



WATKINS GLEN SCHOOLS

PRESENTED BY: GREG KELAHAH

HOSTED BY: JIM SOMERVILLE

Meeting Date: January 4, 2018 –

Watkins Glen School District Superintendent, Greg Kelahan presented the District's Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2020. Greg thanked the Rotary Club for their involvement with the community's youth through the Student of the Month program and the Youth Exchange opportunity and remarked that the School and community must maintain a symbiotic relationship for both to be successful.

Watkins Glen School District employees about 250 people and serves 1,100 kids. When Greg came to the community in July 2017, a strategic planning session was held involving teachers, students, parents, and community members. Data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the need for occupations requiring at least an Associate's Degree will rise between 2016 -2026. This means Watkins Glen School aims to focus on preparing students for postsecondary education. Counselors at the school monitor enrollment of their graduates in higher level education. Data reports growth in the number of students who graduate high school, but also growth in the number of students who enroll in college, but do not graduate. Counselors are continuing to analyze this data and stay in communication with students and schools to understand the issues and decrease the number.



NEXT MEETING JAN. 18

PROGRAM: CareFirst

SPEAKER: Mary Mostellar

HOST: Meredith Williams

GREETER: Judy Phillips

In its strategic planning process, the District identified five core values for what they do and how they make decisions: Achievement, Collaboration, Dignity, Ingenuity, and Perseverance.

The District also created a new vision statement to summarize the essence of its core values: "Watkins Glen: From ingenuity comes triumph."

Schuyler County is on the verge of great successes with recent announcements of grant funding to improve the area and enhance it as a destination. The District too aims to be a reason for people to work, live, and recreate in Schuyler County. Greg's goal is to ensure students' employability for the demands of the future job market.

Mission:

"Our mission is to inspire learning in a supportive educational environment in order to prepare our students for achievement as engaged citizens in the ever-changing world."

JAN 4TH NEWS

GUESTS: Speaker, Greg Kelahan, Superintendent of Watkins Glen Schools, guest of Jim Somerville; Brett Somerville, Anthony and Kerrie Ohlsen, guests of Jim Somerville

RAFFLE WINNER: Mke Learn

AUCTION: JANUARY: Michelle Benjamin, Carl Blowers, Bruce Boughton

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST PAUL HARRIS FELLOW, NANCY COLE: Charlie Cole surprised his wife with a Paul Harris Fellow at the Rotary Christmas party on December 22. The Cole family was there to congratulate her.

DREAM RAFFLE FUNDRAISER: Items for a raffle basket fundraiser are being collected. Tickets for the basket will be sold at the club's upcoming events. Donations of gift cards to local restaurants, shops, accommodations, events can be given to Michel Ray or Terri Orbin.

HAPPY HOUR MEETINGS: Details to come on Happy Hour club meetings to be held at the Harbor Hotel on Tuesday evenings. This is in effort to attract new members that may not be able to attend luncheon meetings.

THOSE WE MISSED:

Duke Argetsinger, Jim Bacalles, Stan Beaver, Bruce Boughton, Steven Briggs, Beth DeCaro, Jim Guild, Jim Howell, Brian Kenney, John King, Nancy Loughlin, Debbie MacDonald, Gary Mead, Dennis Morris, Judy Phillips, Michel Ray, Nancy Ruda, Jeff Schultz, Bridgette Stewart, Lindsay Wickham, Ken Bell, Ginny Eaton, Dave Ryan, Dave Sidle

CELEBRATIONS AND CONFESSIONS:

Glenda Gephart: Congratulations to Nancy Cole for her Paul Harris Fellow award; Happy New Year!

Michelle Benjamin: Thankful to be back and healthy

Judy Cherry: Glad to be back

Nancy Loughlin: Glad to be back

Don Stocum: Happy New Year!

Jim Preston: Happy New Year!

Charlie Cole: Congratulations to wife Nancy!

Carl Blowers: Welcome back Michelle Benjamin; Picture on Odessa File

Nancy Peters: Congratulations to Nancy Cole; Happy New Year; Welcome to Somerville's guests from Australia

Rich Greenberger: Welcome Somerville's guests, Welcome back Michelle Benjamin

ON THE TRACKS OF THE BEAST

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS | (ARTICLE FROM ROTARY.ORG)

There are two inescapable elements of southern Mexico. The first is dust – desert rock ground to a powder that finds its way into your every crevice: the backs of your knees, the folds of your eyelids. You cough it up as you drift to sleep and discover its brume settled across your bedsheets in the morning.

The second element is violence. I found both on the gritty tracks of the Beast.

Among those apprehended at the U.S.-Mexican border between October 2015 and January 2016 were 24,616 families – the vast majority of them from Central America.

Over the past half-century, millions of Central Americans have crossed Mexico from south to north, fleeing poverty, decades-long civil wars, and, most recently, brutal gangs. To escape, migrants used to ride atop the cars of the train line known as the Beast.

In July 2014, Mexican immigration officials announced a plan called the Southern Border Program; part of it entailed closing the Beast to migrants. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto said the plan would create new economic zones and safeguard migrants' human rights by securing the country's historically volatile southern border. Instead, the number of migrants beaten, kidnapped, and murdered has skyrocketed. Some have even been victims of the black-market trade in organs.

In early 2015 I had just completed my studies as a Rotary global grant scholar, earning a master's degree in the anthropology of development. I had studied how trade and development initiatives in Mexico could make people's lives more perilous, not less. To learn about what was going wrong, I went to southern Mexico to use the skills I had gained through my global grant studies.



Among those apprehended at the U.S.-Mexican border between October 2015 and January 2016 were 24,616 families – the vast majority of them from Central America.