

Service Above Self

THE SILVER SAGE

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SILVER CITY

Rotary
Club of Silver City



May 21, 2019

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Officers and Directors

President:	Peter Herzberg
President-Elect:	Rosie Higgs
Secretary/Treasurer:	Linda Telaak
Immediate Past President:	Suzanne Kavanagh
Club Service:	Suzanne Kavanagh
Community Service:	James Reynolds
International Service:	Thomas Bates
New Generations:	Wendy Spurgeon
Vocational Service:	Kathy Eaton
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Jim Tindall
Senior Advisor:	Leslie Bush

Schedule: Future Meetings, Service Projects, and Special Events

Date	What's Happening
Tuesday, May 28	Peter Herzberg reporting on his Guatemala trip
Tuesday, June 4	Commissioner Alicia Edwards – Grant Cnty. Economic Developmt.
Tuesday, June 11	Jo Lutz – Volunteer Opportunities at Silver City Museum
Tuesday, June 18	Club Assembly

Meeting Notes

Peter Hertzberg rang the bell at 12:13 pm after we had socialized for a few minutes. **Jack Herndon** led the Pledge of Allegiance, **Jim Reynolds** gave the Invocation, and **William Knuttinen** led the Four-Way Test.

Guests

Christine Fila (see picture below in Program section), today's speaker and her service dog, Rosie.

Psychologist **Pat Barsch** was Rosie Higgs' guest. She is seen at right with Sunny Kellerman (left).

Once again, **Jan**, our Rotary Youth Exchange student was in attendance.



Exchange Student Report



Jan with Peter Herzberg

Jan reported that school is basically over and that he is looking forward to a long summer break, in contrast to the three weeks he would get in Germany. He will be going on the RYE West Coast trip in early June and later to RYLA, before returning home to Germany.

Rotary Announcements

Peter Herzberg reminded us that there would be a board meeting immediately after lunch.

Rosie Higgs told us about the need for supplies for immigrants who are being sheltered in Deming before moving on to their respective destinations throughout the country. She passed around a sheet showing the kinds of items that are needed and also indicated that she could accept cash donations to purchase such items.

Suzanne Kavanagh is still looking for speakers for June 11 and June 25. We will have a Club Assembly on June 18.

Sunny Kellerman and **Kathy Eaton** reminded us about the Rotary Friendship Exchange to Wisconsin. There are still a couple of openings. Contact Kathy if you're interested.

Non-Rotary Announcements

The Arts Council is looking for volunteers for the Blues Festival.

The American Legion and others are putting American flags on graves in Ft. Bayard National Cemetery, and additional volunteers are needed.

Happy Dollars

Maggie Veeder was looking forward to celebrating her birthday the day after this meeting.



Bart Roselli and his banjo were featured in a newspaper article, which also noted the need for additional volunteers at the Silver City Museum.

Kate Watson was happy to tell us that she survived her colonoscopy in good form.

Peter Herzberg was happy about having signed up for MLB Extra Innings and being able to watch baseball every day.

Program



Christine Fila, who has a significant visual impairment but is not totally blind, with her service dog Rosie at her side, gave an interesting presentation about the raising, caring for, and use of service dogs. Christine is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker working at Silver Healthcare and in private practice. She explained that service dogs are trained at a few schools around the country. Most of the dogs trained there are German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers or Golden Retrievers. Rosie was trained at the Guide Dog Foundation in Smithtown, Long Island, NY.

The training takes several weeks and is expensive, on the order for \$60,000 for a dog like Rosie. Training usually starts when dogs are about 18 months old and can last about three months. Rosie is smart but stubborn. She can guide Christine through Walmart and has even helped her negotiate the New York City subway. Service dogs have to be patient and able to put up with stress. Members of the public should not add to their stress level when they are working by calling them by name or trying to pet them, since that would distract them from their work. By law, service dogs can go almost anywhere their owners need to go. Christine even had Rosie with her in the hospital, and Rosie can find an empty seat for Christine in a room or on the subway. A service dog has to be cared for by the owner and not someone else.

The Guide Dog Foundation is a non-profit organization that depends on donations and volunteer help to do its work. It provides service and guide dogs for disabled veterans and other handicapped people. The service dogs it trains give their owners a sense of independence and dignity that they would lack without the dogs' help.



Attendance:

21 of 33 active members were in attendance, or 64%.