



May 2015

The Telescope

News for the Greater Hartford PROBUS Club

President's Message

Dear Probus friends,

Hope to see you at the last meeting next Tuesday before our June Installation Banquet.

This has been a pretty important year as we have added several new members and are preparing for a new Probus project that will be the Special Needs Teacher Awards beginning in the Fall.

I would love to have feedback from you about suggestions and recommendations you may have. Would you like to meet for a coffee or breakfast with me this summer? Please let me know.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do for Probus.

David Hoff, President

**MINUTES of Probus Meeting of April 15, 2015:
Meeting called to order at 6:51 p.m.**

Long time member Warren Webber, who has been out with health issues, was welcomed back by the membership. Great to see you up and about !

Dr. Alexandra Flowers gave a Probus introduction with some historical background about our club, our mission and our charitable fundraising activities for the developmentally disabled in Greater Hartford.

We were introduced to our featured speaker for the evening, Jamie Lazaroff and his support staff aide Mike Bernier. Jamie is an advocate for individuals with disabilities and has gone through life experiencing many of these challenges himself. Jamie works with the State ARC and is Secretary on one of the Governor's committees for the disabled. He had suffered a stroke a while back and Dr. Alexandra Flowers met him at Hartford Hospital. One of the outreach activities Jamie partakes in is having a regular slot on a local radio station to allow him to discuss current topics pertaining to the disabled in Connecticut.

Jamie touched upon the issue of transportation for the disabled and the fact that he and his colleagues helped to develop a transit website. He has met with various commissioners and legislators to lobby for the mission for full inclusion. Jamie stated that if you have high expectations for people with

disabilities they usually reach them! Additionally, people with disabilities need to be given the opportunity to fail and then pick themselves up again according to Jamie. Dr. Flowers chimed in saying that “Disability is a state of mind”.

We also learned that Jamie has been a Special Olympian as well as a Special Olympics sportscaster for WTNH-TV Channel 8 when the Special Olympics came to New Haven. Thank you for your inspiring words and deeds Jamie!

Hal Levy reported that our recent Crown Supermarket Solicitation Day brought in \$315 worth of donations from Passover shoppers. Stay tuned for details about a possible September Crown Solicitation Day in conjunction with Rosh Hashanah. Also Michael Croll volunteered a friend of his who is a graphic artist to build us a more professional and permanent donation box which can be used for Crown Days as well as other fundraisers we hold throughout the calendar year.

During Meyer Frankel’s Treasurer’s Report, Mark Goldberg raised the topic of trying to realize a better return on investment for our club’s funds. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to have our Investment Committee hold a meeting to discuss prudent investment vehicles to help us fend off inflation, while not taking too risky a course.

Michael Croll updated us on the Raffle. He had a draft of the tickets which will soon be printed. He is applying for a permit next week and said that the membership should have about 1 month to sell their tickets. Mike promised to distribute the tickets to all of the members by driving them to their homes, etc. There will only be 400 total tickets printed. Each member is expected to sell 20 tickets. Check your emails because Mike will soon be email blasting asking each member where he/she would like him to deliver your set of 20 tickets to so you can begin selling them. Mike will also re-distribute tickets so if you are having a tough time selling all 20, you can let him know that and he can take back some of your tickets and give them to other members who are selling at a rapid clip and in fact want more tickets to sell. Stay in touch with Mike via email as he will be the point person helping drive our sales. He advises that you should all be making a hit list now before the tickets arrive so you can hit the ground running. Make a list today of family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. you feel will be good targets to sell to. Mike is also willing to offer selling techniques/tips so you can talk up the donation aspect and the great restaurant gift certificates that buyers have a chance to win !

Memorial Day Parade Balloon Sale

Sid Elkin will be our “ Day-Of Coordinator “ since Mark & Ellie Goldberg will be out of town Memorial Day weekend. We can once again use the chambers with the high ceiling at West Hartford Town Hall Probate Court, Room # 318, to blow up our balloons. An unofficial head count was conducted and approximately 10 people committed to volunteering day of. Mike Croll, Ron, Marv Jannow, Sid, David Hoff, Steve Blottner, Dr. Alexandra Flowers, Charlie and Bob Dobrow and Hal volunteered. We need some additional members to commit since it will take approximately 1 hour to blow up all of the balloons and we will need runners to bring the balloons from town hall out to the streets to the sellers and we will need sellers

wearing Probus vests to walk the parade route and sell our balloons. It is okay for non-Probus members to actually sell the balloons as long as a copy of our street vendor's license is put in the pocket of the Probus vest being worn. Mike Croll has some friends in mind who may be able to join our volunteer squad. So to recap, we need a good 10 – 15 people at 7:00 a.m. sharp on Parade Day to hit the ground running with the balloon inflation assembly line ! Ellie and Mark Goldberg who will be out of town have said they would like to pick up the tab for the Dunkin Donuts coffee and donuts which will be purchased by another member to energize the troops at town hall. Also, we must still purchase Stars & Stripes and patriotic balloons since all we have is 9 inch Probus balloons which are not appropriate for sale at the parade. Mark passed around a balloon supply catalog at tonight's meeting for use in purchasing said balloons. Also, Sid will be getting all of the Probus vests from Mark and Meyer to have them in one place. Mark will also get other supplies over to Sid as well such as the ribbon cutter device.

Installation Dinner

Our Installation Dinner for next years officers will be held on June 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Our ASD chefs will be creating an amazing dinner menu which Bob Goldberg will be reviewing in a few days. The dinner will be held in the same building as last year at the end of the ASD driveway. BYOW (wine).

The Raffle drawings will be held the night of the dinner. Make sure to get your sold tickets stubs in to Mike Croll before the dinner. Potential speakers being considered for our Installation Dinner are Beth Bye and Jen Rizzotti. Details forthcoming.

Social Night for the members and their significant others has once again been put off and the consensus was that a casual summer gathering, barbeque at a member's home would be a good idea. David Hoff will send out some possible dates to all of us via email.

IMPORTANT: Please Note Special Date/Time of May Probus Meeting ~

Due to the fact that we have a lot of loose ends to tie up pertaining to our Raffle, Memorial Day Parade Balloon Sale and our Installation Dinner we decided that a May meeting was necessary and because of schedule conflicts we arrived at a TUESDAY date for the next meeting, Tues., May 5th at 6:00pm (not the new 6:30pm timeslot). Please mark your calendars and show up since we have some important decisions to make that night ! Thank you. P.S. Steve Blotner has very graciously volunteered to pay for all of the meals on May 5th since our treasury is low!

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie Dobrow
Secretary

*****The Following must be voted on at the May 2015 Meeting:*****

GREATER HARTFORD PROBUS BOARD For 2015-2016:

President: David Hoff
1ST Vice-President: David Maslan
2ND Vice-President: Michael Croll
Secretary: Charles Dobrow
Treasurer: Meyer Frankel
Probus National Rep: Steve Blotner



The Financial Committee Met to Discuss the Endowment Fund Investments:

Endowment Fund: The value today is \$23,000+.

**With the emphasis on safety we decided on the following:
To place \$3,000 of the Endowment Fund in an Equities Mutual
Fund.**

We are currently exploring this as a possibility (With Fidelity).



**Reminder: Next Probus Meeting (No Speaker):
*(Please note the day (Tuesday) and time)***

Date: Tuesday May 5, 2015

Time: 6:15 PM

**Location: American School for the Deaf
139 N Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 570-2300**

No Speaker:



An Easy Fund Raiser

Occasion Cards

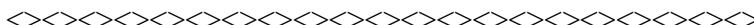
As you know, the Probus Club is 100% committed to helping those that, for no fault of their own, cannot help themselves. One of our fund raising events that we sponsor is the ability for us to be able to accept contributions to honor, praise, memorialize or make a special acknowledgement to someone who is either in our presence or in our memory.

By you making a contribution to the Probus Club, our very own Bruce Stanger will process your contribution; inform the donee that a contribution was made to Probus to recognize him or her and for the event that is being recognized. Also, an acknowledgement will be sent to you, the donor, to thank you for your charitable contribution to the Probus Club. As always, 100% of donations to the Probus Club are used exclusively for charitable purposes.

Consider the Probus Club when honoring or remembering someone special.

Bruce Stanger can be reached at:
Attorney Bruce Stanger
433 South Main Street
Suite 112
West Hartford, CT 06110

The check should be made payable to The Probus Club and forwarded to Bruce along with the information necessary for a proper acknowledgement. Thank you for supporting The Probus Club.



2015 COMING EVENTS FOR GREATER HARTFORD PROBUS CLUB

- May 5, 2015: Dinner Meeting** at the American School for the Deaf:
- May 25, 2015 Memorial Day:** Annual West Hartford Parade Balloon Sale.
- June 3, 2015 Installation Dinner** at the American School for the Deaf

Meyer Frankel, Editor
The "Telescope" is the monthly newsletter of the Greater Hartford PROBUS Club