



# THE SANDPIPER



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

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

www.SandLakeKiwanis.org

SandLakeKiwanis @nycap.rr.com

Meets 6:30 PM Mondays at The Lakeview Inn Restaurant

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### MEETING OF MAY 16, 2016

President Stuart J. Nippes, presiding

GREETINGS & INVOCATION by Joe Trupia

GUESTS: Speaker John Robinson



shown with  
Program Chair Jean Hamlin;



of Lt Gov Pat Lane,  
daughter-in-law Kirsten Lane

& Past APHS Key Club and  
now Pres-Elect of HVCC Circle K,  
grandson Cody Lane;

of Jean Hamlin,  
granddaughter  
Christina Reehl;



of Eve Ward, Grace Bourdeau;



WSL K-Kid Sam Hart & his dad Patrick Hart;



And Florida Kiwanian Bob Schlesinger  
the guest of former SLK Botsy Rosenberger



WELCOME BACK, Rose Metchick



Bruce Perry and Botsy Rosenberger!

### PROJECT SIGNUP SHEETS

DOORS OF HOPE, unloading food truck

Fri May 27<sup>th</sup>: *Loveridge, Daniels, Wagner*

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, Mon May 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:30, Westfall Village; WEAR YELLOW SHIRTS!

*Lane, Hamlin, Weiss, Ginther, Pasquarelli, Colabelli, Daniels, Rogers, Booker, Fioravanti, Tysiak, Brownrigg, Wagner, Metchick*

TROY KIWANIS PRAYER BREAKFAST, Tues June 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 AM, Russell Sage, \$11

*Lane, Weiss, Pasquarelli*

GOLF OUTING DINNER, Sat June 11<sup>th</sup>, Burden Lake CC, 6 PM, \$25

*Mulligan (2), Metchick*

SUMMERFEST 2016 at Butler Park Thurs June 16<sup>th</sup> – Sun June 19<sup>th</sup>. ALL SLKS NEEDED!

LIBRARY FAIR FOOD TRAILER, Sat June 25<sup>th</sup>, 11 – 3 PM

10 AM Tow TO, \_\_\_\_\_ 3:30 PM Tow BACK: \_\_\_\_\_

11 – 1 PM: *Mulligan, Ward, Daniels*

1 – 3 PM: *Wagner, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✚ Sand Lake Library Annual Book Sale, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 11-2, requests our Food Trailer. Staff will be needed to cook and sell hot dogs.
- ✚ WSL K-Kids will celebrate their past year on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4 PM in the Cafetorium of the WSL Elementary School. There will be awards and refreshments. You will be amazed at the professionalism of these 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders! Wear a Kiwanis shirt and show our Kiwanis support. Afterwards just come on up to our own meeting!
- ✚ Van Rensselaer Division Golf Outing will be on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at Burden Lake Country Club. Gather your friends for a day of fun, prizes and food! More details to come.
- ✚ Next weekend are the last four performances of *SOUTH PACIFIC* at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts. Don't miss it. The music is spectacular, and the whole show is wonderful!

## PROGRAM



John Robinson

Twitter - @getoffyourknees  
Web - ourability.com

Program Chair Jean Hamlin introduced tonight's speaker John Robinson. John described himself as a 4½ ft tall quadruple congenital amputee. The lower halves of both his arms and legs are missing, a birth defect of unknown origin. He is jovial and almost completely self sufficient. He's 47 years old, married 23 years



with 3 children: a 23-year-old son, an 18-year-old daughter, and a 12-year-old son who plays hockey. His wife is very athletic, and has run 5 marathons! John is a graduate of Syracuse University, but it took him 4½ years to get his first job, in sales for a TV station.

He worked so hard at that job that he became the #1 salesman in the US after the first year!

But when it came time to award the trip for the best salesman and for the publicity, it was given to #2, because management did not think he would make a good visual spokesman.

John's motto is "Never give up", and he formed his own company, Our Ability, of which he is president and CEO. They assist disabled persons

find work and help them with their other difficulties. "We are who we are because of our abilities, not our disabilities." Adults appear uncomfortable meeting him, but not children. He prefers being with children because they are honest and say what they think. One

of John's greatest achievement is the family trip on bicycles from Lockport to Albany, 350 miles, the length of the Erie Canal towpath,

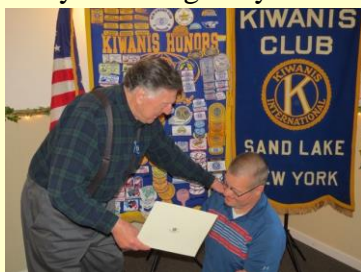
and he had slides to illustrate the event. He had seen a special bicycle used by Ryan Chalmers, who won Olympic gold as a wheelchair racer, and had one fashioned especially for himself.

They encountered unpaved pathways, unmowed grass, mud, rain and wind, but by helping each other, they were able to surmount the obstacles. "Obstacles are opportunities, and oftentimes opportunities are disguised as challenges." They attracted crowds wherever they stopped, especially other disabled persons, who were very encouraged by his accomplishments. After that initial

achievement in 2013, John and his family have navigated the Canal Path in 2014 and 2015, and plan to continue doing it each year to raise awareness of what a person can do despite severe handicaps. John answered many questions from the membership. Joe Trupia presented him with our Certificate of Appreciation for coming to speak to us, and for his inspirational program.



### 350 miles – All Down Hill



## HAPPY DOLLARS

- \$ Pat Lane:** I was adopted as an infant, and was the youngest in a very large family. My parents fostered many kids as well as caring for their own, and one of my foster sisters had MS. I was inspired by my parents' compassion, and fostered several myself in addition to my own five. I want to thank John for his wonderful example of how a person can overcome great obstacles, and succeed in life! Thank you for coming!
- \$ Jim Rogers:** I also want to thank John for a wonderful program!
- \$ Rose Metchick:** Thanks to all of you for welcoming me back to Kiwanis. I want to invite everyone to the SL Ambulance Open House this Saturday from 10 to 2 PM!
- \$ John Brownrigg:** Here's \$5 for my pleasant vacation in Florida. I connected with a military buddy from VietNam. I also learned of another that I had lost touch with. He was only 4ft 7½ inches tall, & 97 lbs. and had to get a Congressional waiver to jump out of the airplanes. We called him "Little Richard", and he won 2 silver stars, and 3 bronze stars for bravery during the conflict. Just last week he was killed by a hit and run driver!
- \$ Jean Hamlin:** Thank you, John, you inspire me! -- Ole & Lena were getting a divorce. The judge said he was granting Lena \$700 a week. Ole replied, "That's very nice of you, and I'll try to give a little whenever I can, too!" – An old Irishman was dying, and he asked his friend Mike to do him a favor: to put a bottle of Irish whiskey in the casket with him before they put him in the ground. Mike replied "Sure, I'll be glad to do that for ye, but do you mind if I pass it through me kidneys first?"
- \$ Jerry Tysiak:** Great to see Botsy back again, and thanks for bringing Bob with you!
- \$ Stu Nippes:** My happy dollar is for John's program. And I'm so glad to see Sam from K-Kids, and his father, too!
- \$ Pat Lane:** Don't forget to VOTE tomorrow! School Budget!

DOOR PRIZES, homemade breads & sticky buns provided by Jean, were won by **Eve Ward, Frank Lewandusky**, who gave it to our speaker John to take home to his wife, and to **Cody Lane!**

50/50 for \$26 was won by **John Robinson!**

PROGRESSIVE 50/50, worth **\$359.50** this week, will keep on growing in value because **Lucky, (or not so lucky), Craig Daniels** couldn't find that King of Clubs. All he could get is the **5 (of Clubs!)**



## COMING WEEKS.....

- MAY 23                      PROGRAM CHAIR: *Angelo Patti*  
PROGRAM: **Michelle Whalen - Dog Rescue Programs**  
GREETER/INVOCATOR/CERTIFICATE PRESENTER: *Craig Daniels*
- MAY 30                      NO MEETING -- MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION  
Parade forms at 9:30 AM at Westfall Village
- JUNE 6                        PROGRAM CHAIRS: *Bob Loveridge & Bryce Ginther*  
PROGRAM: **Community Services Committee Update**  
GREETER/INVOCATOR: *Peter Stevens*  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

JUNE 13

PROGRAM CHAIRS: *All Summerfest Chairs*  
PRE-SUMMERFEST WRAP-UP PLANS  
GREETER/INVOCATOR: *Nancy Davis*

***SPIRITUAL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:***

*“The ‘how’ thinker gets problems solved effectively because he wastes no time with futile ‘ifs’.*

**Norman Vincent Peale**