



**Towsontowne Rotary Club
Early Edition
Date: December 30, 2009**

Neil Young called the meeting to order at 7:15 a.m. and Kathy Yeager led us all in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The invocation was done by Neil Young.

We had no guests this morning

Health & Wellbeing – Wayne Caskey stepped up to the plate for Lynne and started things rolling by asking how everyone was doing. Ellie said she is doing better – bum knee. It was announced that Jack's mother had passed because of old age. Wayne then provided us with two inspirational moments and then hugs were given all around.

Sergeant at Arms – Jo Martin started with a couple of \$\$ for her son Kelly's visit and began quickly gathering of happy bucks. Rina for the kindness and love at the passing of her Mother-in-law; Rob Brown for dumb acts – in his zeal to deliver food he hit black ice and fell cracking a rib. Adam for a great Christmas, Rotarian helping Rotarian, and the end of this decade; Le for being happy, Ellie is grateful for her bull roast committee, looking forward to a prosperous new year for Rotary, and her portrait business; Tanya the New Year; Rob Ketron for Rina; Linda for the new decade; Ed is happy; Brenda was laughing so hard she couldn't tell us – so her happy \$\$s were very happy; Neil for his beautiful pigtailed granddaughter Beatrice and her new brother or sister.

Announcements / Speaker: Since we were small in number, but great in spirit of Rotary Neil asked us to share what was coming up and some memories of our Rotary experiences.

Ellie began with the upcoming Bull Roast scheduled for March 20 at Oregon Ridge. Everyone should have received two emails – one from Dwight and another from Richard. Dwight appealed to members to use their influence with their contacts so that we can reach-out beyond our membership. Ellie stated that personal contacts react better to people they know rather than an appeal from someone they do not know. She will be sending out her letters this week and requested the membership to do the same. The second letter was from Richard asking the Towsontowne Rotarians to all be sponsors at whatever level we can to support this coming year's Bull Roast. Ellie wanted everyone to know that the entire Bull Roast committee is working hard and they will be hearing from them.

Mahmood spoke on the eye project in Venuja,(sp) India and this year he has gained a great appreciation for what Rotary is able to accomplish. Rob Brown spoke about the Foundation and its importance in doing work such as Mahmood's. Adam addressed us about the food bank and that \$250.00 was raised, the Dictionary project will begin in February and he is still looking for a few good Rotarians.

We then began our stroll down memory lane of this past year. Jo Martin shared her joy of being able to return to Rotary and the support and love she has received from her fellow Rotarians after her spine reconstruction. Linda believes in writing your goals down and was pleased that Neil is a organizer who had written down the goals of 50 members, which has paid off with many new members in the Club. Le celebrated the three new members from Nepal and memories of Nepal. Neil shared his memories of Nepal and the joy of sharing that experience with fellow Rotarians. Rina shared her memory of the eye clinic in Baltimore and the Greek guests. Mahmood's experience in obtaining grants for international projects. He said Towsontowne Rotary always made it seem easy. Jim shared that this year has been a roller coaster ride, but with the support of Rotarians it made life easier. He was grateful for the care and support he received that got him through Gerri's knee replacement surgery that now has made her life easier as well as his. Diane shared that she filled out the survey for the District and recommended that every member fill it out and share their Rotary experiences. Dwight shared his Russian playground experience and how with the help of Rotary this was made possible. He remembered after all the media and paparazzi had gone sitting there with Alex, his son and some of the scouts and watching the children fill the playground. It was a magical moment. It was his appeal to Rotary clubs that lead him to become a member of the Towsontowne Rotary. Brenda shared how being a Rotarian leads one to always think about how they can give back. Tom says through working with the Dictionary project he has learned that he shares many common passions about giving back to the community. Neil shared his experience of initiating a new club in Tazjikistan and introducing Rotary to many people throughout Maryland. He recommended reading "Three Cups of Tea" that tells the story about the importance of education and the author's experience in raising money for schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Rob Brown shared that for him this has been an incredible year from working on a capital campaign for his church to raising funds for the Hampton Manson to refurbish the 1797 Parlor to all the projects that Towsontowne has been able to do even in a down economy. He shared that he has been struggling with cancer for the past couple of years and this was shared that the last 6 months he has had a clean bill of health. It is always good to end with good news. May we now gather new memories for 2010.

50/50 Winner – Linda Tice won the draw, but not the pot. Ergo she got the "Just Wrong" wine. She led us in the 4-way test

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 a.m.