



# *The Telescope*

Monthly News Letter of the PROBUS Club of Greater Hartford  
**April 2018**

## **Minutes of the meeting of March 27, 2018**

Held at The American School For The Deaf, West Hartford, CT  
Meeting called to order by President David Maslin at 6:30 p.m.

**Dr. Robert Dobrow** introduced our special guest speakers from **New Horizons Village**. He said that Executive Director Carol Fitzgerald will explain their mission. Also speaking tonight will be Stephanie Tetrault, Financial Project Manager and 2 current residents of New Horizons Village; **Marissa McDougal and Gary Gross**.

New Horizons Village, located in the Unionville section of Farmington, CT provides housing and support services for people with physical disabilities who want to live in a community that maximizes opportunities for independent, self-directed living.

New Horizons has 3 divisions: Cherry Brook Health Care Center in Canton, New Horizons Middlebury (seniors housing complex) and their Unionville campus. Carol said that they have 26 acres in Unionville and offer a continuum of services. Much like our Probus chapter, they were founded in the 1950's and are a non-profit organization. They were founded by and for disabled individuals. They have 101 living units and many of their residents take advantage of their fleet of vans to go shopping or take college classes at Tunxis Community College or the University of Hartford. Some residents enjoy traveling on the accessible walking paths to go into town to visit CVS, restaurants, banks, etc. Carol added that they offer 24/7 assistance such as when a resident is having trouble getting out of bed, or a family visitor does not show up for some reason. Carol said that they have a speakers bureau for outreach and proceeded to introduce their elder statesman **Gary Gross**.

Gary is one of New Horizons Village's original residents. He is a passionate advocate for the disabled and is a member of New Horizons Village's Board of Directors. Gary explained that residents have PCA's (Personal Care Attendants) and access to nurses and great transportation. He added that this environment "gives people freedom and let's you grow" and nowadays people want to be out of nursing homes. "When I was growing up, if you told me that I'd have my own apartment I'd have said you were nuts!" .....well Gary is a 30+ year resident!

**Marissa McDougal** is disabled and she graduated from the University of Hartford with honors with a degree in Communications ! She also is a Board member at New Horizons Village. Also, we learned that New Horizons Village's bylaws stipulate that 50+% of their board be comprised of disabled individuals. She explained how she is goal driven and set her mind to achieving a college education. Her next milestone that she wants to conquer is completing a 5K road race, walking it with crutches. She trains locally at Anytime Fitness.

**Stephanie Tetrault**, Financial Project Manager, is focused on promoting outreach and bringing in grant money. She has spearheaded nice partnerships with ConnectiCare, Cigna and Walgreens. She welcomed Probus members to come visit their community and said that their Admissions Director gives tours of the grounds and the living units. Their largest event is their 61st Annual Strawberry Festival, which takes place on Saturday, June 9 th . They have a craft fair, antique cars, pony rides, entertainment and food/shortcake! They are located at 37 Bliss Memorial Road in Unionville. Phone: (860)673-8893. A Q&A session ensued following the presentation by our guest speakers.

A brief business meeting followed our guest speakers.

Treasurer **Meyer Frankel's Treasurer's Report** was read and discussed and approved by the membership.

We found out that a \$1,000 donation was made to the Hartford Public Schools. **President Maslin** spoke on various updates pertaining to continuing projects.

The Annual Picnic planning team has been discussing deadlines and how to offload some of the responsibilities formerly done exclusively by **Bob Goldberg** to relieve him of this monumental task. The planning team is working closely with Bob to delegate tasks in an equitable manner.

**Hal Levy** thanked all who volunteered and braved the cold at our recent Crown SuperMarket Solicitation event. He was happy to report that we collected \$523.30!

Our capstone event, previously called the Installation Dinner, will now be known as the Year End/Celebration Dinner and will be held on May 24, 2018 at A.S.D.

**President Maslin** spoke about the newly formed Bylaws Steering Committee which will have 10 individuals on it. 3 Co-Chairs will help put together an agenda for the steering committee. They will work on putting together a preliminary draft of our chapter's bylaws. After a few meetings hammering out revisions, their final recommendations for new chapter bylaws will be presented to the entire membership for discussion and a vote will be taken.

**The Dave Clark Foundation** has reached back out to Mark Goldberg and is proposing that we hold our baseball clinic for disabled clients on July 7th. There will be a Hartford Yardgoats night game on the 7th, so they want the clinic to occur earlier that day. Shai and **Bob Goldberg** offered to volunteer to help Mark ramp up the logistics for this event. More details forthcoming so stay tuned!

**The Camp Horizons Annual Gala** is scheduled for Saturday, April 28 th . We are moving ahead with our plans to have a Probus Table of 10 people at \$175 per head for this charitable fundraiser. Some veteran Probians are planning to underwrite the cost for younger members who may wish to attend this festive event. Thank you to those folks who are generously paying for others to attend and gain exposure to a network of other advocates for the disabled who will be in South Windham that night!!!

Mark your calendars: Our next important Probus chapter meeting will occur on: Wednesday, April 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Dobrow Secretary & 2nd Vice President

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## **Meeting of Probus National**

In Wethersfield, CT: April 8, 2018 @ Friendly's Restaurant In Wethersfield, CT:

### **MINUTES:**

Meeting called to order by **National President Mark Goldberg** at 9:10 a.m.

Treasurer's Report (**Dean Smith**): Dean is awaiting receipt of national dues from both the Bridgeport and New Haven chapters. Dues are \$10 for the 1st year for new members and \$20 annually after that. Regarding insurance, Dean reported that he just paid money that was owed for insurance coverage. Additionally, Dean stated that our income from dues is approximately \$100 less than National's annual expenses (and most of this is insurance which every club participates in). There are 68 full time members (Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven clubs combined) at last count. Also, Dean said that there are no current demands for our charity funds. Dean said that he emailed his concerns to Probus National's Investment Committee concerning the "Gabelli Fund" and the volatility of the market. Mark Goldberg added that he will send an email to Dean regarding a suggestion pertaining to the Gabelli Fund concerns and some possible adjustments which could be implemented.

**President's Report (Mark Goldberg):** There is no Old Business and no correspondence to report. Mark presented an idea regarding Hartford Chapter's SSNE ("Supporting Special Needs Education") grant program serving as a model which can be replicated at the Bridgeport and New Haven Chapters. He would like each club to set up their own SSNE. Hartford Chapter has established relationships with school systems in towns contiguous to Hartford, as well as with CREC, Oak Hill, The Intensive Education Academy, The American School For The Deaf, etc. He explained how Hartford Chapter reviews grant requests from special education teachers for items which they do not have money for in their budgets. Specialized adaptive equipment, field trip experiences, money to augment lesson plans, etc. are all considered during the grant review process. This is a win-win because the teachers and students benefit from receiving the \$500 grants and the Probus chapter gains publicity, goodwill and networks with people who share a similar mission to ours. Mark envisions the Hartford Chapter offering guidance to the two other chapters in getting an SSNE program up and running. Eventually Hartford wants to approach larger corporations to help underwrite larger grants for the schools.

During Q&A on this topic, a request was made for **Hartford Chapter President David Maslin** (who spearheaded the development of the SSNE program) to send a brief written synopsis of the SSNE program, its mission and its structure/protocol/design to the 2 other chapters for them to discuss internally with their membership at the appropriate time. In particular, **Roy Lukacs** especially requested a 1-2 page synopsis of the SSNE program. He asked that any relevant information regarding tax I.D., bylaws (if applicable) and how to structure SSNE as a 501(c)3 or as "a project of Probus" be included.

### **Chapter Reports:**

**Bridgeport (Stuart Gordon):** The major fundraiser, the annual "Bike the Beach" is scheduled for September 23, 2018 and chapter members are excited about this special event! Stu also distributed a hand-out entitled Probus Club of Greater Bridgeport: A Plan for the Future. It outlines proposed changes within the club, especially the following: 1.) the establishment and funding of a large endowment fund for future client services. 2.) changing the focus of client services toward more

client events, rather than grants to other organizations. 3.) increasing the focus on membership growth and/or building alliances with other organizations that can provide them with additional resources. Finally, Stu mentioned that on June 21st the Bridgeport and New Haven Chapters will host a combined event, the client picnic. Clients from The Kennedy Center and area group homes will be treated to a memorable picnic and camaraderie at Camp Cedar Crest in Orange, CT! (Mark Goldberg then spoke briefly about the Hartford Chapter's Annual Client Picnic in Windsor and touched upon the highlights and the logistics.)

**New Haven (Roy Lukacs):** Our chapter funded a New York City trip with \$1,200 given to Cornerstone Group Home. We have also worked very closely with The Collaborative Learning Center over the months. We continue with our popcorn sale fundraiser and supporting local shelters by providing "kits for the homeless" which include basic necessities such as mylar blankets.

**Les Faiman** reported on his research into a site for a future Probus members and their families retreat weekend getaway. He focused on the Rocking Horse Ranch Resort in Highland, NY near New Hyde Park. This family resort has 500 acres with horseback riding and a myriad of activities for old and young. Although this looked very inviting, the suggested dates when they could host our group conflicted with Father's Day in June of 2019 and the packages were cost prohibitive. We thank Les for scoping this out though. We agreed that other options such as Philadelphia, Atlantic City, etc. be considered for a Probus Retreat/Convention.

**Mark Goldberg was voted in for another 2 year term as National President** by the assembled members. Mark spoke about the Camp Horizons Gala Fundraiser in South Windham, CT on Saturday, April 28th. Cost is \$175 per person for this spectacular evening. The Hartford Chapter is putting together a table of 10 for that night. Contact Mark if you or anyone from your chapter would like to attend!

**Stu Gordon** requested that he and all chapter members receive from Mark a list of the Intake Days at Camp Horizons when they transition and campers leave the campgrounds after their session is completed and new campers arrive (and Probians can watch the festivities and tour the campgrounds).

A suggestion was made to have some Probus members who are lawyers research, pro bono, the Probus trademark. There is a Probus presence globally such as in Canada and Australia. This is a different organization and we don't want to run the risk of getting sued by them some day in the future for trademark infringement. A suggestion was made that attorney Michael Croll or retired judge Syd Elkin might be helpful in this regard.

A motion passed to send a flower arrangement to "The Godfather of the Hartford Probus Chapter" **Moe Kotick** who is undergoing some medical issues. "Spring flowers to brighten your day from your friends at Probus National"! \$75 was authorized by the membership for these flowers and Mark Goldberg will handle getting them sent to Moe.

Mark your calendars: The next meeting of Probus National will be on: Sunday, October 14, 2018 at Friendly's Restaurant in Wethersfield.

Meeting adjourned at: 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Dobrow

National Secretary

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**Reminder: The Next Probus Meeting:**

**Date: Wednesday April 18, 2018**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

**Location: American School for the Deaf 139 N Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107**

**No Speaker: Business Meeting**

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**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.