



Rotary Club of Wellsboro
April 20, 2017

Jason White Speaks on His Visit to Standing Rock Protest Site

Maria Spencer introduced her guest, Jason White. Jason grew up in Columbia Cross Roads, in Bradford County, and now lives in Wellsboro. He has held several jobs, including building contractor work in Florida, before returning to Tioga County to attend Mansfield University. He graduated with a degree in Philosophy and Public Relations. After graduation, he married his philosophy teacher.

Jason's talk was about his experience at Standing Rock, the place where the 1772 mile Dakota Access Pipeline will cross under the Missouri River just a tenth of mile north of the Sioux Indian Reservation. He went out there as winter was approaching, and he was going to use his construction skills to help build shelters.



The history of the pipeline construction route is that it was originally proposed to be built quite near a suburb of Bismark, ND. That community objected, and it was re-routed to more rural and less populated areas. The proposed pipeline route now passes within a 1/10 of a mile from the Sioux Reservation under a much broader section of the Missouri River. The potential for polluted water is enormous, given the history of oil spills and remediations in that area. Jason showed a film from 2010 in which an oil spill from an Enbridge Oil Company pipeline affected Talmadge Creek, Battle Creek, and found its way to Ceresco Dam. While the company claimed the insurance money from an insurance company it owns, and reported to the government that the spill was cleaned up, a whistle blower showed evidence that the oil was hidden away under sand and mats of reeds planted to hide it.

He reported on the efforts of the Black Rock Security company to dislodge the protestors, the bulldozing of an ancient Indian Burial ground, and the way the protestors stood up to tactics reminiscent of third world dictatorships.

CLUB NEWS, March 30, 2017

President Mike Hummel led the meeting today.
Ardell Thomas gave the invocation.

Shelby Osgood, our next foreign exchange student, was present today.

Exchange Student Report: Yvesan reported that he had secured his clothes for the Prom which was to be held on Saturday the 22nd, and that he was looking forward to the dancing. The District Conference is coming up and he will be a part of the “Showcase”, doing a dance performance. In May, he will participate in a Dance Studio performance.

Secretary’s Report:

Candidates Forum was held and had a turn out of about 50 people. Attorney Bill Hebe was the moderator, and did a good job.

BOOSTER DINNER:

Jim Paxson reminded everyone that the Laurel Festival Booster Dinner would be held on May 3d at the Penn Wells Hotel in Wellsboro.

RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM:

For the first time, Wellsboro Rotary will host a Relay for Life team. The event will be held on July 8 on the Green in Wellsboro. Jim Tutak, Jim Paxson, and Tim McBride volunteered to lead the committee.

Sargent At Arms:

Dick Ford deferred because the meeting was running late.

Songs:

- Deferred

50/50: to benefit Tioga County Homeless Shelter

- Shelby Osgood won the raffle.