



The Telescope

News for the Greater Hartford PROBUS Club

May 2016

MINUTES – PROBUS Meeting April 20, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.

President David Hoff brought some wine to share with the club members in honor of our Special Needs Project grant committee's fine work!

Charlie Dobrow gave some highlights of the **April 3rd National Probus meeting** held in Wethersfield. 8 individuals comprising the New Haven, Bridgeport and Greater Hartford chapters met to discuss various topics. This was a Board of Governor's meeting.

□ **The Torrington Club** with only 4 members has been dissolved. Their October Auction will be taken over by National.

□ **The Worcester, MA Club** which has not paid its national dues in a few years may be revived/reconstituted in the Marlborough, MA area. Mark Goldberg is working with Neil Smith of the Worcester Club to develop a recruitment plan including a breakfast & discussion of the virtues of Probus membership and other speaking engagements.

□ We discussed the **revised Constitution & Bylaws of Probus National** (as amended through June 30, 2015). We focused on Article II, Section D's verbiage. Specifically, in the phrase "to render help to the intellectually and physically disabled and other in need through its member clubs" we voted to modify this phrase by eliminating the word "physically" and replacing it with the word "developmentally".

□ We discussed the merits of **a retiree support group**. We talked about how to engage (reach out to) retired members now living in Florida. We considered the concept of "Honorary Membership".

□ **Gordon Fain** had 2 meetings with Marty Hochhauser who wants to start a new Probus club in Pittsburgh, PA. Mark Goldberg offered to travel to Pittsburgh in the near future to help promote and kick start this idea via a Q & A at a Pittsburgh area synagogue.

□ Club Updates were given. New Haven has 12 active members, 5 of whom are the most active. There is a definite need to replenish the club with new blood. Their Stop & Shop Solicitation is the only fundraiser their chapter does each year. The idea of a Joint Meeting in which New Haven members would attend an upcoming Hartford club meeting was discussed. This would serve to educate the New Haven Probians as to how we run our affairs and may serve as an inspirational spark for them.

□ **Bridgeport Chapter** has many activities and fundraisers throughout the year including, an event at Chips Restaurant, a June picnic, bingo and their major event called "Bike the Beach" which is in mid-September in which 300 – 400 cyclists descend upon Jennings Beach in Fairfield to bike either 22, 44 or 66 miles.

□ **Hartford Chapter** reported that we have a few new members and are pleased to report a diversified and growing membership.

Charlie Dobrow was voted in as National Secretary to replace Steven Blotner who is stepping down from this position. **Mark Goldberg accepted another 2 year term as National Probus President.**

Meyer Frankel gave his Treasurer's Report. He said to our newest members "to really learn how a club/organization works follow the money". Under Fund Totals: we learned that our Operating Fund is \$3,469.61 and our Fund Raising Fund is \$8,933.89 for a Total of \$12,403.50. Total of all Funds (e.g. Operating, Fund Raising and Reserve) is: \$35,572.58.

Discussion ensued as to whether our chapter's minutes which go into our **Telescope should be put into the National Website.** Some members feel that the inner workings of our club and Good & Welfare items are not necessarily for public consumption. Some raised HIPPA concerns. Syd Elkin will talk with Mark Roffer about not including personal information, but rather simply a mention of upcoming public events being held. Steve Sandler suggested we have a "special member only link" with a passcode to ensure privacy.

Mark Goldberg welcomed our newest members: Russell, Shaquilla (who is receiving her Master's degree in January!) and Steve Sandler.

Please Note that our next chapter dinner meeting will be held on: **Tuesday, May 17th** as opposed to our normal Wednesday meeting date due to some scheduling conflicts.

Mark Goldberg estimates that for our Installation Dinner on June 8th we may have 50 people in attendance including members from our chapter and their guests and the other invited members from our Bridgeport and New Haven chapters! Bob Goldberg advised that this will be a true gourmet dinner and the cost per person will be \$27.

David Maslin reported on the progress of the Special Needs Project. On April 15th in a festive ceremony at A.S.D. two \$500 grant awards were made! This presentation took place during A.S.D.'s Founders' Day 2016 celebration. Local politicians and dignitaries were in attendance.

Ed Peltier called the grantee-teachers to the stage and described their projects. Tommy Meehan will lead the Classroom to Table project, in which Supporting Special Needs Education (SSNE) funds will be used to acquire mobile Tower Gardens, providing a science, nutrition and collaborative learning experience for as many as 150 students. Karen Wilson and Cheyenne Rhodes will use their grant to expand and apply the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support model into community-based activities and events. SNE received top billing at this event and this proved to be a wonderful kick-off to a very large endeavor! We have more money to give out and the SSNE Board wants to build a portfolio of publicity (like what we received at this A.S.D. ceremony) to someday show large corporations what our program is all about as they consider underwriting our grant program. **Mark Goldberg** said he would like to involve every member of this club as liaisons to the teachers requesting and receiving our grants. We also learned that 2 other grant proposals have been approved: one for The River Street School and the other for The Intensive Education Center. The River Street School asked for medical/health equipment such as stethoscopes, and blood pressure cuffs to share with children who might fear going to their Dr. appointment to familiarize them with the equipment the Dr. uses prior to actually visiting the Dr. for a checkup. SSNE has not yet heard back from The Grace Webb School/Institute of Living, New Britain and Bloomfield school systems as to their interest level in submitting grant proposals.

At the recent **Crown Supermarket Solicitation Dr. Robert Dobrow** spoke with a Special Ed teacher from the Watkinson School who requested an information packet concerning grant money which SSNE is giving away.

Meyer Frankel and Michael Croll volunteered to be liaisons at a May 4th check presentation at the Intensive Education Academy. We were reminded that this grant process is a birthing process and is evolving. Not every presentation will be a big ceremony like what took place recently at A.S.D. Some may be smaller check presentations which take place in a school's Principal's office. Also, it was mentioned that some photos from the A.S.D. ceremony were posted on the Probus Facebook page. Dr. Robert Dobrow and the official A.S.D. photographer were on hand that day to capture the goodwill and moving tributes.

David Hoff asked for a volunteer to come forward to assist David Maslin as a press release writer and photographer to submit news items to the West Hartford News, Hartford Courant, etc. for publicity purposes. Syd suggested we could reach out to the University of Hartford or CCSU to try to get a P.R. intern to take on the job.

Michael Croll distributed the Raffle tickets for each member to sell. Everyone is expected to sell 20 tickets @ \$10 per ticket. We have our license to conduct an official raffle. There are 15 prizes for the drawings to be held at our June Installation Dinner.

Mark Goldberg updated us on the Memorial Day Parade Balloon Sale. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 7:00 a.m. at West Hartford Town Hall, Room 314. It will take the better part of 2 hours to blow up all of the balloons in time for our selling to begin at 9:30am before the parade kicks off. Having 25 – 30 people to blow up the balloons would be ideal! We need the manpower so bring your neighbors and friends to help out!

Mark your calendars for **September 11th at Northwest Park in Windsor for our Annual Client Picnic!** **Bob Goldberg** hopes that the fact that the Connecticut Governor is allowing group homes to be sold off and privatized will not affect our picnic attendance. Bob also said that the University of Hartford has shown a great interest in Probus and he has cultivated a great rapport with some contacts at that college campus. U of H volunteers may help us at our balloon sale. Bob also reported that the **town of Windsor returns our security deposit** in appreciation for our cleanup efforts after each picnic we hold.

Under Good & Welfare, we paid tribute to our longtime Probus member Jerry Zetoff and his wife Sue who was his caretaker in his final years. Jerry passed away recently and will be missed by our chapter for his many contributions over the years.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie Dobrow**

**The Camp Horizons Gala fundraising event, April 30, 2016.
Probians enjoying the festivities at Splash with Panache event at Camp
Horizons in the new and beautiful Commons Building. (See picture below):**



Special Needs Grants Program Event:

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Location: Intensive Education Academy in West Hartford.

(See picture below):





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of Greensboro

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February 26, 2016
17 Adar 5776

Probus National
200 Brion Drive
Fairfield, CT 06825

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are pleased to enclose our check #7027137, for \$300.00, which replaces check #7024497, dated September 9, 2015, that has never cleared the bank. This check represents a contribution that has been recommended ***The George and Muriel Hoff Philanthropic Fund*** of the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro and approved by the Board of Directors of the Foundation. **This contribution is designated in honor of David Hoff**

A formal receipt should be remitted to the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro for our records indicating that no goods, services, or benefits were provided to the Foundation or the donor/recommender in conjunction with this gift. Please also acknowledge this gift directly to Ms. Muriel Hoff, 3504 Flint Street, Apt. A217, Greensboro, NC 27405.

By accepting this check, you agree that it does not represent the payment or satisfaction of any legally enforceable obligation, and that no material benefit or privilege in return for this distribution is to be provided to any person or entity.

The Jewish Foundation of Greensboro is happy to be of assistance to Probus National in achieving its goals.

Sincerely,


Susan R. Gutterman
Endowment Director

SRG/ep
Enclosure

cc: Ms. Muriel Hoff

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AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

JEFFREY S. BRAVIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 21, 2016

Mr. Meyer Frankel
Probus Club of Greater Hartford
11 Croydon Drive
West Hartford, CT 06117

Dear Mr. Frankel:

On behalf of the students and staff at the American School for the Deaf, I want to thank you for the two grant allocations: Classroom to Table – ASD Tiger Tower Gardens and PACES PBIS Project, Runway to Success from the Probus Club of Greater Hartford.

Both projects will be tremendous learning opportunities for our students, and we look forward to reporting these successes to your organization.

Your support ensures that students will be able to benefit from all that ASD has to offer. *Every* gift does makes a difference! The entire ASD family, especially the students we serve, thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Bravin
Executive Director

Date: 4/20/2016
Amount: \$500.00
Purpose: Classroom to Table – ASD Tiger Tower Gardens

Amount: \$500.00
Purpose: PACES PBIS Project, Runway to Success

To conform with current IRS requirements, the American School for the Deaf confirms that no goods, services, privileges or other benefits were exchanged as consideration for this gift.

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.

Meyer Frankel, Editor

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