



The Telescope

Monthly News Letter of the PROBUS Club of Greater Hartford
October 2017

Minutes of our September 19, 2017 Meeting at
The American School For The Deaf (West Hartford, CT)

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President David Maslin. David welcomed all members of the club back to Probus after our summer hiatus, as we embark upon a new and exciting Probus 2017/2018 season!

David then shared with us a video which was made of our recent **Annual Probus Picnic** held in Windsor at Northwest Park's pavilion. This screening of the video gave a good synopsis of the day's festivities and captured the emotion of the event quite well. It also included some still photographs which were taken by members who were volunteering their time at the picnic. David mentioned that if anyone still has photos which they would like to submit they can since it is not too late to edit the video and sneak some more photos into it. Please just email your picnic photos to David. This picnic video is up on YouTube as well!

More discussion ensued centering around the subject of "**public domain**" vs. **privacy rights** in relation to taking photos or video of group home clients, without their explicit permission, for promotional purposes. It was agreed that further experts (a lawyer) should give a ruling so that we are crystal clear about the need to have waivers signed, or not, for events like our annual picnic. We also learned that a picnic press release was published in advance of the event in the local weekly newspaper "The Windsor Journal".

Thanks to a summertime picnic planning meeting which took place at Mark Goldberg's home in Avon, we generated fantastic enthusiasm and volunteerism for the event.

Thank you, Bob for all of your dedication to the picnic and all that it entails.

We had an epic event with great assistance from the University of Hartford student-athletes who helped serve the food and acted as goodwill ambassadors along with their coaches and Mascot. The Hartford Yardgoats mascot Chompers and their pitching station added to the day as well. You have created a high standard of excellence and fun, and a blueprint for future picnics.

We next discussed the West Hartford grant opportunity spearheaded by Michelle Lacroix. She secured a wonderful grant highlighting fairness and equality in the West Hartford community and she worked in conjunction with West Hartford Public Access Community Television. Filming occurred for many days and Probus was represented as one of many non-profit organizations. Her project will be on display in West Hartford Town Hall in December and January and then it will move to the West Hartford Public Library for permanent display after that.

The Executive Board met on August 31st and discussed our membership dues structure. Annual **dues remain at \$250**. We secured meeting dates for the 2017/2018 calendar years. Please note that some meeting dates are on Tuesdays (rather than our standard Wed.) due to holidays /schedule conflicts. The list of meeting dates was emailed to all members recently.

David Maslin stated that we will continue to promote and utilize the **Team/Membership concept** for our events and initiatives this year.

Meyer Frankel presented an extensive and thoughtfully compiled Treasurer's Year End Report. He said that this report serves as a good guide to our yearly activities. We voted on and approved this Treasurer's Year End Report. Additionally, **the 2017-2018 budget passed** with a vote that the SSNE project has an original \$10,000 allocation less the disbursements made to that project. There is **not** an additional \$10,000 approved.

Ed Peltier recommended that instead of our chapter offering two \$150 scholarships to one male and one female graduating student from ASD, that we consider simply making a \$300 donation to ASD's Annual Fund.

We also discussed the fact that **Central Connecticut State University and Probus** have had some discussions pertaining to fundraising. CCSU has proposed that if Probus provides a small scholarship of \$500 earmarked for a Special Needs student scholarship, then CCSU will in turn provide us with expertise pertaining to fundraising idea creation. They will also provide us with their facilities to develop promotional collateral materials, etc.

Membership Committee Co-Chair Bob Dobrow discussed that the team will be considering how we market our Probus brand. He will be meeting with Co-Chair Shakela Holly this Saturday for more planning.

Mark Goldberg informed us that he placed 2 new Probus **candy machines** recently at Stebens Auto Body.

SSNE Project:

Ed Peltier stated that the **Special Needs Project Committee** met with the Director of Special Education for the **Hartford Public Schools** (high school division). They discussed opportunities with "The Rise Academy" for children with emotional/behavioral disorders. The Poetry Project is also moving ahead whereby a guest poet will be brought in once per month for a workshop and student performances at the Hartford Public Library or local restaurants. Additionally, Ed informed us that his team met with a very enthusiastic teacher Ashley Papanos. He will keep us informed about her desire to seek a Probus grant.

Also, the groundwork is being laid for SSNE to hold an "event" perhaps at **CCSU** to highlight the recipients of our grants (e.g. teachers or school representatives). This could be not only a publicity opportunity, but also a potential fundraiser as well. Laura Marchese, Major Grants Associate for CCSU's schools of Education and Engineering is advising us on this matter.

Raffle:

Michael Croll proposed ending our Raffle due to the fact that many members tend not to actually sell a lot of raffle tickets to neighbors, co-workers, etc. but instead just purchase a block of tickets out of their own pocket. Perhaps we could simply ask members to make a once a year donation and keep it simple.

Michael then proposed a new fundraising event possibility. He did some research and attended a recent **Food Truck Beer Festival** in Newton, CT. He spoke with the woman in charge of running the event and the idea percolated that perhaps there could be a West Hartford Food Truck Beer Festival earmarked for the Fall of 2018 (so as to not conflict with Celebrate West Hartford). This woman will provide a turn-key solution for organizing such events and has done numerous of these festivals in the past. She would receive a cut of what is brought in and Probus would also be able to raise funds at this event as well. Mike envisions it occurring perhaps in the outer parking lot at West Farms Mall. Discussion ensued regarding insurance and liability and how to structure a contract for this fundraising event. Michael will continue to explore the details on this and report back to the membership.

Housekeeping:

David Maslin advised us that Probus Club of Greater Hartford does not have its own set of **bylaws**. Probus National does, however. David then talked about our 501 (c) 3 status. Mark Goldberg said that our chapter does have up-to- date insurance binders. A long discussion then ensued regarding the need to present a more formal “statement of activity” and a new format in our accounting practices.

We talked about the merits of reporting non-cash transactions (e.g. in-kind donations) and disbursements of those benefits. More updates on these matters will be forthcoming in future meetings and future issues of the Telescope.

We acknowledged and welcomed a new Probus member **Alan Goodman**. Alan was the past President of Temple Beth Hillel in Bloomfield and is sure to fit right in to our club’s charitable mission!

Hal Levy thanked fellow members of the club for their kind words following the passing of his mother recently.

Please note that our next chapter meeting will be held again on a **Tuesday evening: October 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. as ASD.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Dobrow

Secretary

Note from Probus National Club President Mark Goldberg:

News Flash! During this past summer, the club has NOT been idle. There was much work going on organizing people and products for the SMASH HIT PICNIC.

First let's talk about the Picnic. The club members did their jobs in obtaining food, and supplies. We had an over-abundance. I won't go into all the people, both members and spouses because there were too many to mention. However, the cooperation was fantastic.

The U of H women's basketball players were there with the coach. The U of H Men's Lacrosse and track teams were there lending their support. They were kept busy as runners from the food table to the clients.

The mascots from both the U of H and Yard Goats were there. We had a DJ who kept the tone of the event up beat. One of the highlights was when he played YMCA and all the college kids were up and dancing and the clients, those that could, also got up and started dancing with the mascots and the college kids. Even those who were wheelchair confined were being wiggled around in their chairs or were bouncing up and down in time to the music. It was so memorable.

Did you hear about the water episode? WOW, what a donation we received. A whole palate of water. Way too much for us to use. We had to organize for other organizations to come and get some. (Horizons drove all the way from South Windham along with the town of Windsor.) Alan Rothstein came with his RDTRK to haul away our portion and keep it at his house until he drove it to the picnic. It was well coordinated by Bob Goldberg. Actually the entire picnic was well coordinated by Bob.

Once again Bob Goldberg has hit the ball out of the park. I will just talk about one aspect in particular. Coordination for the bottled water: Bob usually obtains a generous donation from Raymour and Flanagan's who donates 10 or 12 cases of bottled water. I usually go to the Manchester store and pick it up and deliver it to the picnic. It weighs my Prius, down to the axles. This year Bob got a donation from the Niagara Bottling Company. The difference is that they donate either a full palate or nothing. We took the palate. What were we to do with all that water? Bob coordinated with Mark Goldberg to contact Horizons. They came down with a couple of strong guys and a pickup truck to haul away what we could not use. Then he contacted Alan Rothstein to bring his "RDTRK" pickup truck and a couple of young strong guys to haul away what we needed for the picnic. He would keep the water on his truck at his house and then deliver it to the picnic. He even delivered some water to a restaurant in Windsor who was donating it to an event that the town of Windsor was hosting. That way all the water was used by charitable events.

That took a tremendous amount of coordination and thought and planning. THANK YOU BOB!!

Next year we have to work on getting publicity for this OUTSTANDING event. If there were any of you who missed it you really missed a memorable event.

In addition to the picnic there was activity on the SSNE front. (Supporting Special Needs Education) This is a separate project of the Probus Club. We have finally gotten an entrée into the Hartford School System at a high level. This is a new activity (Poetry creating and performing by emotionally disturbed and special needs students) You all cannot believe how wonderful our contribution is to special needs children of all ages throughout the Greater Hartford area. It really makes you proud to be a part of this wonderful organization.

But wait! There is more:

Mark and Ellie Goldberg took a few days off to visit the N.Y. Finger Lakes region. While there they stopped by various wineries and one of them had some booths set up on the lawn. They were various organizations selling items (tee shirts, mugs, etc.) and promoting regional events. One of the booths had a young man who was selling a variety of locally produced cheeses and honeys. These products were all donated so that 100% of the proceeds went to an organization that promoted BASEBALL GAMES and PRACTICES especially designed for special needs children. The games and practices were supported by either AA or AAA baseball teams. Naturally I bought some of the goods and engaged the young man into detailed conversation. He is from Easton Connecticut and I am submitting his name to the Bridgeport Chapter. What is really exciting is that this is an event that can be sponsored by the Yard Goats and the New Britain Bees and the Greater Hartford Probus Club. I have been in email conversation with this young man in terms of working out the details as to how this event could take place next season. WOW! The good we could do for the community and getting these baseball players involved and the publicity we could get is amazing.

Thank You letter from Oak Hill:

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

Dear Mr. Frankel,

On behalf of the Oak Hill Board of Directors I want to thank the Probus Club of Greater Hartford for the generous grant of \$500 given on June 23, 2017. This grant will be used for the purchasing of two high magnification microscopes.

Oak Hill School offers a 12 month community-based education program for day and residential students. The school program serves students with moderate to severe challenges, and students with multiple disabilities. Most of our classrooms are located within community environments allowing for best integration opportunities.

This gift has made all the difference in the world to our students helping them to become more independent in their daily life. On behalf, of those we serve thank you for making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Jenifer Meligonis DeJohn

Director, Grants

cc: Ed Peltier, Mark Goldberg

Thank You letter from Horizons:

HORIZONS

July 10, 2017

Probus Club of Greater Hartford
c/o Meyer Frankel

11 Croydon Drive West Hartford, CT 06117

Making a Difference!

Dear Meyer:

Once again, your generosity is making a huge impact!

As a result of the \$5,000 campership donation from the Probus Club of Greater Hartford, individuals with developmental disabilities from Hartford will be able to attend Camp Horizons who otherwise would have had to stay home.

Their families benefit from the respite. Facing more cutbacks in respite funding, they rely on help from donors like you to be able to take advantage of the programs we offer at Horizons. The lives of their family members who take part are brightened immeasurably by the opportunities for success, friendship and camaraderie made possible by the time they spend at Horizons.

Your continued support means so much to them - and to all of us at Horizons. On their behalf, I extend my sincerest gratitude. Thank you!

Sincerely

Chris McNaboe
Chief Executive Officer

Reminder: The Next Probus Meeting:

Date: Tuesday October 17, 2017

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: American School for the Deaf

139 N Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107

No Speaker: Business Meeting –

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 fundraising 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 donor 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.