



# 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 MARCH 10, 2014

President Stu Nippes opened the meeting, followed by a short but sweet invocation by Eve Ward.

President Stu welcomed our guest speaker Sandra Strock, daughter of Program Chair Craig Daniels.



### SIGN UP SHEETS:

- Sand Lake Seniors luncheon, which was rescheduled for March 13 due to weather, has been re-scheduled for April 10 due to anticipated weather this Thursday. Those who signed up should adjust their schedules accordingly and let Bill Whipple or Joe Trupia know if you can't make it.
  - 9:30 – 1:30 Joe Trupia & David Booker
  - 10:30-1:30 Ken James, Pat Lane & Linda Ellis
  - 11:30-1:30 Gary Meislin, Jerry Tysiak, John Mulligan, Jean Hamlin, Nancy Davis, Skip Patton & Craig Daniels
- Uncle Marty's Kilt Run is this Saturday (3/15) at Westfall Village.
  - Food Delivery (9:00) Bob Pasquarelli & Sue Jensky

Setup volunteers (9:00-11:00) are: Stuart Nippes, Linda Ellis & Lyndon Ellis  
11:00-2:30 shift volunteers are: Barb Fioravanti, Linda Ellis, Lyndon Ellis & Skip Patton  
2:30-? Shift volunteers are: Janet Malecki, Jean Hamlin, Stuart Nippes & TC McEntyre  
Breakdown volunteers are: Bryce Ginther & Lyndon Ellis

- The Governor's visit this Saturday 3/15 at Noon at the Desmond will be attended by Janet Malecki, Pat Lane, Linda Ellis, Bob Loveridge, Stuart Nippes, Dave Booker, TC McIntyre and Eve Ward.
- Next Doors of Hope opportunity is Tuesday, 3/18. Bryce Ginther, Ron Wagner, Skip Patton, Bob Loveridge and Craig Daniels are signed up, and more are welcome. Contact Bryce.
- Van Rensselaer Division Council meeting and North Greenbush interclub is Wednesday, 3/19 at Carol's Place Pawling Avenue (NY Route 66 ant Ford Avenue), Troy. Dave Booker, Bob Pasquarelli, Linda Ellis, John Brownrigg, Eve Ward, Joe Behson, Pat Lane and John Mulligan. Deacon Bob's bus will be leaving Millerford's at 5:30, so if you need a ride call him.
- Poestenkill Elementary School's Discovery Day is Saturday, 3/22, and SLK is cooking. Bob Pasquarelli, Sue Jensky, Eve Ward, Nancy Davis, Craig Daniels, Linda Ellis, Lyndon Ellis, Jery Tysiak, Bob Loveridge, John Mulligan & Stuart Nippes have volunteered.
- The April Pasta Dinner is Saturday, 4/12. Volunteers are:  
Start Up: Linda Ellis, Lyndon Ellis & Bob Loveridge  
1<sup>st</sup> Shift (3-5:30): John Brownrigg & Pat Lane  
2<sup>nd</sup> Shift (5:30-7:30): Jean Hamlin & Pat Lane  
Cashiers (3-7:30): Eve Ward  
There's still plenty of time to sign up.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Bob Loveridge thanked the volunteers who helped out with last Saturday's pasta dinner. Well over 40 dinners were served, so it was very successful. Groups from Castleton Kiwanis showed up and were so pleased they promise to bring more members next month. Bob pointed out that we could use more SLK's in attendance both as servers and diners.
- Sue Jensky showed us lockets made by Origami Owls, which have small charms inside. The owner of the company will have a booth at Summerfest and will raffle off two lockets with neonatal and child trauma treatment themes, the proceeds to go to young children Priority One.
- Craig Daniels is pleased that 24 people have signed up for SLK night at the SLCA production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. He needs payment by next week's meeting.



## PRESENTATIONS:

- President Stu presented Bill Whipple with a pin tab for 21 years' perfect attendance.



- Wearing his membership and education hat, Bob Pasquarelli re-inducted TC McIntyre into the club. He made her take a quiz, which most of us would have flunked. Welcome back, TC!

## PROGRAM:



Program Chair Craig Daniels introduced his daughter Sandra Strock, an educator who teaches English at Maple Hill High School, with some AP courses as an adjunct from HVCC. She has also taught ELA Methods (how to teach English Language Arts) at Siena College. Sandra's courses at Maple Hill include language culture, creative



writing, AP English literature, and English Language.

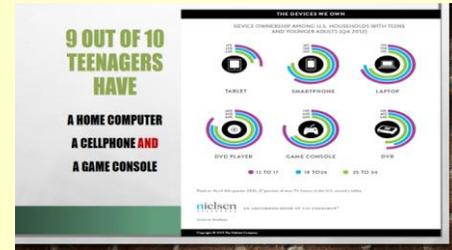
Responding to public concern about "Common Core" and other highly publicized education issues, Sandra spoke on the subject of the State of Education Today. Pointing out that on the global job market, our children have been outpaced in both numbers and preparedness by India, China and other countries; she said our education system has some catching-up to do.



The job market is changing rapidly. The top ten jobs in demand now didn't exist in 2004. In contrast to prior generations where lifetime loyalty was expected on the part of both employer and employee, today's new entries to the job market can expect to have 10-14 different jobs during their careers. Job dissatisfaction is cause for immediate change. Job structure is different now. Many large companies including Google and NPR have found

success with a very loose structure.

Sandra has seen dramatic change even in the past four years in connectivity. Nine out of ten teenagers now have a home computer, a cell phone *and* a game console. Less than half of young people responding to a survey preferred face-to-face communication to cyber-communication by texting, tweeting, Facebook or other cyber-means. Email is now passé.



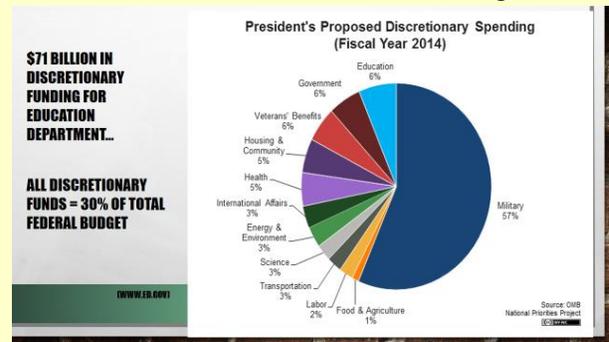
While today’s kids are smart and competent, their reference base is weak. Sandra said she has to explain general allusions such as biblical or historical references, or the students miss her point.

They know how to Google specific bits of information to answer a question, but they don’t get the background knowledge from having to read an entire passage of a reference to find that information. The amount of available information is overwhelming. One week of the NY Times has more information than a person in the 1800’s would expect to gain in a lifetime. On Google there are 31 billion monthly searches. 4000 new books are published daily. 24 hours’ worth of material is uploaded to YouTube per minute.



Pointing out the relative emphasis of items in the 2014 FY federal budget, Sandra showed a pie chart showing education gets 6% and the military gets 57%. However, most of the funding for education is from state and local budgets, and the state is increasing demands while reducing funding.

The average cost for 4 years of college is over \$142,000, while the average family income is just over \$50,000. Common Core is an attempt to set standards and goals (“scaffolding”) that would be constant throughout the states, especially important now that families move more often. A second-grader in Oregon would study the same material to the same standards as one in Florida.



The program got a bad name for the way it was implemented, testing immediately at the level the program hoped to achieve over several years. Sandra stated that the principle of the program is sound, but she is concerned that publishing company Pearson, Inc. (*I Googled this for spelling. -Ed.*) is the front runner producing textbooks and also common core testing materials. There are two areas: ELA and Math. Both are built on a “staircase of complexity,” defining in detail for each grade the material to be covered and level of achievement to be attained. ELA comprehension tests are to be based on material presented during the test rather than on material to be read in advance. The tests will be more complex, and the expected level of knowledge higher. It has been decided that there will be no testing of kids in grades K-2 as they aren’t capable of that level of concentration, and that for all grades the standards will not need to be met until 2017. Sandra said that she saw no problem in meeting those goals in time, as today’s kids are as smart as their parents were, and the standards are reasonable and necessary.

Innovative new methods take advantage of modern technology. Distance learning allows a teacher in one district to teach a subject in many others. Teachers have web pages outlining assignments and providing relevant references as well as an avenue of communication with students. Students

are expected to have an e-Portfolio showing their scholastic achievements. Online tutoring is available for those looking for extra help. There are online college courses available, and high school students are able to earn college credits. Some schools have relationships with incubator businesses, providing free rent on their campus in exchange for student training.



Eve Ward presented Sandra with a SLK Certificate of Appreciation for this interesting and informative program.

**HAPPY DOLLARS:**

- Pat Lane was happy for Sandra’s positive program about education.
- Pete Stevens was happy his wife gave him a surprise birthday party, though it meant he had to cancel participation in the pasta dinner.
- Bruce Perry was happy that the basketball teams he coaches went to finals, and the Sage Colleges’ women’s team made it into the NCAA Division III Tournament for the first time!
- John Mulligan was \$2 worth of happy for his three grandkids, who placed well among many in skiing competitions.
- Ken James was happy for some pictures he found of the Ovide platypus race in the Hudson River in 1993, one of the first fundraisers for the Albany Med Pediatric Trauma Center Kiwanis project.
- Craig Daniels was happy for the number of SLK’s signed up for the *Fiddler on the Roof* performance, and the justifiably proud dad had another happy \$ for Sandra’s program.
- Stu was happy that when Sandra asked if among our members we had teachers or retired teachers, she didn’t include School Board members. He had another happy \$ for a meeting he attended of school administrators regarding the GAP elimination, because APCSD lost \$4 million in state aid. He also told us that the state requires the district to replace the mechanical voting machines with computers, which will cost \$70,000.

**DRAWINGS:**

**The door prize** (a bottle-shaped wrapped item) was won by Gary Meislin in absentia.

**The 50/50** for \$24 was won by Bob Pasquarelli

**The Progressive 50/50**, with \$21 added today was for \$541.50, with 26 cards remaining. TC McIntyre could only come up with the 6 ♥.



**NEXT WEEK:**

**Program Chair** is Dave Booker

**Program:** Kiwanis International *Youth Protection Guidelines* Club Training

**Greeter/Invocator/Certificate Presenter:** Pat Lane

**Weekly Quote:** “Nobody believes the official spokesman... but everybody trusts an unidentified source.” --Ron Nessen, American Journalist.