



The Telescope

News for the Greater Hartford PROBUS Club

October 2015

President's Message

Dear Probus Members,

Please consider any business acquaintances you may know and invite him or her to one of our meetings. This year we would like to really try to grow the Probus Club.

Thank you.

David Hoff, President

Probus Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by **President David Hoff**.

David welcomed the membership back following our summer hiatus. We welcomed a guest to our meeting, David Callahan, who is a family friend of Mark Goldberg.

Dr. Alexandra Flowers, our Club Historian, who has been with us since 1998, provided our guest with a brief synopsis of our club's history and mission. Our chapter has been in existence since 1955 and our mission is to aid people with developmental disabilities in the Greater Hartford area with fundraising activities and enriching fun events for these clients. She also spoke about our support of Camp Horizons and other charitable events Probus coordinates.

President David Hoff spoke of his goals for the upcoming 2015/2016 year. He wants to focus on building new membership in the club and would like to see some more female members join our group, as well as folks from the "younger generation" to help sustain our club for many years to come.

Treasurer Meyer Frankel presented his comprehensive Treasurer's Year End Report (September 1, 2014 through September 1, 2015) as well as his 2015 – 2016 Budget. Meyer reviewed key points and highlights within his 6 page report. We have 28 members (e.g. 8 Associate Members and 20 Full Members). He reviewed our Operating Fund Summary as well as our Fund Raising Fund Income and the breakdown of the line

items in it. There was some discussion centered around the \$10,000 in the “15/16” Budget which the Executive Committee voted on over the summer to give to our Special Needs Educator Project headed up by 1st Vice President David Maslin. This will be seed money to jumpstart this new endeavor. The \$10,000 will come from the Probus Endowment Fund. Bob Dobrow asked Meyer if there is precedent for the \$10,000 donation to the Special Needs Educator Project and was told by Meyer that yes there is historical precedent for this. A brief discussion ensued regarding whether to re-name our Endowment Fund, which some feel is a misnomer, to a Reserve Fund since it is really a nest egg of sorts available to support bigger than normal activities and to provide cash flow or seed money. Further discussion on the idea to rename the Endowment Fund will no doubt occur at future Probus meetings.

Also documented in this report was a list of camperships which Probus underwrites. In case you thought that Camp Horizons in South Windham is the sole beneficiary of our campership donations, you are mistaken. Probus also supports camperships at Beachland Buddies in West Hartford, Camp Ramah in Palmer, MA, Camp Sunburst in East Hartford, Camp Sunrise in Glastonbury and Camp Einser in Great Barrington, MA! The membership present voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s Year End Report and 2015/2016 proposed Budget.

Bob Goldberg gave us an update on the status of our upcoming Annual Picnic to be held on Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at Northwest Park in Windsor, CT. Bob indicated that his plans are coming together and he made a plea for members to show up on the 27th to volunteer their time to help cook and serve the appreciative clients during this barbecue. He encouraged members to bring along friends, spouses, neighbors, potential Probians since manpower is needed to pull off this annual picnic. Bob reported that last year’s picnic drew 250 clients and their caretakers and 280 are anticipated for this year! A few requested donations were rejected unfortunately, and Bob is awaiting word from The Crown Supermarket regarding hotdog donations. Bob has some “Plan B’s” up his sleeve in case The Crown does not come through for us and he established contact with Grote & Weigel in Massachusetts as a back-up plan. Bob said that Subway has given us a generous food donation and many members are bringing supplies and/or personally donated items to the picnic. Thank you all! This will be the last year of The New Britain Rockcats and their beloved mascot Rockie showing up since the team is moving to Hartford next year and rebranding as The Hartford Yard Goats. Bob secured a Disc Jockey for the picnic as well as some sunglasses that were donated to be given away

as prizes/mementos.

David Maslin gave his report to update the general membership on the project he is spearheading known as the Special Needs Educator Project. He said that the Probus Executive Committee was very productive this summer in vetting the various aspects and logistics of this exciting new Probus fundraising opportunity. Dave said that the wheels are turning as far as contacting various Special Needs Coordinators in the school districts who will be participants (potential beneficiaries). These coordinators will be our primary channel for vetting and distributing grants to teachers with projects which may require monies to purchase technology or apparatus to be used in their classrooms. The mechanism to get the ball rolling will be a formal RFP (Request For Proposal) received from a special needs teacher.

Dave said that the timetable, realistically speaking, will be to begin distributing monies in another month or so, then a period of disbursement of grants from October to November. Perhaps another round of grant disbursement will also occur after January 1st. Dave clarified his vision as to the fact that this \$10,000 seed money from the Probus Endowment Fund is appreciated and it is non-contractual. He said it is a Gentleman's Agreement of sorts and his intention would be to re-pay the Endowment Fund eventually, once the program is up and running on all cylinders (with corporate support coming in as well). Dave also mentioned that Central Connecticut State University would like us to fund a \$500 scholarship for a special needs student at CCSU in exchange for their consultative assistance with our new Special Needs Educator Project. Thank you Dave for your vision and all of the research you have done thus far in laying out a multi-tiered program which should become a major charitable enterprise for our Probus chapter!

Bob Goldberg and Mark Goldberg will be coordinating the Halloween Pumpkin carving Party to occur at a group home in East Windsor. This is coming up soon so keep an eye on your emails for further details about when, where and how many volunteers will be needed.

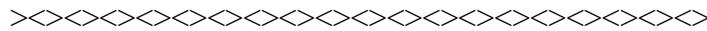
David Hoff stated that he would like to shore up our schedule of dinner speakers for this year. Last year at times we did not secure a speaker until just days before our meetings and David would like to line up quality speakers well in advance and get them locked in to our schedule if possible. Please let David know if you have any suggestions for appropriate speakers so that they can be contacted ASAP. **Ed Peltier** offered up a potential lead for a speaker which would be a group home in West Hartford called

Robinson House. Ed sits on the board of directors of this group home and could secure a speaker from the board or himself if need be.

Mark Goldberg gave a pitch to those assembled about the importance of Probus membership replenishment. He strongly encouraged each and every member to mention Probus' good work to their friends and neighbors. He said "let them have an opportunity to shine" like you do!

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles Dobrow, Secretary



Reminder: **Next Probus Meeting (Speaker):**
*(Please note the time and location at ASD's
"Cogswell Hall")*
Date: Wednesday October 21, 2015
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: American School for the Deaf
139 N Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 570-2300

Speaker: We will have a special guest speaker, Luis B Perez, CEO and President of Mental Health Connecticut.

Luis is the President and CEO of MHC. He has held leadership positions both in the private and public sectors with particular expertise in the areas of behavioral health outcomes-based management, strategic planning, network development, and public policy.

Because we are having this wonderful speaker, this is the perfect opportunity to invite potential members. As always, spouses/significant others, are always welcome.

Please remember our meetings will always be in **Cogswell Hall** this year. This is the same building we have held our Installation Dinner.



Thank You notes to the Probus Club:

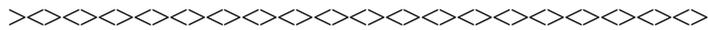
Probus Club Members: Hello to you all!

Thank you again for the best picnic of the year. We at 310 Beelzebub Road Group Home; looks forward to coming to this picnic all year! You are always so welcoming, and have the best food ever.

We love our sun glasses, and our presents from Rocky the Rock Cat. Again, we all thank you for your warm hearts. Maybe someday, we could invite you over to our home for a picnic? Again, Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Everyone at 310 Beelzebub Rd. Group Home
Diane Montalvo sds
310 Beelzebub Rd. South Windsor, CT. 06074



Probus Club:

Thank you very much for your kind and thoughtful donation to the Hebrew Health Care in memory of our mom.

The Family of Terry Marcus



Probus Club's 2015-2016 officers:

President – David Hoff

1st Vice President – David Maslin

2nd Vice President – Michael Croll

Secretary – Charles Dobrow

Treasurer – Meyer Frankel

Probus National Rep - Steve Blotner

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.

The following is a schedule of the Probus Club's 2015-2016 dinner meetings:

October 21, 2015:	Dinner Meeting at the American School for the Deaf.
November 18, 2015:	Dinner Meeting at the American School for the Deaf.
January 20, 2016:	Dinner Meeting at the American School for the Deaf.
February 17, 2016:	Dinner Meeting at the American School for the Deaf.
March 16, 2016:	Dinner Meeting at the American School for the Deaf.
April 20, 2016:	Dinner Meeting at the American School for the Deaf.
May/June, 2016:	Installation Dinner (Date and location to be determined)

Meyer Frankel, Editor

The "Telescope" is the monthly newsletter of the Probus Club of Greater Hartford.