The Peal

Rotary Club of Canandaigua

Meeting Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. American Legion Post #256 454 North Main Street	**www.canandaiguarotary.org** Club # 4765, District 7120 Organized Apr. 24, 1919	Publication Date: October 29, 2026

Official Newsletter of the Canandaigua Rotary Service Foundation

Today's Program: Regina Deck - FL Healthcare System Holiday Giving
Next Week: Lily Loveless - 10 Chapin Street Project

Meeting Notes from: October 22, 2026
Pledge: President, Dr. Paul Harvey
Inspiration: Beverly Cartwright
Song: Mark Sheppard: Rotary Anthem

Visiting Rotarians: None were present

Remembrance: Dick McGavern spoke with Anne Smith and she let Dick know that the celebration of life for **Rod Smith** that was scheduled for Sunday, October 25th at Canandaigua Country Club has been postponed until further notice. Anne had a pacemaker put in which resulted in her having a blood clot, so she is unable to travel at this time.

Guests: **Mark Sheppard's** guest was **Angela Provada**. Mark knows Angela from The Tall Trainer and Kyle Sheppard is currently doing work for Angela at her home. She joined us as she wanted to hear Kyle's presentation on East Coast VanLife. **Steve Uebbing's** guest was **Melissa DeSain**, the Branch and Community Development Manager for Community Bank here in Canandaigua. Community Bank joined us this year as a corporate sponsor for our RPO Holiday Concert. Melissa is also a perspective member!

It was wonderful to have Scott Kesel joining us again at Rotary!

Announcements:
President Paul offered up the one pit pass he has, but there were no takers. **Steve Uebbing** shared the RPO Committee has raised enough in corporate sponsorships and ads sales to cover all the expenses for the RPO Holiday Concert. Now we need all our members to promote the concert and sell tickets. **Jeff Anthony** has Camp Onseyawa raffle tickets for sale. They are $5/each or 3 for $12. The camp has been at Camp Whitman for three years now and expenses continue to rise each year. The raffle and the annual camp golf tournament are the camp's major sources of income. Please be as generous as you can be purchasing raffle tickets. Camp Onseyawa dinner is being held on November 6 at Club 86 in Geneva. Tickets are $50 each and reservations must be made October 30th. The guest speaker will be Tom Hawks, Rick's brother. The camp is celebrating its 70th anniversary! **Jody Wilbur**, our literacy committee chair, shared *October is National Book Month*. The bookshelves we made were delivered to both the Canandaigua Fire Department and the Cheshire Fire House in Cheshire. To date we have about 600 books for the upcoming project, Books Under the Tree. We are hoping to have 950 books. If you have any children's books or large print books you would like to donate, please let Jody know. Don't forget about the pie baking on November 18th for Gleaner's Kitchen (see Upcoming Rotary Events).

Pumpkins for Polio: **Kim Tenreiro** made 3 wooden pumpkins and Janet auctioned them off, with the money going towards Polio Plus. **President Paul** purchased one for $25 and **Marty Potter** gladly got the other two for $50. (Very creative Kim!)



Happy Dollars: **Ken Poole** wanted to let the club know how much the Finger Lakes Symphany Orchestra appreciated the money our club donated to them so they could purchase new timpani drums. They played their first concert with the drums and Ken said afterward several orchestra members stopped to let him know how grateful they were to Rotary for the donation. **Dick McCaughey** says he and Meredith have been at Ferris Hills since August, and they closed on the sale of their home last week. **Donna Miller** reported she and one of our newer members, **Shelby McPherson,** met for coffee and spent time getting to know each other. This is in keeping with President Paul's hope that more members will take time outside of our weekly meetings to do the same. Shelby would love to have coffee with anyone who would like to do the same. **President Paul** presented **Marty Muehe** with his jokers draw winnings from a few weeks ago – a check for $644! **Bob Palumbo** spent time in Massachusetts with his son's family. He was able to watch his grandson play football and his granddaughter play volleyball. His son Nick recently celebrated his 44th birthday and Bob and Kit will be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary! Congratulations Bob and Kit!

Family Promise: **President Paul** visited Family Promise. They said since opening the new shelter they have housed 9 families. Six families have been able to move on from the shelter, and three families remain. They do have one person in need of shelter, but they have a dog. If you, or anyone you know, may be able to foster the dog for a short period of time so the individual could stay at the shelter, please let Family Promise know. Paul said Family Promise once again thanked Rotary for all the support. Our Monte Carlo night next April will once again go towards supporting Family Promise.

Program: ***Kyle Sheppard – East Coast VanLife***
https://www.eastcoastvanlife.com/

Mark Sheppard had the honor of introducing his son, Kyle. Mark read a submission his wife, Robin, made to TV Channel 13's Chris Lopez suggesting Chris should do a segment on Kyle's business. (Watch for this in the weeks to come.) Robin did an excellent write-up on why her son's business should be highlighted. Kyle started his business in 2021, during the height of covid. He dropped out of his first year at Utica College where he was pursuing a degree in construction management. At an early age Kyle was an entrepreneur, having one business at age 13 where he had 30 goats. Other endeavors followed that. When covid shut everything down, Kyle spent time on-line trying to identify the best businesses to start in 2021. Because people were isolating and many were heading to the outdoors, he landed on modifying vans so people could travel and stay in their vans. He purchased his first van, modified it and sold it to a traveling nurse from Ohio. He set up a web site and sold his second van to a person who found him on-line and trusted him enough to drop the van off at his parents' house. Kyle's wife Brin helped set up a 3D computer program so customers can see what the layout of their van will be. Each van is custom made, and no two are exactly alike. The vans are capable of being completely off the grid as they have their own power sources, water tanks and Starlink for internet access. He now has 13 employees and a new shop located on Rt. 245 in Stanley. They can comfortably work on 9 different vans at one time in the new building. Kyle's company has completed 60 full builds since the start up, being capable of doing approximately 14 to 15 vans per year. Their focus is on quality and attention to detail in order to deliver exactly what the customer is hoping for. They will work with new or used vans and prefer the vans to arrive empty. The most distant customer was from New Mexico, but most are within a 50-mile radius from the business. Somehow, in his spare time, Kyle started another business in July – Sheppard Homeworks (https://www.sheppardhomeworks.com/). At 24 years of age – Kyle you are amazing!

(sample of their work shown below)



Joker Draw:
Jody Wilbur drew the 2 of spades and **Kim Tenreiro** went home with $14.

Upcoming Rotary Events:
November 6th – Camp Onseyawa Dinner being held at Club 86 in Geneva. Tickets are $50 each. Reservations must be made by October 30th. Forms will be available at our weekly meeting to purchase your tickets.
November 18th – Pie Baking for Gleaners Kitchen. Pie baking will commence at 8:30 am at the American Legion. Everyone is welcome to join in!