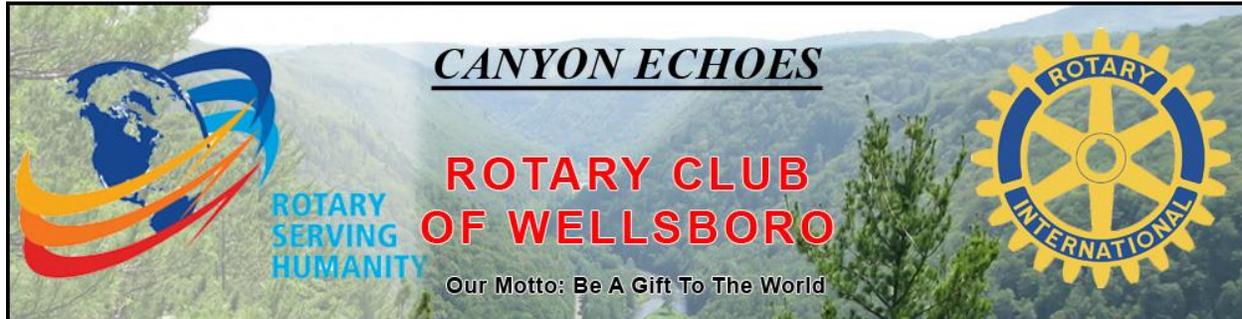


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PROGRAM: The Wellsboro STEM Program



Bob DeCamp introduced the guests of **Carl Chambers**, who had a last minute conflict. Rachel Smith and Melina Moyer originated the Wellsboro STEM program hosted by the Wellsboro Department of Parks and Recreation. Rachel is an electrical engineer, and in her first career she designed and sold commercial HVAC systems, for schools, hospitals, and the like. She went back to school to get her Master's Degree in Secondary Education. Melina has her Bachelors and Master's Degrees in science, and has held jobs in science centers and museums, specializing in hands-on education. They met at a local MOPS meeting, and they brain-stormed how to put their talents to use here in Tioga County. They decided that an after-school program would work best for their life-styles, and approached the Department of Parks and Recreation, which already had after school programs in place.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, and is a national program focused on trying to interest children in these disciplines at the earliest age possible. It is a hands-on, project oriented form of play designed to teach technical concepts, math, and the scientific method. The whole idea is integrative education. Important aspects of the method are to ask the right questions, and to use the actual names for scientific concepts, such as hypothesis, theory, and observation. The result is that the students learn important scientific concepts in a fun atmosphere, they have experience with utilizing and applying math concepts, and as a result they get excited about learning in general and science in particular.

Their main focus is on pre-school and elementary school aged children to introduce the process of learning. They calculated that they needed a minimum of 10 students, and a maximum of 20, to make the program work. They were sold out in three days and now have a waiting list of 25 students, and are thinking of adding more programs.

The projects utilize low cost and found materials, such as cardboard boxes, paper towel rolls, and recycled materials. To give the Rotarians a taste of what a project would look like, they passed out 10 pipe-cleaners to teams of 2 or 3, and each team had 5 minutes to make the highest tower with the least amount of pipe cleaners. Maria Spencer and Jim Meade won by virtue of using only half their allotment, and had the highest free standing pipe-cleaner tower.



CLUB NEWS February 23, 2017

Vice President **Craig Devenport** chaired today's meeting.

Ardel Thomas offered the invocation.

We sang "God Bless America" accompanied by **Pat Davis** on piano.

Guests:

No guests today

Foreign Exchange Student Report

Yvesan Yu told us that his participating in the High School Spring Musical called, "High School Musical," which will play March 30- April 9. First Position Dance Studio will give recitals on April 14, 21 and 28, and the theme will be "Legend." He is looking forward to his trip to Washington, DC on March 16-18, leaving at 4:15 AM (Which he is NOT looking forward to!)

Announcements

Craig reported that he had been chosen to spin the "Wheel of Mis-fortune" last week, and he had to report on an article from the Rotary magazine. He reported on the cover article for February about the 15 Rotary Clubs working on 330 sites to clean up the toxic algae in Lake Erie.

Jim Paxson reminded everyone of the Booster Dinner on May 3d. He attended the Relay For Life dinner to sell tickets, and they proposed that we create a Relay For Life Team for the July 8 event on the Green. This will be discussed at the nest Board meeting.

Secretary Jim Tutak reported that the trailer for the flags to decorate the downtown area was purchase for \$100 less than the estimate. Also to be discussed at the next board meeting is a proposal to hold a "Candidate's Forum" for local candidates for political office, with an eye towards the May primary, the November general elections, and the 2018 Congressional race.

Students of the Month



Alannah Wilcox, 11th Grade, Career and Technical;

Rachel Chamberlain, 10th Grade, Fine Arts;

Makayla McMichael, 12th Grade, Academic/College Prep;

Yvesan Yu, Foreign Exchange Student;

(Missing: William Lechler, 9th Grade, Athletics)