the Roundtable

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New hope for New Hope

urses receive unusual requests. But this one was new to Christii Maquillan. She was tending to a patient at New Hope Hospice who had reached end-of-life preparations. He had no family, never married, and lived alone. His request: "will you lie down next to me?"

Rule books, regulations, ethics- they all flashed through her mind as she decided to take pity and fulfill the man's request. As she lay there, she felt him shaking, but could not determine whether he was weeping or laughing.

Laughter is the best medicine, as we all know. It turns out that the patient had a \$10 bet riding on whether Ms. Maquillan would fulfill his request.



The big news in her talk was the merger of Eddington-based New Hope Hospice, of which she is Executive Director/Registered Nurse, with Community Health and Counseling Services at the end of May.

Ms. Maquillan defined hospice care, its value to those who use its services, and funding guidelines established by Medicare. She urged everyone to have an end-of-life plan so there are

no doubts or questions when we are no longer able to care for ourselves.

"Hospice is about living," she said. "People start doing better after they enter hospice. There is no pressure to stay in hospice," she said. If a patient gets better –and New Hope Hospice carefully monitors patients' status – Medicare will stop funding when that happens or after six months and patients can resume regular Medicare benefits. They can return to hospice at any time. New Hope Hospice serves an area of up to thirty miles around Eddington. Under the CHCS umbrella, it will expand to a four-county area.

Volunteers are welcome, but getting volunteers is hard, she said. Volunteers go through a 24-hour training session, and they are not involved with direct personal patient care. After the CHCS merger, volunteers will come under the Eastern Maine Medical Center Volunteer Pool.

Some funding for New Hope Hospice comes from the Maine Hospice Council, which itself relies on donations.

Ms. Maquillan, along with New Hope Hospice founder Pat Eye, continues to advocate for an in-patient facility in the Bangor region.

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"May the 4th be with you." **President Kristy Kimball** does not have a lithp, but she opened the meeting with laser-sword sharpness, announcing a board of directors meeting for next Wednesday at 7 am at Links on Main Street in Bangor. You may attend, whether you are a board member or not.

Ken Huhn announced the Breakfast Rotary booth at the Business Expo on May 24 and noted the hours -4:30-7:30 pm at the Cross Insurance Center. The club will provide prizes to those whose business cards are drawn. Ken seeks gifts for the event from members.

Ken reminded us that the month of June is Alzheimer's Month. He is selling calendars @\$10 to support the work of caregivers.

Kristy announced the Bangor Noon Rotary Club invites us to join them on May 6 for a Community Cleanup at City Forest from 9-11 am. However, watch for the rain date of May 13 to be announced. This Saturday promises to be soggy.

Karen Schaller collected Happy Dollars

from Caroline King, who defined her recent absences as travel-related. She said the American Red Cross installed 101 smoke alarms in peoples' homes in the Machias area and thanked Stacy White for volunteering to help. Caroline promoted her artwork that is part of the Bangor Art Exhibit on display at the Bangor Public Library. Bob



Karen Schaller, John Wardwell

Leavitt watched the art of golf at the Masters Tournament, and traveled to South Carolina and Pennsylvania before returning home.

Karen reminded committee chairmen to submit attendance reports to her after they have meetings.

June Kontio returned from Down Under- Australia, actually – to see her granddaughter. June's daughter danced at Morgan Hall as part of a fundraising auction program.

Les Myers- May 4, 2017





Coburn Hall, University of Maine, 8:30 am, May 4, 2017

Service above self

