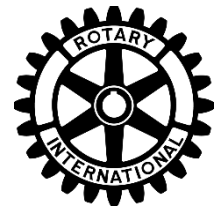




The Peal

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:
November 13, 2025

Official Newsletter of the Canandaigua Rotary Service Foundation

Today's Coach Mark Taylor – Hobart Hockey

Next Week: Jeremy Biernat – Tall Trainer

Meeting Notes from: November 6, 2025

Pledge: Paul Harvey

Invocation: Beverly Cartwright

Song: Ken Poole - America

Guests: Prospective members: **Matt Parsons** (4th meeting), **Melissa Fiorentino**, **Melanie Soberon**.
Guest speaker: **Deb Martin**

Visiting Rotarians: **Tom Seaver** formerly of California Modesto Club, and now prospective transfer into our club.

Announcements: **Kim Tenreiro** asked for anyone interested in serving on the Board to let him know. Kim also shared the moving resignation letter of recently deceased **Peter Mulvaney** who valued his Rotary involvement and altered his perspective on people serving as agents of good. **Janet Tenreiro** shared that November is Rotary Foundation (RF) month. The RF was founded in 1917 by Arch Klumph and seeded with \$26.50. The endowment has not surpassed \$2.025 Billion and represents one of the largest for service organizations. All Rotarians are encouraged to support the RF. **Exchange student Maria** shared her experience with the school play and notified the club there will be a musical in March. **Steve Uebbing** said the RPO concert in December is good to go with only the selling of tickets remaining so Sell/Sell/Sell. **Doug Merrill** advised continued boiling of water in the city until a second test proves the recent water main break has been corrected and the water is untainted. **Curt Bailey** is looking for Bell Ringers for 11/28 and for 12/19 to help the Salvation Army red kettle campaign. **Mark Sheppard** advised all to be prepared for the annual Pass the Hat to help those in need. The first hat passing will be on 11/20/25. **Paul Harvey** indicated is thanks to **Gloria Dancause**, **Jodi Wilbur**, **Mary**

Green, and all the other volunteers who made the inaugural Monte Carlo Night event a success. He anticipates net proceeds to be about \$18k dollars.

Happy Dollars / Fines: **Doug Merrill** expressed thanks for the six years of dedicated service of **Bob Palumbo** as Mayor of Canandaigua. **Bob Palumbo** was happy to graduate into the “20 with 50 years’ experience” club as well as the Mayor Emeritus Society. **Ben Green** recounted the events occurring at **Dave Hutchings’** daughter’s presentation and the cookie tower debacle at the Pittsford Bakery. The Polio Plus jar passed around and garnered \$100.80

Program: Name: **Mediate... Not Litigate.**
Retired Judge Deb Martin presented the history of the mediation program she was an integral part of developing. Judge Martin had an impressive career in civil litigation, with the NY Attorney General’s office, as a Judge in the NY Court of Claims and Supreme Court and is currently a Judicial Hearing Officer who mediates civil cases in the surrounding 7 counties.

Typical litigation cases that seek significant monetary damages include medical malpractice, vehicle accidents, construction accidents, breach of contract, business disputes, and personal injury. Adjudicating claims via litigation is often a time-consuming and expensive process that ultimately might provide monetary award but no, or negative, emotional closure or relief of suffering. To address this there are now court-mandated Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methodologies which reduce court backlog, shortens resolution time and minimizes expenses that would normally be incurred in a taking a case to trial. The most popular ADR is mediation.

Litigation differs from mediation in that a formal trial

in a courtroom that can last days to months is involved. Testimony from witnesses and presentation of evidence in conformation with strict rules apply. There are significant costs and significant risks with decisions being made by a jury or judge, and which might be subject to appeal adding more time to achieve an end result. None of the endpoints in a trial consider sociological factors of emotional aftermath or suffering.

By contrast, mediation is an informal guided discussion which can occur in person or virtually and is often resolved in one day. The parties are active participants in the discussion incurring minimal cost and low stress. There is no risk involved as the participants can resort to formal litigation if the mediation proves unsuccessful.

A case study was presented which centered around an altercation between two college students whereby one was killed. Over a period of years, the respective families sought a judicial decision. By resorting to mediation each family was able to come to understand the respective pain of the other family and way to closure was achieved via a Statement of Humility. While a tragedy was surely the reason for the mediation, the successful conclusion afforded each family to 'move on' without a lifetime of acrimony infiltrating their daily lives.

The concept of Restorative Justice, a form of mediation was outlined. Based upon tribal practices of holding members accountable and used in specialized criminal courts or schools this method is effective in mediating cases that have a strong emotional component that would prevent settlement in more litigious formats.

The Restorative Justice method is now a component of some schools of Law including UCLA's version called "Trauma Informed Lawyering"

From this observers view, in addition to all the psychological, emotional, and monetary benefits for the parties of the complaint, it seems that the mediator is also a beneficiary of a wider latitude in resolving the issue at hand. I imagine in the litigation scenario the rigid rules of what and how can be presented could be frustrating to the parties involved and to the judge assigned. Contrasting this, the mediation format allows for much more latitude, faster resolution, more in-depth participant involvement, and more 'humanity' to be delivered by the mediator as opposed to a judge bound by strict rules of a trial format.

50/50 (\$19): Ellen Polimeni
Joker Draw (\$19): Ed
O'Connor drew the Queen of Clubs.



Upcoming Rotary Events: November 27, 2025
Thanksgiving – NO MEETING, December 4, 2025
RPO Concert – NO MEETING.