2.17.22 Tburg Rotary Minutes

Present: Mary Bouchard, Shelly Bullock, Zoren Bullock, Peggy Haine, Michael Jimenez, Cindy Kain, Joan Munich, Bill Overbaugh, Kathleen Overbaugh, Tom Overbaugh, Angel Stillions, Durand VanDoren, Frank Zgola

Guests: Don Guy, Eilene Guy

Absent: Joseph Barrett, Mark Baumann, Neil DeRaiche, Ben Guthrie, Dennis Guy-Sell, Mary Guy-Sell, Darlynne Overbaugh

President Kathleen opened the meeting, welcoming our guest speaker, member, and past president, Bill Overbaugh, who gave a talk on the recently passed New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, whose purpose is to get us off fossil fuels by 2050, and which, he said, is the most aggressive such law in the United States. It reflects the conclusions of the Paris Climate Agreement, and its focus is on electrifying everything that is now run on fossil fuels, instead focusing on solar, wind, hydro- and nuclear power.

Those who maintain fossil-fuel powered devices will pay as much as $22,000 in carbon taxes over a 10-year period, to be used to help poorer people retrofit their homes, and it is estimated that fully retrofitting homes in Upstate New York will run $20,000-$50,000.

On the plus side, there would be an improvement in air quality and energy efficiency, as well as health related benefits. But, he said, it could be seven generations in the future before we see those benefits. He said there would be challenges to our electric grid, and we will need banks of batteries to handle changing demands and peak loads. Germany, having passed similar legislation several years ago has seen a 300% increase in electricity costs.

Alternative solutions include using renewable fuels, such as that produced on farms in methane digesters utilizing animal waste.

Bill noted that unions are concerned, and that industry for the most part has not been consulted. But the law has been passed.

He suggested that we post comments on NYSERDA.com. New York Renew is the advocacy group that pushed for this law, and there is more information on Climate.NY.gov. Bill had a Power Point display that he will be happy to share if you contact him.

Kathleen is interested in having the club explore the organization, Ithaca Welcomes Immigrants, and will contact them to set up a discussion at on an upcoming meeting.

We are hoping to move our meetings back to the American Legion beginning March 3, pending the Legion's approval. Kathleen is also promoting a "show and tell" by Tburg Rotarians, speaking about their interests. She will give the first, on March 10, on her passion, genealogy. M

Bill offered to give a talk on maple syrup-making. Think about what interests you, that you'd like to share.

Durand suggested we hold a competition, as a fundraiser, of course, to judge locally made maple syrup, award a prize to the best, and serve pancakes. The club maintains a slight prejudice towards Bill & Tom's Excellent Maple Syrup, but honesty will prevail.

Zoren announced that he will be chair of the District's Youth Exchange Program this year. Tom has held that position for the past two years. Thanks, Zoren, for taking that on, and Tom, for overseeing it during the frustrating months and years of the pandemic. They noted that we are planning to send out one student from Trumansburg this fall.

Cindy reported on redistricting. Her study group is asking Rotary International to combine all three Central New York districts in one, rather than RI's proposed redistricting the three into two: Syracuse area and Albany area.

Happy Dollars

Cindy pledged $1 for the end of arrangements for her brother-in-law's passing

Kathleen put in a happy dollar in appreciation of Bill's talk

Durand also put in a happy dollar for Bill's talk

Peggy contributed a dollar for Durand's good suggestion of a maple festival

Joan also kicked in a dollar for Bill's talk

And Mary put a buck in the "hat" for finding the day's Wordle word in only two tries.

Upcoming Speakers

March 3 -a representative of the American Red Cross

April 7 – Ethan Cramton of Big Friend/Middle Friend