

December 7, 2016

It was the 75th anniversary of the day "That Will Live in Infamy". Probably an odd choice for our annual Christmas party, but very few of our members were alive when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the few that were alive were too young to know what was happening. If you think about it, the countries that were our enemies in that war are now our allies and some of the countries that fought with us are now our enemies. Sometimes things change so fast it's hard to know what side we're actually on. A few years ago the Russians were friends and now they're fixing our elections. After Ray led us in "God Bless America" Norm introduced the entire group by name, had a moment of silence for the dead in those giant battleships and a blessing for the food we were about to eat.

After cocktails, conversation, laughing and piano music galore we settled down to a dinner with forty members, family and friends. The room had been decorated by Patricia and Renea and the music was provided by a Piano player that made Jerry look like an ad for the "Hair Club for Men". President Linda asked Immediate Past President Don to induct our two newest members, Brittany Denis and Allen Hus. Don is qualified for this because he was a Lieutenant Governor in a previous life. Brittany and Allen are co-owners of Advanced Balance Clinic in Dearborn and decided it was time to give back to the community. After everyone went up and welcomed the newest members of the Club, Renea started with the peanut awards. Now normally Skip likes to hassle Renea for being long-winded, but this time Skip was receiving one of those awards and told her to take all the time she needed. Jerry had received the "High Street Sales" award in September so tonight Renea gave out the "Winning Peanut Team" award to Skip, the "Top Sales" award to Bob Curran, the "Top Corporate Sales" award to Bob Curran (who apparently knows how to twist arms) and the "Most Over Target" award to herself (I think we need to check the calculation on that one).

Now as every Kiwanian knows, selling peanuts is an art, there are two basic methods for street sales, "Hot & Sexy" or "Old & Pathetic". Apparently Jerry is very good at "Old & Pathetic" and must have been that way for years because I have trouble thinking of him as "Hot & Sexy".

Adrienne took a holy oath to outsell Jerry this year and she was determined to do it at Cherry Hill & Telegraph. Now her father was selling peanuts on the other side of that intersection the first day and she was also determined to outsell him in head-to-head competition. She went for the "Hot & Sexy" look and planted herself in the yellow striped zone on the east side of Telegraph. Her father, who left "Hot & Sexy" in the dust years ago, was on the west side of the same intersection. Now "Old & Pathetic" comes naturally to Kerry, as it does to most of us, so he planted his stool in the middle of the street, put on his best look of extreme pain and started hawking goobers.

At the end of the day, Kerry had beaten the young wiper snapper by about 20% and looked as fresh as he had at the beginning of the day (it's hard to go downhill from pathetic) and Jerry had beat them both. Just goes to show, in Dearborn most citizens identify with "Pathetic" over "Hot" any day of the week.

After the peanut awards were handed out we played a game called "Right & Left" (no politics involved) that left most of us dazed, dizzy and holding a gift we didn't recognize. But it was fun.

Ray led us in Christmas carols and was in tune almost none of the time. Then the night was finished by Larry leading us in the pledge of allegiance. Now there was no American flag in the room so Larry, who for those of you that do not know, is a "Son of the South" that thinks the wrong side won that war in 1865, had us do the pledge to his Confederate Flag lapel pin (somebody's just got to tell him that the south lost).

Honorable mention to President Linda, who managed to keep a half drunk routy crowd in order most of the time, Dr. Paul who attended in one of Liberace's hand me down suits and Patricia who got around the DCC ban on blue jeans by wearing leopard skin and fur.

Upcoming Events;

December 14th – Get there early if possible, we start making bag lunches at 4 pm and have the Salvation Army Brass Band at 6:30. This is a long evening but is always fun, Please bring a contribution for the Salvation army, checks preferred. We have a long standing tradition that they play big brass horns as loud as they can in a small dinning hall until we give them enough money to stop (I think they call that a hostage situation with a ransom payment). Please also bring any clothing donations you have for The NOHA project (please, no undergarments, even the homeless have standards).

Thursday, December 15th – At 8:45 am we meet at the K of C parking lot then head downtown to hand out food and clothing. Jerry has been organizing this event for years and things usually run very smooth. We need about 10 or 12 volunteers and a good time will be had by all (Norm always brings donuts).

Saturday, December 17th – It's bell ringing time at Fairlane Shopping Center and our club covers three doors, Macy's, Penny's upstairs and Penny's downstairs from 10 am to 6 pm. We still have a couple openings and the sign up sheet will be at the December 14th meeting.

December 21st – Our own Frank Purrington is going to give us a program on Christmas in Dearborn during the 1950's & 60's. Visiting the Ford Rotunda, snowballing passing motorists and shoplifting at Muirheads will be covered.

Aren't we forgetting the true meaning of Christmas? You know, the birth of Santa.

*Love & Kisses
Babydoll*