

# Service Above Self

## THE SILVER SAGE

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SILVER CITY

Helen Shoup, Editor

Rotary  
Club of Silver City



March 27, 2018

Check out our Website

[www.silvercityrotary.org](http://www.silvercityrotary.org)

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### Officers and Directors

President:	Joseph Heidrick
President Elect:	Peter Herzberg
Secretary/Treasurer:	Linda Telaak
Immediate Past President:	Suzanne Kavanagh
Club Service:	Anita Larson
Community Service:	Kathy Eaton
International Service:	Peter Herzberg
New Generations:	Francisca Reyes
Vocational Service:	Wendy Spurgeon
Sgt-at-Arms:	Jim Tindall
Senior Advisor:	Peter Falley



### Schedule: Future Meetings, Service Projects, and Special Events

April 3, 2018	Club Assembly
April 14, 2018	Rotary Yard Sale - 3713 Christian Flurry Dr.
April 26, 2018	District Conference in Santa Fe – till 4/29
June 23, 2018	Rotary International Convention in Toronto, CA – till 6/26

### Meeting Notes

**President Joe Heidrick** rang the bell at 12:10 pm. **William Knuttinen** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance; **Tom Bates** gave the Invocation; and **Jim Tindall** led us in the recitation of the Four-Way Test.

## Rotaract Representative

WNMU Rotaract President **Vladimir Gnilozubov** joined us again.

## Guests

Dawn Starostka, regional director of Big Brothers Big Sisters

WNMU President Dr. Joseph Shepard, our speaker today

**Maggie Veeder** with Jae'Lin, Ezreia, and Azaylie Avena



## Special Presentation

Dawn Starostka, regional director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, was introduced by **Mark Richard**, and he presented her with a check for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grant County in the amount of \$2,500. That represented proceeds from the clubs Valentine's Dinner/Fundraiser, which **Mark Richard** had organized.



## Rotary Announcements

**Joe Heidrick** made the following announcements:

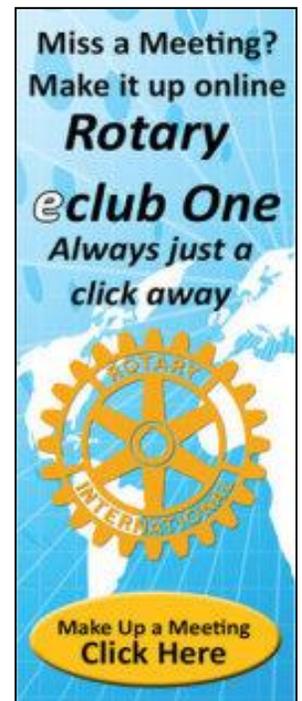
- He circulated the Volunteer Hours and Donation form once again.
- He reminded us that the Cruise Raffle payments and ticket stubs were due today. They should be given to **Sunny Kellerman**.
- He also gave a reminder that the District Conference is scheduled for April 26-29 in Santa Fe. Hotel rooms are going fast, so early registration is advisable.
- He reminded us of the planned Rummage Sale on April 14. Items for sale should be brought to **Kathy Eaton**'s home as soon as possible (a least a week before the event). **Kathy Eaton** also told us that she needs tables for the sale. If you have any folding tables, please bring them to her house. Proceeds from the sale will go to pay for the bench in Ft. Bayard cemetery that we had agreed to fund.
- We have 29 trees that need to be planted somewhere around town. Any Rotarians willing to plant them on their property are welcome to select trees.

- He reminded us once again that we need someone to organize speakers for the month of May.

**Peter Falley** reported on the Rotary Foundation Planned Giving session at the District Assembly on March 24. He explained that the Rotary Foundation has many options for structuring giving plans, many of which can have tax advantages. These options can be explored by going to the RI website and clicking on the Give button and then scrolling down to Planned Giving.

**Peter Herzberg** reported that attendees at a Rotaract/Interact session expressed great interest in our experience in establishing a Rotaract Club at WNMU.

**Francis Reyes** reminded us that we had agreed to host German RYE student Jan Michael during the 2018-19 Rotary year and that we are looking for additional host families.



## Non-Rotary Announcements

**Wendy Spurgeon** announced that there would be 2 more free performances of a concert version of *Jesus Christ Superstar* directed by Bryce Wooton: One at noon on Friday, March 30 (Good Friday), at the Episcopal Church, and the second on Easter Sunday, April 1, at 2 pm at the Presbyterian Church.

**Vladimir Gnizubov** told us that the WNMU Tennis Team would be having its final matches for the year this Friday.

**Suzanne Kavanagh** told us that Azaylie Avena's father had passed away at the early age of 35. She expressed her condolences to Azaylie and told us about efforts to help the family with funeral expenses. A raffle is being held to support the effort, and raffle tickets were passed around.

Dawn Starostka told us that Big Brothers Big Sisters would be having a Bowl For Kids Sake Disco Bowl event on Sunday, April 8, at 12:30 pm at the Silver Bowling Center.

## Program

**Joe Heidrick** introduces Dr. Joseph Shepard, WNMU President, as his former boss who had been highly supportive of the Nursing Program while **Joe Heidrick** was its director and who had made significant strides in improving Town and Gown relations.



Dr. Shepard told us about the many new developments at the University, including:

The recent appointment of Frank Tristan as the new football coach, and the earlier appointment of Scott Noble as the new athletic director.

Also affecting athletics, three tennis courts have recently been refurbished and new lighting is being installed for those courts.

There are also plans for a new Multi-Purpose Building to house a volleyball court and a large auditorium that can accommodate 2,400+ people.

The University has partnered with the Town of Silver City in the reconstruction of College Avenue. The Avenue will be lined with fruit trees provided by the University, including Chinese pistachio trees. The latter are valued for their beautiful fall foliage.

The University museum reconstruction is coming to completion, with re-opening of the museum scheduled for the beginning of the fall semester. The museum houses the best and most extensive collection of Mimbres pottery.

Enrollments are down somewhat. The decline is due in part to new standards imposed by the State on dual enrollment programs. These new standards make it more difficult for teachers to be certified to teach dual enrollment courses. As a result, fewer such courses are being offered.

Online programs have grown significantly, with 49% of all University courses now being offered online. In particular, the BSN, Criminal Justice and MBA programs are now offered online in their entirety.

The WNMU student population is quite heterogeneous, with about half of all student being 24 years of age or older. About half of the students are first generation college students, half are Hispanic, and about 60% are from the southwestern New Mexico region.

Because of the relatively small number of traditional college students on campus, Silver City is not really a college town in the usual sense of that term. There aren't enough younger students around to enliven the town atmosphere. However, the University is, as it should be, a cultural center for the community.

Among the many cultural activities on campus are Fiesta Latina scheduled this year for June 22-24, the Chamber Music Series, the Community Concert program which has support from the University, a speaker series on Women in the Arts, and the Million Bones project which has received support from the University and its students.

The University has made a decision not to raise tuition or fees this year, keeping the total to \$6,200 for in-state students. Of course, costs for housing, food and other expenses add to that to make it difficult for many students afford to come to the University without substantial

financial aid. Even with federal and state aid available, private scholarships make an important contribution.

The Legislature has approved a 2% salary increase for University faculty and staff. In order for that not all to be eaten up by increases in the cost of medical insurance, the University has raised its contribution to the insurance program.

The General Obligation bond issue approved by the Legislature will provide \$6 million for the University, if approved by the voters in November. This bond issue will have no effect on individual taxes, since it will come in at a time when an earlier bond issue will have been paid off. The bond issue will be directed at renovation of the Science Building, infrastructure projects, improvements to the one remaining off-campus operation in Deming, and continued beautification of the campus.

The presentation concluded with a brief question and answer session.

## **Raffle**

**Jim Tindall** was the winner of the raffle.

## **Attendance**

We had 21 of 30 active members in attendance, or 70%.