

What did you miss if you missed our meeting this week? You missed a “moment”. A very special moment. A moment of vulnerability, a moment of pure honesty. We were allowed to touch on the journey to what is.... Greg Hamilton. We were to find out why Feed Citrus and other programs that care for young people are so important to him. It turns out that Greg had quite a life story to tell. The youngest of three boys, Greg’s mom died when he was too young to remember her. His dad remarried to a woman with four children. Soon, life would pretty much go down the tubes, because, as Greg said, “Dad took a deep dive into a bottle and didn’t come out”. Dad moved them around often and many times they had no food. Dad would drop the kids off at an orphanage and leave them there for a few days, so they could have food and a place to stay. Greg learned to make hunger go away using a mouth full of salt and water from a hose. Later, he would notice that people would throw food away. Food that he could eat! So, he survived by dumpster diving. Homeless at 12 years old, he spent some time with relatives or sleeping in an old Studebaker car. Eventually, he landed with relatives that let him stay with them through his high school years. He got into Temple University, studied journalism (vision Woodward and Bernstein), became a reporter, covered Jimmy Carter, worked for several newspapers in big cities, and eventually, wound up working for the St. Petersburg Times. In 1998, he became involved in our rotary club, and later, took on Boy Scouts to help shape other young men’s lives. His story showed us that people don’t need to be victims of their circumstances, but successful survivors of the situation they have to deal with. We all have a story to tell. We all have life events in our background that have shaped the humans we have become. It was a very emotional meeting, bringing us to grow more together as the great club we are. Despite our beginnings, we are all now the wonderful, caring individuals that make up rotary.

Other News:

Elections are coming – Nominations 11/25

Sox for Prisoners – Deadline Dec 14- White or Black Tube Sox to be distributed by Prison Missionaries

Family Resource Christmas Gifts – turn in by the end of the month

Family Resource Center – needs help wrapping presents

Salvation Army Bell Ringing – 11/29-30

Club Christmas Party – 12/14

(Please read Lace’s emails about all the activities and opportunities to get involved)

Congratulations to Dr. Scott Hebert, who started his first day as our new Superintendent!

50/50 – Michael Dandurand \$35

Happy/sad - \$128