



KIWANIS KEY

Weekly Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Green Bay – Downtown

CLUB MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2016

Only 12 in attendance today, too bad because the rest of you missed a truly interesting program. But more on that later. First our lunch. It was chicken parmesan with noodles, and a salad. "Mouth watering" says your club food critic. Thanks, Black & Tan!

Vice President Anne ran today's meeting because Ole was golfing. That's okay, it's August in Wisconsin and we all need to get outdoors more! Anne selected Ben to give our prayer and he did a wonderful job (focused on the kids getting ready for school in a few weeks) and then she had a moment of panic ... Anne had forgotten to select our music! She recovered very quickly, however, and soon we were belting out "Smile Sing a Song", "Oh Susanna", and the "Packer Fight Song". The middle song was a lot of fun, we had to try it twice. We were way off key first attempt, but nailed it on the restart. Gold medal performance by our singers!

Today's happy dollars came from Joe for the tomato expert he met at the Farmers Market, Bob F. for his enjoyable trip to see "Singing in the Rain" at the Fireside Theater in Ft. Atkinson, and Anne who is hoping her dollar will bring good luck and her Delta Airlines flight will take off later this week.

We had a last reminder ... Pres. Ole needs helpers to greet customers and clean tables at the Hu Hot restaurant on Wednesday night. I think Anne found a couple, thanks club members!

Our speaker today was Jason Arnoldi, facilities manager at the Bay Beach amusement park. His topic was the many changes we've seen recently at the 9th oldest amusement park in America and the many more changes that are in the plans. Jason said it all started with a master plan update in 2008 and then really zoomed off in a positive direction when the Zippen Phippen opened in 2011. Attendance has skyrocketed and the park no longer needs any financial assistance from the City of Green Bay to operate.

Jason said the park is also getting a lot of help from a group called "Friends of Bay Beach" which has been responsible for raising over \$2.5 million for the park (goal is \$5 million). This support has allowed Bay Beach to keep ticket prices at a quarter. In fact, in the 125 years of park history ticket prices have only gone up 15 cents! Here's a list of new and future park projects, it's pretty impressive:

* New - the Sea Dragon ride, Bay Beach Grill, environmentally friendly parking lot, two new trains (donated by the family that started Carmex lip balm),... the Bay Beast ride, the Rockin' Tug ride.

* Coming Soon - the Falling Star ride, a train ride that goes under the Zippen Phippen, more shelters and bathrooms, a new concession building, a bigger Ferris wheel, a boardwalk along the water, and ... just possibly ... a real beach on the bay again (missing for 70 years or more).

Jason has worked at Bay Beach since he was in his teens and his love for the park was very apparent throughout his presentation. Thanks, Jason, for your leadership in developing a world-class amusement park right here in our small town.

Upcoming programs:

8/15 - Jane Jordan, Wellspring (Charity).

8/22 - Victoria and Glen from AmeriCorp (they respond to weather-related emergencies). Guest of Ann.

8/29 - Doug's program.

9/6 - The day after Labor Day we will hear from Brian Johnson of On Broadway (Bob R.).

9/12 - Steve Vickman, Mediation Center of Greater Green Bay (Rick).

by Rick Satterlee