



The Peal

Rotary Club of Canandaigua



Meeting Thursdays 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:
January 22, 2026

Official Newsletter of the Canandaigua Rotary Service Foundation

**Today's Program: Mark Sheppard: Rotary Friendship Exchange
January 29th: Matt Hanggi, Infectious Disease Specialist: The Threat of
Tick-Borne Diseases in Ontario County**

:

Meeting Notes from: January 8

Pledge: Trish Carey

Invocation: Trish Carey

Song: Mark Sheppard – God Bless America!

Guests: Domenic Argentieri – for the last time!

Visiting Rotarians: None – although Tracey Dello Stritto – long time no see!



Announcements:

Dick McGavern took wife Sandy to Sky Top Resort for her 85th birthday! **Rick Hawks** bought the pit pass for \$20.00.

NEXT WEEK: Joint meeting at the Elk Lodge on Tuesday, January 13th.

Maria – Our exchange student: spent Christmas Eve with her host parents (Maria Bucci). Got lots of presents! Went ice skating with friends, and rehearsals started for the spring musical. Busy, busy!

Happy Dollars:

Curt Bailey thanked all Rotarians who rang the bell for the **Salvation Army**. **Paul Harvey** rang at Walmart in single digit temps, and **Ben Green and Dave Hutchins** came in costume and brought it in!

Bill Hallett went to the Florida graduation of his grandson at the University of Tampa, and his granddaughter left for a semester in Spain, and 2 weeks from today leaving for Florida.

Jeff Anthony's son Todd had a baby daughter on January 3rd, now has 2 grandsons and 2 granddaughters.

Ken Poole told us that former Exchange Student **Enrico** visited over Christmas. He's now a cardiologist in Boston.

Domenic Argentieri is happy he's being inducted today!

Ben Green went on his first date last weekend! **Dave Hutchins** happy for **Ben** and is setting up date #2.

Dave Korpiel's daughter led her Calvary unit in the Rose Parade on New Year's Day!

Michael Bay-Borelli's Lion's exchange student is going to be the Physician on the European Antarctica Research Station.

Rick Hawks went to Clemson to celebrate his grandson's graduation and the fact that he's going on to a Michelin job. He also went on an 8 day trip to Disney World – treating Linda's family, then on to the Mayo Clinic to figure out what's going on with Linda.

Induction: **Domenic Argentieri**, our local Scout Executive was inducted. He lives in Irondequoit with his wife and 2 teenage daughters. Please welcome him.

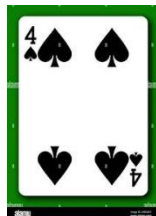


Program Notes: **Budding Readers – Lynn Johnson and Tam Spitzer.**

Mission Statement: “To educate, encourage and equip parents to read with their infants and young children as a natural part of their daily routine. Ontario County, NY is our primary focus. However, when we have sufficient books and funds, we may support projects our of Ontario County that align with our mission.”

They give bundles of books to newborns and children up to 36 months. The bundles consist of 8 books plus a parent guide. They are not part of schools, but they work closely with them, as well as WIC, Healthy Families, and Family Promise of Ontario County. They attend birthing classes offered by Ontario Health. They have a loyal donor group – but the biggest problem is finding new babies! The cost of books keeps going up, so donations are very important. They appreciated the efforts of Michael Bay-Borelli in acquiring a \$500.00 grant from our club. They try to purchase books in bulk and they have a large storage facility in Farmington.. They distribute about 10,000 books per year including UPK and Kindergarten. They deliver all books in person, and they don’t accept used books.

Joker Draw: **Janet Tenreiro** was the lucky winner of both tickets and took home \$12.00 and drew the 4 of Spades.



The PolioPlus Jar collected \$99.00.

Upcoming Events:

February First Friday – The Beehive

March 7 – RLI Johnson City 8am – 12:30 pm

Friday, April 17 – Eastern Cities Dinner

Locust Hill Country Club

March – Bowl-a-thon

Notes from Joint Meeting:

January 13th was our joint meeting with **Kiwanis**. The pledge of allegiance was led by **Kiwanian President Elizabeth Malenga**, and the invocation was by **Jim Hough**.

Kiwanis business: They are selling Superbowl Squares for \$25.00. They’re gearing up for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Sonnenberg, where they will hide 9,000 eggs!

Rotary President Kent Gilges welcomed everyone and went on to give us a little history about Kiwanis: founded in 1919 in Detroit, with a focus on children.

Rich Cummins was introduced as a visiting Rotarian from Webster (also a part of the program).

Exchange Student Maria is busy with musical rehearsals, and enjoying watching football with her host family – big Bills fans!

Scott Kesel spoke briefly about Youth Exchange and encouraged any interested folks to look at being a host.

Donna Miller had a list of **CA Graduates of Distinction, which includes MANY Rotarians and Kiwanians**. Nominations are due for 2026.

Al Walker took a fall and broke his ankle, so he will be out of commission for at least 6 weeks as he recovers.

Ben Green got his first kiss!

Captain Jeremiah Eisley of the **Salvation Army** announced the winner of the 2025 SA Bell. Both clubs showed up big time, collecting a total of \$16,284.35, and ultimately, **Rotary took the bell with \$8,752.56**. Between the two clubs, we kept 16 families from homelessness and provided 6,500 meals!

Program Notes: Bella's Bumbas – Global Mobility is our Mission!



Bella's Bumbas started with 1 chair that Marty Parzynski made for his great niece who was born with Spina Bifida, leaving her paralyzed from her knees down. It changed her life. Since then, the group has built over 3,600 chairs for children in 70 countries. What is different about these chairs is that they are built for the tiniest of patients. Regular wheelchairs don't come this small and close to the ground, so Marty took a Bumbo seat and attached it to a platform and added wheels.



Bella

(Bumbo seats are typically made from soft foam, designed to help infants who can't sit up on their own yet maintain an upright position for playtime, feeding, or social interaction.) He has modified them to uniquely fit each child – with one-handed drives, one brake only, so that if they need to stop, they can still go in circles. They are also waterproof, so the kids can play in the water park and the chairs can be washed down – what a blessing!

They are totally free to the family, they only ask for shipping costs.

There are sponsorship programs – people can donate for a specific child, or just in general. The typical wait time for a chair is 4-6 weeks, but usually they are provided in 2-3 weeks. The chairs take about 35 minutes to assemble!



This chair has a trailer attached for this child's oxygen tank. It gave her freedom like she had never had before.

For anyone wishing to donate to Bella's Bumbas, here are the ways to do so:



There was \$104.00 in the 50/50 pot. **Kathleen Draper** won \$52.00 and the other \$52.00 was donated to **Bella's Bumbas**.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 22 at the Legion.

