

Kiwanis

GREEN BAY – DOWNTOWN, Founded 1917



KIWANIS KEY

Weekly Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Green Bay – Downtown

KIWANIS MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2016

A small group, just 13 of us, got a special St. Patrick's week treat today with a corned beef and cabbage lunch. For the rest of you, there's only 365 days approximately until you get another shot at this supreme meal, ... just ignore those stomach groans in the meantime!

After Ben's prayer, Boyd went all patriotic on us with his song selections. Today we sang "Grand Old Flag", "America, The Beautiful", and "God Bless America" in honor of our speaker's topic, the United States Constitution.

Charity started out today's Happy Dollars with a bang ... a \$5 donation saluting her vacation with her daughter, the fact that she won't have to travel again for work for two months, her Irish heritage, and love for corned beef and cabbage! Emmet added a dollar to speak about taking a boat ride through the Panama Canal. and Doug honored us with his joke of the week. Thank you generous members!

Rick was the guest leader of today's meeting (many club officers on vacation this week). He read a nice letter we received from Camp Wawbeek thanking us for our \$100 donation toward the purchase of their golf cart (used to help guests with mobility issues). We also got a post card from Mayor Schmitt inviting club members to his "State of the City" address on the 29th at the Meyer Theater.

Today's speaker was lovingly introduced by his father (Dal) and applauded by his mother (guest Lorna). Steve Wood is the youngest of the five Wood brothers (but held his own in their many squabbles, according to Dal), and traveled all the way from Eau Claire to be with us. Steve is a UW Stevens Point graduate, Army veteran, entrepreneur, marathon runner, and the developer of our club's website.

Steve's topic today was Article V of the U.S. Constitution, which states that upon the application of two thirds of the states, a convention can be called to propose amendments to the Constitution. Those amendments, to become valid, would then have to be ratified by three fourths of the states. No congressional action, or signature by the President, would be required.

Steve told us there is a nationwide movement underway to use the powers of Article V to ease the division we now see in our country. He cited recent issues such as fights at Trump rallies, arguments about the pending Supreme Court vacancy nomination, and problems that have been bothering citizens for a longer period, such as the growing powers of federal agencies, and our worrisome national debt. These problems, and many more, "are attracting the wrong kind of people to Washington, D.C.". Steve believes, as do growing numbers of citizens, that state's rights need to be restored, and the federal government needs to return to the days when "they provided an environment that protects rights and fosters individual freedoms".

The Convention of States rallying cry is to impose fiscal restraints, limit federal government power and jurisdiction, and limit congressional terms. Steve said that 240 years after the creation of our constitution "we have lost our way", and it's time to get back to the type of government the writers of our constitution envisioned.

Thank you, Steve, for your passionate presentation. We all learned a lot today. And we hope to continue the Kiwanis tradition of learning in our coming meetings:

March 21 - Emmet Weber has the program

March 28 - 5:45 PM for the Walter Awards at the Black & Tan Grille

April 4 - Dave Weber has the program

April 11 - Andrew Smith, Green Bay police chief, will be the guest of Gloria Yu

April 17 - 8 AM to Noon, Pancake & Porkie breakfast at St. Brendan's Inn.

by Rick Satterlee