



Weekly Spokes

February 18, 2020

Club Officers (2019-2020)

President-Rhonda Jasper

Pres Elect-Linda Knight

Vice President-Wendy Freidman-Kolsin

Secretary-Kathy Jans Duffy

Treasurer-Rich Fredenburg

Past President-Dave Markel

Directors

Class of 2020 Liz Becht

Class of 2021 Jolene Steele

Tim Ryan

Class of 2022 Cindy Ody-Ortego

Dave Swenson

Fred Capozzi

Club Committees & Chairs

Administration: Tim Ryan

Community Service: Kathy Jans-Duffy/Linda Knight

Foundation: Tim Ryan

Fundraising: Linda Knight/Wendy Freidman/Kolsin

International: Dave Markel

Literacy: Liz Becht

Membership: Rhonda Jasper

New Generations/Youth-Liz Becht

Public Relations-Jolene Steele/Susan Backlund

Sunshine/Social-Jolene Steele

Club Announcements:

Music Fest Committee needs 2 more members-please reach out to Wendy if you are interested

Chocolate Extravaganza tickets have been distributed, please turn in money to Linda Knight and bring in your chocolate!

We received a Thank you letter from Paradise Rotary Club, for the donation we sent for Fire Relief

Trips & Happy Dollars:

Fred-8 day Caribbean cruise-sunny & 80's and delicious food

Jerry M-finally had family Christmas this past weekend, so now they can finally take their Christmas decorations down (maybe)

Jim-His brother is visiting from Colorado

Fred (again!) in St. Marten, the went on a chair lift ride, 3200 feet up a mountain, Denise wasn't so sure, but she did it! Took 40 minutes to get up and 40 to get down. Also, stood on the beach where jets fly over

Julie-rescued a basset hound puppy!

Guest Speaker

We were joined by Jeff Shipley, director of the Seneca County Chamber of Commerce. He came to talk to us about Leap day-Saturday, February 29, 2020. The Chamber is challenging locals to get out and do something kind for someone that day. Club members discussed a couple of different ideas! Stay tuned for more information.

SENECA FALLS ROTARY

Today's Guests & Visitors

Junior Rotarians-

Visiting Rotarian-

Guests-Denise Capozzi

Club Member's Rotary Anniversaries

February

Ken Mitchell-24 years

Kathy Jans-Duffy-18 years

Mark Benjamin-9 years

Cindy Ody-Ortego-2 years

Fred Capozzi-2 years

Club Member's Birthdays

February

Cindy Ody-Ortego

Jolene Steele

Important Dates & Reminders

3/28/20-Chocolate Extravaganza

4/4/20-District Training Assembly-
Canandaigua

4/30-5/3/20-District Conference-
Niagara Falls

Upcoming Programs

2/25-Club Assembly

3/3-Kris Knight-Childhood Lead
Poisoning

3/10-Margaret Moore-Suicide
Prevention

Today's Program/Speaker info:

Seneca Falls Rotarian, Fred Capozzi gave a presentation on the history of Ku Klux Klan and activities in our local area.

The Ku Klux Klan "KKK" was founded in 1865 by 6 former confederate soldiers in Tennessee. During the summer of 1867, branches of the Klan met and organized what they called the "Invisible Empire of the South". The first Grand Wizard was Nathan Bedford Forrest, a former Confederate Soldier.

During the 1920's, when the KKK was at it's peak, membership exceeded over 4 million men and women nationwide. The Klan was not only anti black, but also against Roman Catholics, Jewish and all foreigners (a bit ironic, as technically we are all descendants of foreigners).

Some of the documented local activities include:

In 1920-

The Klan opened and operated out of a building on Chippewa St in Downtown Buffalo. The mayor had an undercover officer infiltrate the Klan and gather intelligence. Later, the headquarters was broken into, with the member list put on display at the police headquarters.

In 1925-

The Klan held a 2-day rally at the Yates County Fairgrounds. A 4 day rally was held at the Chemung County Fairgrounds. A five day rally was held in Elmira from July 1-5, with fireworks and a parade on the 4th.

In October 1925, there was a large gathering of Klan members held at the Fordam farm, just after everything was set up, they were hit with a severe blizzard, resulting in the event being cancelled.

In 1926-

A three-day convention was held in the Town of Fayette on Sweet Hill in September. 1500 Klansmen and Women lived in a tent city on Sweet Hill.

Fred also shared some more recent stories about interactions with members of the KKK while working as Police Chief of Seneca Falls.