to arrange for them to visit the AMC facility.



Bill Whipple presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Rob for his well-received presentation.



## HAPPY DOLLARS:

Bob Loveridge was happy for tonight's presentation. He pointed out that Rob is very busy, but he understands the importance of community contact.

Eve Ward is happy for Ethan's 3.9 GPA, Drew's doing well at RPI working on his Master's, and her granddaughter is also doing well.

Sue Jensky had \$1 for her partnership with Skip in tree-selling. At first they lucked out with customers all having pickup trucks or SUVs. Then they had to load and tie a tree on top of a car. The folks came back shortly afterward with no tree on the car. It had fallen off and been hit by the car following. She and Skip gave the people a new tree. They had wisely brought their own twine this time. Sue had another dollar for her husband's sweet gift of two china angels in the pattern of the dinnerware her recently-deceased mother used to give her. He labeled the gift from himself and her mother.

Skip Patton had \$1 relief that the string broke, not his knot, on the tree that fell off the car. He was glad no one was hurt when the following car hit the tree as it fell off the customer's car. He had another \$1, happy to be teamed up twice with Sue. She said they need a stepladder to load trees!

Bill Whipple had \$1 thanks for calls and good wishes for Betty Jean, who has had surgery for cancer. She will see the surgeon again Friday, then begin radiation treatment in mid-January. Our thoughts and prayers are with Betty Jean for successful and comfortable treatment and a quick and complete recovery.

Jean Hamlin was happy for winning an ugly sweater contest at a holiday party. She is also happy for her grandson's retirement (!) after 20 years in the military. He's 41. Her granddaughter is on the high honor roll at Rensselaer High School, and was able to skip 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

Stu had a happy \$ for Rob Sabo's presentation. The Children's Hospital is and important project for us. Could we do more? He had another happy \$, something about his best Christmas ever, up to his elbows in dirty dishes and lovin' it. Hey, Stu, I have lots of dirty dishes at my house...

John Brownrigg didn't have a dollar, but he reminded us that our own Dr. Ken James was involved in the early Pediatric Trauma Center campaign. The first major project, in conjunction with two other Divisions, was the Ovide duck (actually platypus) race, for which Ken contributed thousands of dollars of his own money.

## DRAWINGS:

The **door prize** was won by Jim Colabelli.

The **regular 50/50**, worth \$21.50, was won by Barb Fioravanti

**Three dinners** were raffled off, as we did not meet our quota. That's a loss of \$36 to the club.

**The Progressive 50/50**, worth \$351.00 with 34 cards left, was drawn by Craig Daniels. He drew the right suit but the wrong card: the 5 ♣.



**NEXT WEEK:**

**Program Chair** is Bob Pasquarelli. It's a Board meeting night, so he will tell us about the Interclub Committee.

**Greeter/Invocator** is Linda Ellis.

**THIS WEEK'S QUOTE:**

"There are those, I know, who will reply that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind, is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is. It is the American dream."

-- Archibald MacLeish, American poet