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: November 5, 2026

Official Newsletter of the Canandaigua Rotary Service Foundation

Today's Program: Lily Loveless - 10 Chapin Street Project
Next Week: Patty Carlson – By George (Lucas)

Meeting Notes from: October 29, 2026
Pledge: Immediate Past President, Kent Gilges
Inspiration: Immediate Past President, Kent Gilges
Song: Mark Sheppard: God Bless America

Visiting Rotarians: None were present

Remembrance: Kent Gilges let us know that the son of former Rotarian, John Reyes-Guerra, who is only 32 years old, had a brain bleed while working out. He is now on life support in Arizona. Kent asked that we keep John's son in our thoughts and prayers.

Guests: Jack Kellogg's wife, **Ginny,** joined us for lunch. **Janet Tenreiro** introduced our guest speaker, **Gina Deck** and **Jay Richards** who had accompanied Gina. Jay is the Veterans Outreach Program Coordinator at the Canandaigua VA Hospital.

Paul Harris Presentation:



Congratulations
Jack Kellogg
for being
awarded a
Paul Harris +4!

Pit Pass: **Cat Barnum** purchased a pit pass for $40. **Kent Gilges** returned a pit pass he had and confessed to spending a week in Florida playing golf with friends.

Monte Carlo Night Committee: **President Paul Harvey** is asking any member who would like to be part of this committee to please meet with him at the Legion prior to our regular meeting on November 5th. The Monte Carlo fundraiser helps to support Family Promise and their new home on Main Street here in Canandaigua. This will be the 2nd annual Monte Carlo Night. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please reach out to Paul.

Announcements: Past President, Kent Gilges, talked about World Polio Day was on October 24th, which was the birthday of Jonus Salk, the person who developed the first successful polio vaccine. Rotary International began their polio irradiation program in 1979 by vaccinating 6 million people in the Philippines. Since then, Rotary has helped to vaccinate millions of more children around the world. Africa was recently declared polio free. The only two remaining countries with live polio cases are Afghanistan, (with 42) and Pakistan (with 6). We're so close to our goal of irradicating polio. **Kent Gilges** also shared a thank you note from the Finger Lakes Symphany Orchestra for our gift which allowed them to purchase two timpani drums. **Janet Tenreiro** shared info on the November 8th Rotary Foundation Brunch being held at Locust Hill Country Club. More info listed under Upcoming Rotary Events. **Steve Uebbing** made a pitch again for all members to support our upcoming RPO Holiday Concert by selling tickets to the event. Tickets are available online. If anyone needs help securing tickets, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kyle Sheppard or Marty Potter to assist you in the process. **Ken Poole** spoke with the owner of Treasure Trove, located on

South Main Street. Winter is just around the corner, and Ken is willing to collect any winter coats and/or socks you would be willing to donate to the store. Treasure Trove often provides those items to people in need for free. Ken also shared the Finger Lakes Community Band would be playing on Sunday, November 1st at 3:00PM – Behind the Mask. **George Herren** encouraged all to get out and vote!

Happy Dollars: **Kim Tenreiro** was happy the first two phases of refurbishing the American flag were done. The final phase will be to reassemble them. Kim was extremely happy to announce he is on the front cover of the ***55 Plus magazine***!! His hope is it will bring more interest in his, A Christmas Carol, performances. All the money raised at his performances is donated to various organizations. **Clark Kutz** has a joke he wanted to share at Rotary, but his wife told him not to. Apparently, you will have to go to 1st Friday sometime to hear it. **Kathleen Draper** recently attended a conference at the home of Al Gore in Tennessee, which she said was a wonderful experience. Along the way she also saw six of Thomas Dambo giant trolls. **Ben Green** reported a record 2247 people visited the Haunted Stroll at Sonnenberg Gardens. Ben was a zombie and lost his voice after scaring so many. **Rick Hawks** was 'kidnapped' by his children and taken to Arizona where his granddaughter attends college. He played some golf and spent time doing what college kids do today. He also mentioned his wife, Linda, will be one of our upcoming guest speakers to talk about the autoimmune disease she is living with. **Kathi Nevin** returned from a trip to New Jersey where Phil and her got to visit with their newest grandson. Kathi also had a happy dollar to give a shout out to Marty Potter and her upcoming 70th birthday on Halloween. The club sang Happy Birthday to her. **Janet Tenreiro** recognized the members who participated in the downtown 'Fall into Canandaigua' celebration. Gloria Dancause led the team, with Jodi Wilbur, Judy Gorenflo, and Nancy Stelnyk helping out. Still others assisted in bagging candy prior to the event.



Program: ***Regina Deck – FL Healthcare System Holiday Giving***

Regina Deck is the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) Program Chief (and Program Specialist) at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Canandaigua, New York, working within the VA Finger Lakes Health Care system. Gina delivered a passionate program about all of the programs and services her, and her team provide to Veterans and Veteran families each year during the holidays to help make the season a little brighter for them.

Last year, with donations from Lowes, they were able to create a Winter Wonderland for the residents at the VA. With support from the local Reindeer Farm in Shortsville, they not only had reindeer on-site, but Santa was there and refreshments were provided, including a hot chocolate bar. The National Honor Society was there to help as well. The VA plans on hosting this event again this year on December 10th from 6-8PM. Anyone interested in participating can contact Gina for additional information.

The easiest way to share all the info Gina shared with us is to provide a copy of the flyers she left for us. I have included them on pages 3-6 of this newsletter, and some will be available at our meeting on November 5th.

Joker Draw: **Kim Tenreiro** had the 1st ticket and chose to take the $15. **Larry Robinson** drew the 4-of diamonds.

Upcoming Rotary Events:

November 6th – First Friday will be at the Canandaigua Country Club. All are welcome. Bring your family and friends.

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 8th – Rotary Foundation Brunch is being held at Locust Hill Country Club from 11:00AM-1:00PM. Registration is via the District web site. https://rotary7120.myeventscenter.com/event/District-7120-Rotary-Foundation-Brunch-133827

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!

November 29th – Salvation Army Bell Ringing, be sure to sign up on our club website. (https://www.canandaiguarotary.org/)

VA Finger Lakes Healthcare System @ Canandaigua VA

HOLIDAY 2026 GIVING PROGRAMS

Holiday Gift Cards for Veterans:

The major focus of our gift giving to Outpatient Veterans in structured programs will be by Gift Card. This is a useful gift for the majority of Veterans, and to be consistent, we are asking for **Walmart Gift Cards in denominations of $20**. When delivered or sent to us, please specify they are for "Holiday Gift Cards for Veterans." To allow us time to distribute, we need to receive all Gift Cards **no later than Friday, November 27, 2026.**



Operation: Making Spirits Bright (Adopt-A-Family)

Purchase gift cards and/or gifts requested by local Veterans and their families, identified by our Staff, to be in desperate need during the Holidays. **Contact CDCE** for details and information. Please specify "Adopt-A-Family" on donation form and return to CDCE.

Write a Check: A popular choice, as your monetary gift, written out to **CDCE,** can be earmarked for a specific VA need or program and can be made in memory or honor of a friend/loved one. A complete list of specific program fund designations is available in our Guidelines for Donations. To receive, contact our Office.



Sponsor a Musical Performance or Recreational Activity/Outing: For a gift of memory-making, contact CDCE to identify a recreational activity or outing desired for the Veterans to add to their inpatient Veteran (CLC) monthly calendar! Donor would pay vendor directly and may be able to participate (activity-dependent) alongside our Veterans!





General Gift Giving (not just during the Holidays):

ALL items must be NEW

Inpatient and Outpatient Veterans have ongoing needs for various items throughout the year. Below is a list of useful items:

All Programs

Gift cards: Amazon, VISA, prepaid Gas Cards, Uber, Grocery, Wal-Mart, restaurants, CVS, Patriot Bucks or Canteen gift cards (to be purchased/redeemed at VA Canteen)

Personal Care Items: 2-in-1 Body wash/shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, denture adhesive

Cold Weather Gear: Fingerless winter gloves, heavy, insulated, waterproof men's winter gloves, hats, neck warmers/gators, NEW winter coats, sweatpants & sweatshirts (sizes L-4X), T-shirts (L-4X), men's Boxers (all sizes), neutral-colored women's sweatpants & sweatshirts, T-shirts (sizes M-4x)

Activities: Adult coloring books, colored pencils, craft kits, watercolor, canvas & art supplies, word search books (NO PUZZLES CDS OR DVDS)

Homeless Program

- Alarm clocks, laundry baskets, air mattresses with built-in air pump
- Pillows, bedding, blankets
- Brooms, mops & stick vacuum cleaners
- Kitchen items (dishes/utensils/pots/pans)
- Paper products (plates, napkins)
- Towels, shower curtains, shower hooks
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning items
- (NO HOTEL SAMPLES)

Women Veterans Program

Diapers, wipes, diaper bags, baby wash/lotions, baby monitors, assorted gift cards for formula and other high-need items

Contact CDCE for more information and to Schedule the Delivery of Donations: 585-393-7757 or E-mail: regina.deck@va.gov

**CDCE Office is located inside the Canandaigua Outpatient Clinic Entrance, Room 1E001*

VA Center For Development & Civic Engagement, Canandaigua VA Medical Center
400 Fort Hill Ave, Canandaigua, NY 14424

VA FINGER LAKES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM - DONATION FORM

(Please print legibly and complete all information)

Please Check Facility Location of Donation: BATH____ CANANDAIGUA____

_____**Check Here if Acknowledgement is Requested**

Organization or Individual(s): _____ Donation Date:_____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Type of Donation: ☐ Item(s) ☐ Activity ☐ Monetary: (Check Number _____ Amount _____)

*Please indicate in appropriate section below details of your **Item** or **Activity** donation*

Program(s) Designated: _____ In Memory Of: _____

Details of Item Donation: ***(Similar items may be categorized instead of detailed i.e.: Assorted Personal Care Items)***

Quantity	Item(s)	Value	Quantity	Item(s)	Value

Indicate where items are to be directed: General Use ☐ Clothing Room: ☐ Jump Start: ☐ Other ☐

Total Value of Items: $ _____

Details of Activity Donation:

Type of Activity: _____ Activity Location: _____

Number of Veterans Attending/Impacted: _____ Recreation/Staff Assisting: _____

Food Items Provided and Value: _____ $ _____

Prizes and/or Gifts awarded and Value: _____ $ _____

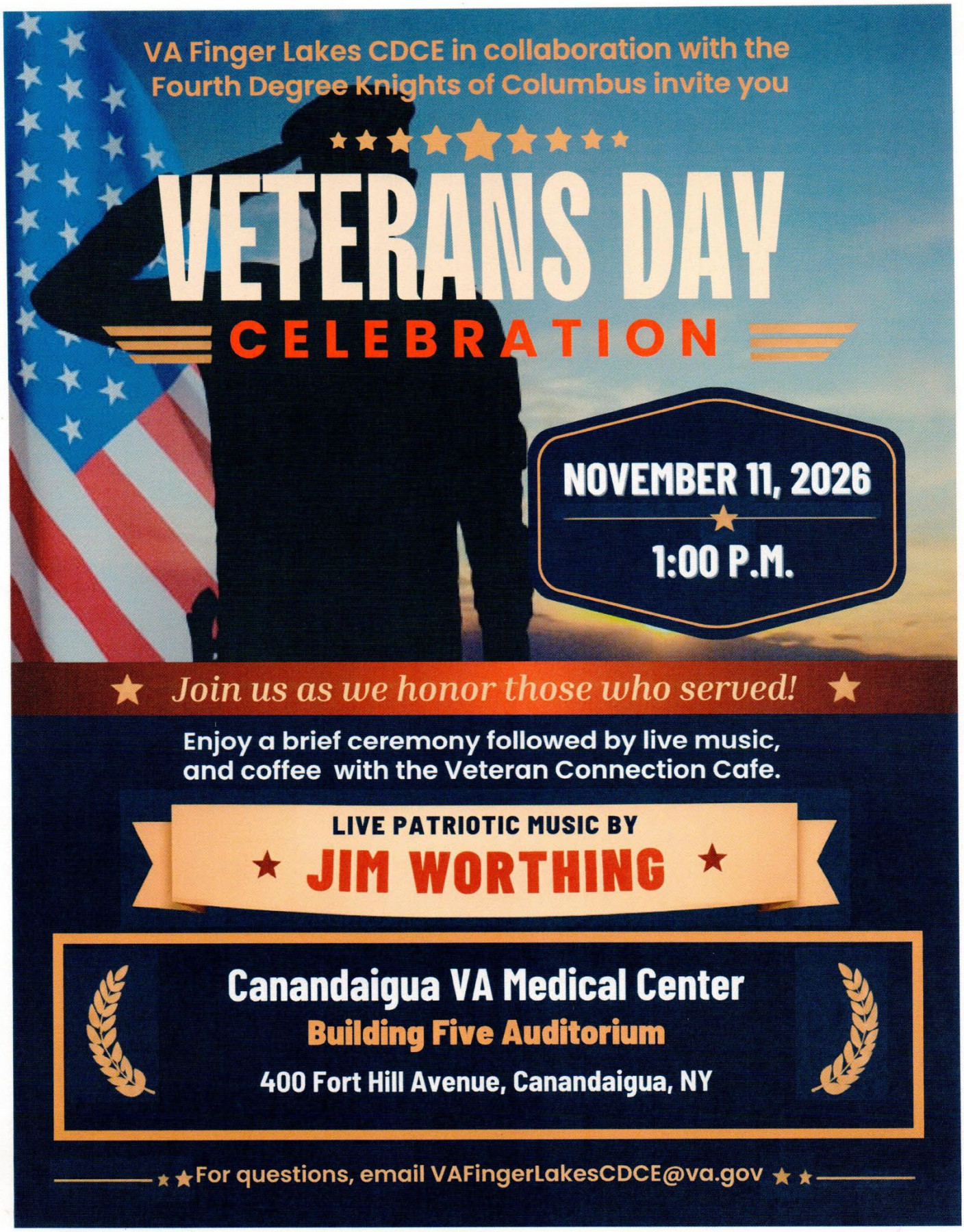
Total Activity Value $ _____

ATT: Donor,

We very much appreciate your generosity. Whether your donation is valued at $3.00, or $3,000, each donation is important to us and it is important that we record it.

Monthly and annually we report all items and dollars that are donated. That information is an important indicator that community support is vital to our existence and necessary to fill the gaps in Government funding that we do receive.

Please take just a minute to record your donation! If you don't want to enter your name, then write anonymous. If you don't need an acknowledgement, then just indicate so. While we really would like to thank you, and give credit where credit is due, it is still vital that you report your donation. **REV 07/23**


VA Finger Lakes CDCE in collaboration with the
Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus invite you
VETERANS DAY
CELEBRATION
NOVEMBER 11, 2026
1:00 P.M.
Join us as we honor those who served!
Enjoy a brief ceremony followed by live music,
and coffee with the Veteran Connection Cafe.
LIVE PATRIOTIC MUSIC BY
JIM WORTHING
Canandaigua VA Medical Center
Building Five Auditorium
400 Fort Hill Avenue, Canandaigua, NY
For questions, email VAFingerLakesCDCE@va.gov

VA Veteran Serenity Garden Winter Prep Help needed!

Join Rotary & Kiwanis Volunteers:

Thursday 11/5 & 11/12, following Rotary meeting, from 1:30-2:30/3pm at the VA courtyard garden to prune & mulch!

**Mulch provided by Victor Home Depot*

For questions/RSVP, reach out to Dave Hutching or Regina.Deck@va.gov

Thank you for your ongoing support & collaboration!



