

Kiwanis

GREEN BAY – DOWNTOWN, Founded 1917



KIWANIS KEY

Weekly Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Green Bay – Downtown

KIWANIS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 29, 2016

For probably only the fourth or fifth time in our 99-year club history, we met on February 29th. A special group of 18 people came to the Black & Tan Grille to celebrate. It started with a dandy lunch of chicken piccata, wild rice, and green salad with a fresh herb vinaigrette. And rolled along with Emmet's prayer, then Boyd's song selections of "Stodola Pumpa", "Wait 'Till The Sun Shines Nellie", and "Show Your K".

The last song was in honor of our "Wear Your K Pin" event today organized and promoted by Dal. An anonymous member had promised to pay one happy dollar for every K pin that came to lunch. That total was 14 (thanks to the five pins worn by Dal). After JOE JACQUES paid his promised bounty, Dal challenged the rest of us to contribute, ... and we did! The official treasurer's tally was \$55 ... thanks generous members! Dal closed the celebration by sharing his bag of candy bars and encouraging us to "wear your K" every week.

Other happy dollars were: Emmet, who just returned from a Latin American cruise; Wyatt because he and Carolyn are now only \$1,000 from being able to make their \$25,000 "Production Farm" down payment; and \$2.00 from Doug, for his new job at BSA (congratulations "Field Director"), and his joke-of-the-week, which Ann easily answered right away (since she has 8-year-old twins at home).

Names in the News - Wyatt and Carolyn's efforts to raise money for their non-profit "Production Farm" property, in the Press-Gazette.

Special dates to remember: March 28 Walter Awards Dinner; April 17 Pancake & Porkie Breakfast at St. Brendan's Inn (we're looking for raffle donations); May 9 Youth Awards Dinner at the Riverside Ballroom; July 15, 3rd annual Kiwanis Day at the Ballgame (Bullfrogs) at Joannes Park.

Today's speaker was Amanda Reitz, founder and president of the Happily Ever After (HEA) Animal Sanctuary in Ashwaubenon. The mission of HEA is "to provide a loving home to every companion animal" that comes to them. Organizations like HEA have made a big difference in the lives of American pets. Amanda reported that almost 20 million pets were killed in shelters in 1970. That number has now dramatically dropped to just 3 million in 2015.

HEA operates with a full-time staff of 4.5, and 180 volunteers. In their 10 years of operation, HEA has sponsored over 2,400 adoptions. Their volunteers have walked dogs over 5,000 miles. HEA fundraisers have brought in \$2.1 million, and Amanda announced their annual "Beer & Biscuits" event will take place on March 12 at the Stadium View.

The five pillars of HEA are education, adoption, spaying/neutering, rehabilitation, and sanctuary (lifetime care). Amanda proudly told the club about their new headquarters/adoption shelter, now under construction in Ashwaubenon. She and her staff have raised 3/4 of the \$430,000 building cost (Congratulations!).

We also have some interesting speakers coming to our March meetings:

March 7 - Steve's guests will discuss the new apartment building under construction across the street from the Bellin Building

March 14 - Dal's son Steve will speak on the Convention of States, and Article V of the U. S. Constitution

March 21 - Emmet is arranging our program

March 28 - "Walter Awards" 5:45 PM dinner meeting at the Black & Tan Grille

by Rick Satterlee