



PROGRAM: Southern Tier Soaring

SPEAKER: Ms. Donna Howell

HOST: Judy McKinney Cherry

GREETER: Beth DeCaro

ORGAN DONATION:

PRESENTED BY: ASSEMBLYMAN PHIL PALMESANO

HOSTED BY: JIM HOWELL, INTRO. BY MARK RONDINARO

Meeting Date: April 19, 2018 –

Assemblyman Phil Palmesano visited the Club to discuss the important issue of organ donation in New York State. Currently, only 30% of NYS residents are registered as organ donors, compared to the national average about 54%. There are about 9,500 people on the wait list for an organ transplant in NYS; 1,700 have been waiting more than 5 years; and 500 lives were lost in 2017 while on the waiting list. Palmesano is vocal about his personal experience with organ donation, having donated a kidney to his late sister who was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes.

Lauren's Law, requiring anyone filing for a NYS driver-license to check a box saying they would or would not live to register as an organ donor is now permanent and mandates that people make an active rather than passive decision. NYS also allows 16 and 17 year olds to sign up for organ donation with parental consent. This legislation will hopefully lead to increased registrations in the organ donation registry. Palmesano encouraged all members to consider registering, business owners to consider adding a link to the donation registry sign-up on their websites, and to generally promote this important chance to save lives. One person can save up to 8 lives at their death and age is no barrier to organ donation. For an excellent story on how organ donation has had a local impact, check out "A transplant journey" by Deb Schmidt on The Odessa File at <http://www.odessafile.com/people-DebSchmidt2018.htm>. Palmesano recognized Deb Schmidt for her selfless donation of a kidney. Her husband received multiple donations from other donors.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 3

PROGRAM: The Odessa File

SPEAKER: Charlie Haeffner

HOST: Stewart McDivitt

GREETER: Judy Phillips



CONGRATULATIONS OM SOTM: TREVOR DUNN

Odessa-Montour High School senior Trevor Dunn was honored Thursday by the Watkins-Montour Rotary Club as its OM Student of the Month for April. Dunn was introduced by teacher Peter Fitch, who described the honoree as "a leader and a positive role model" who has twice been a GST BOCES Student of the Month while studying welding there. He has also been involved for years in robotics, and is on the seven-member team from FLARE (Finger Lakes Area Robotics Education) that has qualified for robotics competition at a world gathering next week in Detroit, Michigan. Dunn, who Fitch said is always "willing to try things" that others might shy from, plans to pursue a college degree at Polytech in Utica, NY in engineering technology. Trevor thanked his teachers, coaches, and his parents for putting him on the right path to success.

Credit: Charlie Haeffner, The Odessa File

NEWS FROM APRIL 19

GUESTS: OM Student of the Month, Trevor Dunn and his grandparents, James and Dorothy Dunn, Presenter, Peter F.; Inbound exchange student, Beatriz; Our Speaker, Phil Palmesano, guest of Jim Howell; Gary and Deb Schmidt, guests of Nan Woodworth; Diane Karasevich, guest of the Club

RAFFLE WINNER: Jim Bacalles

AUCTION: MAY: Don Franzese, Glenda Gephart, Rich Greenberger

FUNDRAISING:

ANTIQUÉ SHOW: Don Stocum reported that the Antique Show raised more than \$1,450 for the Club. Thanks to the 20 Rotarians who volunteered at the event and to those who brought an additional 10 non-Rotarians to help.

DREAM RAFFLE FUNDRAISER: The raffle basket is assembled and includes a great list of items valued at over \$750. The Club has already made nearly \$600 in sales. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Members are encouraged to sell tickets. They can also be purchased at the Watkins Glen and Montour Falls Chemung Canal branches and Watkins Sporting Goods. Winning ticket will be drawn at Ribs & Reisling event on May 24 at Seneca Lodge.

RIBS & REISLING EVENT: The event is May 24 at Seneca Lodge. Members should have received invitations in the mail. Proceeds from the event will support literacy programs at Montour Falls library.

CHICKEN BBQ: Our newest event, Chicken BBQ, will be held June 2 in front of Visions in Watkins Glen. Looking for help, baked goods for the bake sale, and please come for chicken dinners!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLARE: The fines from April 12 meeting totaled \$144 and were donated to the FLARE Mechanical Meltdown robotics team to help with travel expenses to their World's competition.

DISTRICT CHANGEOVER DINNER: Will take place at the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel on July 2. We hope see a great showing from the Club. More info to come.

DISTRICT 7120 CONFERENCE: The District 7120 Conference is being held in Saratoga Springs May 4 – 6. Visit the District Conference website for registration and schedule details and let Terri know if you plan to attend.

THOSE WE MISSED:

JC Argetsinger, Steven Briggs, Rebekah Carroll, Judy Cherry, Glenda Gephart, Rich Greenberger, Jim Guild, Jim Howell, Brian Kenney, Mike Learn, Nancy Loughlin, Debbie MacDonald, Gary Mead, Dennis Morris, Judy Phillips, Bill Phoenix, Michel Ray, Mark Rondinaro, Jim Somerville, Bridgette Stewart, Don Stocum, Tom Weidemann, Nan Woodworth, Charlie Haefner

MAKEUPS:

Stewart McDivitt, Charlie Cole; District Training: Nancy Loughlin, Terri Orbin, Judy Cherry

CELEBRATIONS AND CONFESSIONS:

Michelle Benjamin: Missed meeting

Bill Phoenix: Student of the Month

Beth DeCaro: Missed meeting

Tony Fraboni: Missed meeting

Matt Hayden: Missed meeting, 9 year old son took 3rd in his age division at The Arc Grand Prix Run

Carl Blowers: Student of the Month, for Phil

Don Stocum: Student of the Month

Jim Bacalles: Student of the Month, for Phil, forgot to make it to dictionary giveout

Dean Hillyard: Missed meeting

Dena Carrigan: Missed meeting

Mark Rondinaro: Student of the Month, for Phil

Michel Ray: All family members registered as organ donors, Student of the Month

WATKINS-MONTOUR DICTIONARY PROJECT

The 2018 Rotaract Outstanding Project Award recognized the Rotaract Club of Edulink International Campus, Western Province, Sri Lanka, for a project that teaches entrepreneurial skills to women with HIV to empower them to earn a living.

The club created the Dream Store online platform, where the women can sell products they make and have their earnings go straight to their bank accounts. After meeting with the women to assess their abilities, the club partnered with local experts and Rotarians to expand the women's skills or teach them new ones. The women also received training in basic business and personal finance.

