



# THE GATEWAY GAZETTE



SERVICE ABOVE SELF



The Rotary Club of Warton

District 6330 Chartered 1938  
Dinner Meetings –6 P.M. Thursdays  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 208

May 7, 2020 Gateway Gazette

President Mike greeted everyone as they joined the group. This was an early meeting starting with social time at 4:45PM.

At 5 PM our meeting started as we were joined by our guest speaker, and former exchange student, Ella , who was joining us from her home in Germany (11PM local time). Ella started out showing us a few pictures of her passion....sailing. Her family has a 40 foot sailboat that they spend a fair amount of time on during vacation, often in Finland. Ella herself is an accomplished sailor. She has a "29er" that she sails competitively in Italy, the Netherlands and even in a recent world championship in Poland.

Ella then gave us an interesting presentation on home country of Germany (population 83 million). Ella lives in the subdivision Ilverich (population 700), of the town of Meerbusch (population 55,000), which is in Nordrhein-Westfalen province. Ilverich is tiny even by Warton standards. It has only one retail store that caters only to pets so Ella is thank full that Dusseldorf is only 20 minutes away. Ella commented on a peculiar aspect of the educational system in Germany. Children are screened in Grade 4 (just 9 years old) to determine if they are to continue to general school, secondary school, comprehensive school or academic secondary school (university preparation). The three major events in Germany are Carnival (February), Octoberfest (you guessed it, October) and St Martins Day (November).

Ella then gave us a bonus presentation on Finland. Finland is where Ella's parents are from. The country is close to Ella's heart as the family vacations in the southern part of the country most summers. Ella tried to claim Santa as a Finnish native, but the concept was rejected as we all know Santa is from the North Pole. However, we had to concede that Finland does claim the world title of highest per capita saunas (3 million saunas in a country of 5.5 million people).

Ella's parents were introduced and Pres Mike thanked Ella (for the presentation) and her parents (for Ella) and welcomed them back to Warton at any time.

**Attendance:** 17 Rotarians

**Guests:** Tony and Sylvia Shear, Ella and her parents from Germany.

**Birthdays:**

May 16 Mike Mason

21 Joanne Veerman

**Anniversaries :**

May 6 Trevor and Holly Hathaway

**Upcoming Meetings:**

All meetings are cancelled till further notice

Zoom District Conference June 13

Zoom International Conference June 20

Next Zoom meeting,

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE 2019-20

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Mike McMillan</b>
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Mike Mason</b>
<b>PRESIDENT ELECT</b>	<b>Gay Ratcliffe</b>
<b>SECRETARY (Executive)</b>	<b>Gay Ratcliffe</b>
<b>SECRETARY (Recording)</b>	<b>Donna Stewart</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Scott Elliott</b>

DIRECTORS

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>Linda Ebel</b>
<b>SERVICE PROJECTS</b>	<b>Kathryn Christie</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>Gay Ratcliffe</b>
<b>FOUNDATION</b>	<b>Trevor Hathaway</b>
<b>PUBLIC IMAGE</b>	<b>Pat Cavan</b>
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	<b>Eric Robinson</b>

President Mike announced that the club has voted to proceed with Zoom Trivia Night Fundraiser.

District Governor, Tony Sheard, announced that the District Conference date has been changes to June 13 (9AM to 12:30 PM). It will be available on Zoom and live stream on Facebook. Registration will begin June 1.

Following the main meeting, Pat, Scott, Richard, Mike Mason, Trevor, Greg and Bob held a Trivia organization meeting. They decided that our first attempt at an online Trivia night would be held on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> with the room opening at 7:30 and a start time of 8:00 PM. The cost will be \$20.00 per team. Teams will be encouraged to make an additional optional donation of \$10 per member. Advertising and registration information will be distributed on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Your humble scribe: R.B.