



Rota-Briefs



Rotary Club of Cohoes - A Subsidiary of Rotary International

February 25, 2009

Invocation: Jack Farrell

Song: Harry McDonald – Loch Lomond

Anniversaries: none

Birthdays: none

Visiting Rotarians: none

Guests: Steve and Laura Davis, and Matt Mazoway

Big Bucks

Mystery Raffle: Chuck Ries

Powerball: Matt Mazoway tried for the prize but was not successful.

Rotarians Present: Brooks, Demers, Farrell, Libby, McDonald, O' Shea, Pearson, Ries, E. Tremblay, L. Tremblay, R. T. Van Alstine and R. W. Van Alstine

Good News/Bad News: The following members paid happy/ sad dollars:

Mike Brooks because we don't have the money or they don't; Bob Libby because the CCSD boys and girls varsity basketball teams won and are playing in the Section 2 Quarter Finals; Chuck Ries because 8,000 people watched a former Cohoes High student make a ½ court shot at a recent [Siena basketball game](#) and win \$25,000; Linda Pearson because the Club received a thank you from the Salvation Army for helping to ring the bell at Christmas time; Ed Tremblay because St. John's Church was a victim of a check scam; Bob Van Alstine because his father is back at Rotary, and because Walter Speidel is progressing; Chuck Ries because he is happy to see R. T. Van Alstine; and Colin Demers because he missed last weeks meeting.

Events/ Information:

District 7190 [Toolbox](#) for December/January.

Rotary Basics: The 4- Way Test:

The 4-Way test is one of four principles that guild Rotarians in achieving ideals of service and high ethical standards. It was created by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in 1932. It was adopted by Rotary in 1943.

1. Is it the truth?
2. It is fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

See [Rotary's Guiding Principles](#).

Also see [The Four-Way Test Means Business](#) for an example of how is still being used in the business world.

Club Business:

January to June 2009 dues in the amount of \$90.00 is due. I sent an e-mail to all Rotary Club members. This e-mail represents your invoice. If anyone needs a paper copy, please let me know.

Program:

Peggy O' Shea, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services for the Cohoes City School District (CCSD), provided an overview of the 2009-10 budget and an assessment of the impact that the cuts in state aid proposed by Governor Paterson would have. See attached.

Bob Libby responded on behalf of the club.

Rotary Club Officers

Colin Demers - President

Marshall Barrett - Vice President/Program Chair

Robert W. Van Alstine - Secretary/Bulletin Editor

Michael Brooks - Treasurer

Beverly Signoracci - Sergeant At Arms

Mike Popolizio - District Governor

Cohoes Rotary Web Site - www.rotaryclubofcohoes.org

Next Week's Program:

Club Assembly

When and Where Other Rotary Clubs Meet:

Monday	
Corinth	7:15PM
Agape Bed and Breakfast, Rt. 9N, Corinth	
Hudson Falls	12:10 PM
Pizza Hut. Rt.4, Fort Edward	
Racing City Rotary	5:30 PM
Olde Gaslight Restaurant, 12 Ballston Avenue, Saratoga Springs	
Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake	6:15 PM
Bill Sewell Community Room, Town of Ballston Town Hall	
Lake George	6:15 PM
Holiday Inn Rt. 2223 State Rt. 9	
Tuesday	
Northern Lake George	7:30 AM
Watson Arts Center, Silver Bay	
Wilton	7:30 AM
Friendly's Restaurant, Route 50, Wilton	
Latham	12:00 PM
Century House, Latham	
Watervliet	12:10 PM
First Presbyterian Church, 819 23 rd Street, Watervliet Meets 2 nd and 4 th weeks only)	
Ballston Spa	12:15 PM
Manna's Restaurant, 17 Low St, Ballston Spa	
Glove Cities	12:15 PM
Holiday Inn, Rt. 30A, Johnstown	
Menands	12:15 PM
The Corner Well Restaurant, 698 North Pearl St.	
Scotia	6:00 PM
Turf Tavern, 40 Mohawk Avenue, Scotia	
South Glens Falls	5:45 PM
Humbuggs, Corner Bluebird Rd. and Rt. 32, South Glens Falls	
Chestertown	6:15 PM
O.P. Frederick's Restaurant, Rt. 8., Chestertown	
Lansingburgh	6:15 PM
Paradise Lounge, 630 2 nd and 117 th Streets, Troy	
Northville	6:30 PM
(Call for locations and directions)	
Schoharie	6:30 PM
Parrot House - Rt. 30 Main St. Schoharie	

Wednesday	
Niskayuna	7:15 AM
Route 7 Diner, 1090 Troy-Schenectady Road	
Delmar	7:30 AM
Normanside Country Club, 150 Salisbury Rd., Delmar	
Mohawk Valley	7:30 AM
Senior Center, 204 Canal St., Fort Plain	
Schenectady East	7:30 AM
Old Country Buffet, Crosstown Plaza, Rt. 7, Schenectady	
Turning Point	7:30 AM
General Schuyler Pantry 166 Broad St., Schuylerville	
Champlain Canal	8:00 PM
Community Room, Mid-Rise Senior Apts, 180 N. Main Street Mechanicville	
Albany	12:15 PM
Wolferts Roost Country Club, 1230 Van Rensselaer Blvd., Albany	
Amsterdam	12:15 PM
Raindancer Steak Parlor, Rt. 30N, Amstgerdam	
Cohoes	12:15 PM
Century House, Rt. 9, Latham	
Colonie-Guilderland	12:15 PM
Western Turnpike Golf Course Rt. 20, Guilderland	
Saratoga Springs	12:15 PM
Longfellows Restaurant, Rt. 9P	
Cobleskill	6:10 PM
Best Western Inn of Cobleskill Rt. 7, Main Street, Cobleskill.	
Granville	6:15 PM
AJ's Restaruent, Quaker Street, Granville	

Thursday	
Malta Sunrise	7:15 AM
Malta Diner Rts. 9 & 67, Malta (Exit 12 off I87)	
Rotterdam Sunrise	7:15 AM
McLanes Restaurant, 2717 Broadway, Rotterdam	
Shenendehowa	7:15 AM
Coburg Village Retirement Facility, Grooms Rd., Clifton Park	
North Creek	7:30 AM
Marsha's Restaurant, Main St., North Creek	
Schenectady	12:00 PM
Stockade Inn, 1 North Church St., Schenectady	
Twin Bridges	12:00 PM
Salty's, Northway Exit 8A, East of Rt. 9, Halfmoon	
Glens Falls	12:10 PM
Queensbury Hotel, 88 Ridge Street, glens Falls	
Troy	12:15 PM
The Red Front Restaurant, 71 Division Street, Troy	
Middleburgh	6:05 PM
Middleburgh United Methodist Church, Rt. 145 Middleburgh Main St. & Bush Rd.)	
Salem	6:15 PM
Bunker Hill B&B on Bunker Hill Rd. Salem (5.5 mi. NW of Salem)	
Southern Rensselaer	6:15 PM
Holiday Inn Express,US 4 East Greenbush (Exit 9 off I 90)	
Broadalbin	6:30 PM
The White Holland House, 1520 Ste Highway 29, Gloversville	
Fort Ann	6:30 PM
Mountain View Java, Rt 4, Fort Ann	
Sharon Springs	6:30 PM
Pit Stop BBQ, Rts. 10 & 20, Sharon Springs	
Friday	
Glenville	7:15 AM
Turf Tavern, Rt. 50, Scotia	

Rotary Club of Cohoes
PO Box 81
Cohoes, NY 12047



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Attachment to February 25, 2008 Newsletter

Fiscal Realities and the 2009-10 School Budget

Peggy O' Shea, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services for the Cohoes City School District (CCSD), provided an overview of the 2009-10 budget and an assessment of the impact that the cuts in state aid proposed by Governor Paterson would have.

Budget Basics:

Peggy explained that 55% of revenue for the CCSD comes from state aid, 36% is from property taxes, and the remaining 9% is from a variety of other sources such as payments in lieu of taxes. On the expenditure side, 82% is for salaries and employee benefits. The remaining 18% is for operation and maintenance, administration and business, debt service and pupil transportation.

Mandates and Requirements:

A significant challenge that the CCSD has is the number and cost of mandates and other requirements. The costs to provide these mandates has increased over the last few years. Peggy explained that the school district must provide these services, even if significant cuts in state aid are made. The most costly examples include: out of district, foster placed or incarcerated youth - \$594, 075; transportation of homeless, special education and BOCES programs - \$737,000; and payments to retirement systems - Employees Retirement System (ERS) and Teachers Retirement system (TRS). In 2003 costs for TRS were \$39, 030. In 2009 they will be \$1,128, 921.

Governor Paterson's 2009/10 SNY Budget Proposal:

The State of New York has lost about 20% of its revenue because of the recession and the significant impact it has had in the investment markets (e.g. Wall Street). In order to absorb these revenue losses, the governors proposed 2009/10 budget includes a \$700 million cut in state aid from 2008/9 levels, a \$173 million shift in preschool special education costs from SNY to the counties and very limited mandate relief.

Impact on CCSD:

If the governors proposed budget was adopted by the NYS Legislature, it would have a significant impact on CCSD. State aid to CCSD would be cut by almost \$3 million dollars. If expenditure levels for 2009/10 remained at the same level they were in 2008/9, then real property taxes would have to increase by 23.6%. Obviously this is not viable.

The Federal Stimulus package may help in 2009/10. However at this date, we do not know how this will impact us yet.

Cost Saving Measures:

Peggy explained that the CCSD has instituted a variety of measures in an effort to reduce the cost of operations. Building budgets have been reduced by 6%, the prescription drug and health insurance plans for employees has been restructured, and a retirement incentive has been offered.

Since 2004, the CCSD has already saved about \$700,000 in energy costs by making buildings more energy efficient. They are also saving additional money by partnering with the City

of Cohoes in purchase of gas, diesel fuel and road salt; trash removal; recycling; school resource officer; and landscaping, mowing and field maintenance.