



Rota-Briefs



Rotary Club of Cohoes - A Subsidiary of Rotary International

February 4, 2009

Invocation: Chuck Dedrick
Song: Marshall Barrett - Hey, Look Me Over

Anniversaries: No
Birthdays: No
Visiting Rotarians: Bill Nathan
Guests: Mayor John McDonald

Big Bucks

Mystery Raffle: Mike Brooks
Powerball: Marshall Barrett tried for the prize but was not successful.
Rotarians Present: Barrett, Brooks, Dedrick, Demers, Farrell, Hornbrook, Libby, Pasinella, Ries, E. Tremblay, and R. W. Van Alstine

Good News/Bad News: The following members paid happy/ sad dollars:
Bob Van Alstine because his father is in the hospital, and because Walter Speidel is holding his own; Chuck Ries because the stimulus package will work; Al Pasinella because he and his wife are leaving for Florida next Monday and won't be back until April; Mike Brooks because the stimulus package will not work; Colin because his daughter was amused at the British because they are not used to snow; Ed Tremblay because he is sick and he forgot his badge; Chuck Dedrick for missed meetings; and Bill Nathan because Gift of Life tickets are still available;

Events:

- **Marrow Donor Drive – Help Diane Kultzow**
Dian Kultzow, a well known resident of Malta, is suffering from lymphoma (a form of cancer). In order to beat her disease, she needs a

lifesaving stem cell transplant from a matching donor within the next few months.

A Marrow Donor Drive, sponsored by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute of Boston, is being held Saturday, February 14th (Valentines Day), from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Malta Ambulance Corp, 2449 State Route 9, in Malta. See <http://www.rotaryclubofcohoes.org/>

• Mike McNulty Honorary Dinner:

The Friends of Mike McNulty are hosting a dinner to honor former Congressman Mike McNulty. It will be held at the Empire State Plaza on Saturday, February 21, 2009. A reception begins at 6:00 PM followed by dinner at 7:00 PM. Proceeds will benefit the Regional Food Bank.

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.
- Colin announced that so far we have sold about \$1,800.00 in Century House dinner Raffle tickets. So far this year we have raised \$5,400 to give back to the community.
- Marshall Barrett enounced that we are beginning to plan our Annual Spaghetti Dinner. April 14th and May 1st are being considered. Bob Van Alstine will send an e-mail to all club members asking for their preference and availability.

Program:

John McDonald, Mayor of the City of Cohoes made a presentation to the club entitled State of the City of Cohoes for 2009, see attached.

Ed Tremblay 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:

Dave Smith - What LinguaLinx does?

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 4, 2008 Newsletter

State of the City of Cohoes for 2009

John McDonald, Mayor of the City of Cohoes, spoke to the Rotary Club of Cohoes regarding the State of the City of Cohoes. He began by stating that on Tuesday, February 10th he will make his annual 'State of the City' address to the Cohoes City Council. The purpose of today's presentation was to provide our club a preview of what his remarks will include.

These are difficult times for small cities like Cohoes. In the Mayor's opinion, the city workforce is not too fat. At the same time the city is sensitive to the tax burden that taxpayers in the City of Cohoes have. Consequently, it is a balancing act to keep expenditure levels and the real property tax levy in proportion with one another. He also mentioned that in Cohoes (what he called City Finances 101) that the city Council and taxpayers have developed a better understanding what money is being spent on.

For the first time, this year there will be no increase in city aid from the State of New York. The City of Cohoes has a 20 million dollar budget. At the same time, the City made a conscious decision not to cut expenditures for public safety (police and fire) or economic development.

They are looking at shared services as a way to contain raising costs. One way is for city departments to work collectively to purchase items in bulk so that the per unit cost will be less, e.g. paper. On a larger scale, they are looking at ways to provide services more efficiently through inter-municipal cooperation.

For example, they are looking at county wide assessing, and county wide 911 dispatching. Currently if someone in Cohoes calls '911' the call is routed to Voorheesville, who in-turn sends the call to the appropriate place in Cohoes. The City wants to change the '911' process so that primary response points are used instead. Under this plan, the '911' call would be routed directly to the right place in Cohoes in the first instance.

They are also in discussion with the City of Watervliet regarding either merging fire departments, or coordinating with each other for more effective coverage. In the City of Cohoes, the fire department has a 3.9 million dollar budget, of which over 93% of personal services. A coordinated effort may be more efficient. The Mayor did acknowledge that there is some resistance to this effort.

The City departments of: Zoning, Planning and Zone Enforcement were merged into a single Department of Building and Planning. The City has also instituted cost savings by using information technology (IT), and is conducting reviews of all City buildings to determine how energy efficient they are and where costs could be saved by making them more energy efficient.

City water and sewer cost and rates are also being reviewed. For the last three years, the city general fund has had to support the sewer and water funds.

A conscious effort is being made to reduce the cost of health insurance for city employees. For example, City Council members decided that since they are only part-time, the City will not pay for health insurance for them.

Police and fire department services are going well. The number of arrests, and the number of fire calls are declining. However, the number of EMS calls are on the rise. The Mayor also mentioned the rehabilitated fire house on Van Schaick Island will reopen in April 2009. The city has also received funding to replace the bridge on Bridge Avenue. The 9.1 million dollar project will begin in April 2009 and finish in May 2010.

The City has begun vacant building registration. Currently they have 20 vacant buildings. The idea is that each of them should be stabilized, rehabilitated or demolished.

The bad economy has made economic development more challenging. Since banks are more reluctant to lend people money, people wanting to start small businesses find it harder to obtain funding. Fortunately, the City of Cohoes has built up its commercial base over the last four to five years. In years past, these efforts have been very successful. From 2005 to 2007, 100 million dollars in investments have been made.

The Eddy Project is going very well. The City has also received a \$400,000 grant to make homes in the city of middle and low income people safer to live in and more energy efficient.

There is a committee working on making proposed revisions to the city charter so that language will be simpler and less restrictive. A report is expected by the end of June 2009. Another committee is working on preparations for the 2010 decennial census. It is hoped that the city's numbers will increase for 2010.

Falls Park opened in 2008, and in 2009 the next phase of the project will begin. Visitors will be able to go to the base of the Cohoes Fall.

In closing, the Mayor reiterated that the current economic climate is grim, but that there is light at the end of the tunnel!