

Soundings

December 3, 2009

Song Leader.....Barbara Clark
Pledge of Allegiance.....Hugh O’Kane
Invocation.....Jim Robinson

♪ DECK THE HALLS ♪

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa la, la, la, la, la, la , la , la.
Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la, la, la, la, la, la , la , la.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa la, la, la, la, la, la , la , la.
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol
Fa la, la, la, la, la, la , la , la.

See the blazing Yule before us,
Fa la, la, la, la, la, la , la , la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa la, la, la, la, la, la , la , la.
Follow me in merry measure,
Fa la, la, la, la, la, la , la , la.
While I tell of Yuletide treasure.
Fa la, la, la, la, la, la , la , la.

TODAY’S PROGRAM DINING IN WITH FRIENDS OUR SIGNATURE FUND RAISER

Upcoming Programs

December 10.....Hilton Head International
Baccalaureate Elementary School Choir
December 17.....David Warren
Mission Vision: Our Ambassadorial Scholar
December 24.....**NO MEETING**
MERRY CHRISTMAS
December 31.....**NO MEETING**
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Family of Rotary Birthdays

Frank Soule.....December 5
Marty Pauls.....December 7

Anniversaries

Hendrik and Mieke Smit.....December 3
Joe and Kaye Black.....December 4
Denny and Leila Nelson.....December 5

Club Anniversaries

The following people are all celebrating ONE year of Rotary membership on December 4:

Joe Dimaria, Laura Kortokrax, Beverly Maloney, Jim Montag, and Jason Stevens.

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT.....Rotary After Hours
Blue Parrot at the Mall
December 6.....Low Country Boil
Fellowship at Dolphin Head
January 31.....Scavenger Hunt

(Rumor has it that last year's champions are already planning their strategy, so get your team organized now!)

LOW COUNTRY BOIL THIS SUNDAY

Last chance today to sign up for the Low Country Boil being held this coming Sunday, December 6 at the Dolphin Head recreation area in Hilton Head Plantation. The fun for the whole family begins at 2 until the last Bell Ringer has had their fill of shrimp, sausage, and corn on the cob. Can't eat shellfish?? No excuse. There will be other food there as well. The cost is only \$10 per person, and kids are FREE. See Joe Dimaria and he'll give you all the details, including directions and how to get in the HH Plantation gate.

FOR THOSE WHO'VE ASKED

As mentioned at our last meeting, if anyone wants to make a donation in Al Gnesin's memory, please make out your check and send your gift to the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, and put Rotary Memory Matters fund in the memo line. Al chaired the Board of Memory Matters, so this is a most fitting memorial.

RINGING IN THE DONATIONS

The Salvation Army was founded in 1865 and has grown to expand into 118 countries. Today it is one of the most recognized non profit organizations. The Salvation Army is well known for its Thrift Shops, feeding the poor, and rehab centers. Our Rotary organization in its first year of bell ringing raised about \$1000 at the Old Red and White and only rang the bell on Saturday mornings. In most recent years, we have collected about \$25,000. During the bell ringing season, the money raised by our Bell Ringing efforts represents over half of what the Salvation Army raises for Beaufort County.

For several years the Salvation Army awarded a traveling trophy to the organization that raised the most money for them. After our Club won it twelve years in a row, the trophy was retired to our Club office. Several people shared great stories about their favorite bell ringing experiences. Bob Onorato took home our club's Bell trophy for his story about ringing the bell. It was quite cold that particular day and as he reached out to collect a dollar from a man, the man asked, "How much longer do you have for your shift?" With teeth chattering, Bob replied with a time frame and the man left, or so Bob thought. He actually went

to his car and got a bottle of Schnapps and came back and gave it to Bob.

Bruce Pitkin brought home the second place prize for his story about a young mother and daughter who approached him to donate money. The mother explained to the young girl that the money collected went to help the poor. As the young girl put her dollar in the red kettle, she told Bruce, "I am sorry you are poor...and maybe this dollar can help you buy some new clothes." Bruce added that the little girl told him that they gave money every year to the "*Starvation Army!*"

Barbara Clark took home third prize with her story about her daughter who collected several hundred dollars during her shift as she was young and very attractive and had her dog with her. Many young nice looking men approached her and appeared to be petting the dog when in reality they were checking out her daughter.

Touching stories came from members David Tirard, Hugh O’Kane, Skip Skiptunas, Frank Clabaugh and others.

Hopefully, these stories will help people get geared up for Bell Ringing season. Not only is money collected, but friendships are molded and memories are formed.

-Amanda O’Nan-

THE CHRISTMAS CHARITY

Why do we Rotarians ring the bell?

The "miracle" of Christmas is repeated over and over again through the joy of caring and sharing. The traditional Salvation Army Red Kettle is an integral part of the Christmas scene, with millions of dollars donated each year to aid needy families, seniors, and the homeless, in keeping with the spirit of the season.

Donations provide Christmas dinners, clothing, and toys for families in need. Financial assistance also helps with basic necessities, along with seasonal aid. Families of prisoners often are included.

Volunteers distribute gifts to shut-ins in hospitals and nursing homes, and shelters are open for sit-down dinners. The Salvation Army endeavors to bring spiritual light and love to those it serves at Christmas so that the real meaning of the season is not forgotten.

Many families receive aid over a period of months after the Christmas season as well, people struggling with difficult family, emotional, or employment problems.

***Are you doing your part as a Rotarian to raise the funds that make these services possible?
Sign up for your Bell Ringing shifts***

Goal Corner

Member Goal...6/30/2010.....151

Current Active Members.....141

Memory Matters 2010 Goal...\$250,000

Current total.....58.7%.....\$146,737