

The Roundtable

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The American Red Cross- more than blood drives

If there was any narrow understanding of the scope of the work of the American Red Cross, Jay Cloutier expanded knowledge about the organization at today's meeting.

Col. Cloutier (USAF, Ret.), Regional Director, Service to Armed Forces and Int'l Services of the American Red Cross, traced the history of the Red Cross that started with Clara Barton and, later, its charter in 1909. Amongst its services are blood drives, disaster relief, CPR training and international services.

On-line information says that although ARC is not a government agency, its authority to provide disaster relief was formalized when, in 1905, it was granted a congressional charter to "carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same." The charter is not only a grant of power but also an imposition of duties and obligations to the nation, to disaster victims and to the people who support its work with their donations.

Col. Cloutier said that the Red Cross helps veterans re-enter civilian life after active duty. This includes working with families before and after a veteran is deployed to ensure resiliency for the dramatically different world they leave and enter. The agency provides emergency communications and other humanitarian support for active duty service members. A quote from a service member published in a Red Cross brochure said "...no matter where we are in the world, the Red Cross can get us a message."



The Red Cross provides home fire safety classes and inspections. Eight lives were saved last year because of the program.

“We need you to be the ears and eyes for those persons needing assistance,” Col. Cloutier said. **Caroline King**, who invited Col. Cloutier to the meeting and introduced him, can provide more information.

‘Tis the season to be...

Invocations will take on a new format. **The Club's** board yesterday approved invocations that are non-denominational. **President June Kontio** distributed a multi-page list of invocations from various Rotary Clubs that we can select when called upon to lead the invocation.

Speaking of blood drives, the Club will sponsor one on March 29. Watch this space.

Pudge Harrison issued a Membership Committee request: “We need to increase our membership. Extend an invitation to join to everyone you know!” **Karen Schaller** says she needs sign-ups for the Sign-In table for January. Meet and greet.

The Birthday Duo of **Myers** and **Wahlstrom** greeted **Craig Costello**, who thought he could escape the long Fine Fingers of **Paul Miragliuolo**. Paul collected for a birthday Craig had in... September. Lisa celebrated her Montana student son's arrival safely home.

Ken Huhn highlighted the January edition of *The Rotarian* in his Rotary Moment that included “How to Start a Rotoract Club.” We learned that the Bangor Noon Rotary sponsors a club at Husson University. We may want to explore starting a club in another of the many colleges in the area. *Editor note: The Rotarian for January 2019 has several stories in their annual series called Ordinary Rotarians can find themselves in extraordinary circumstances. In their own words, they tell us "What it's like to..." Their experiences provide for exciting reading.*

Ken Kimball won a bicycle race and a cash prize. Paul Miragliuolo showed off his limp. Its nattering forced him to a doctor who said to “lose weight.” He will do that in Florida for the next two weeks.

Les Myers- December 20, 2018

