



Westfield Kiwanis Club

Kiwanigram



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Auction software demo shows ease of use

Al Woodruff was happy because he had a dollar. **Ciro Petrucelli** was happy because our rain was not snow. **John Lanoue's** dollar was typically quiet. **Katrina Dzedzic** was just happy. **Bob Plasse** was happy to be back with us after an extended absence. **Brad Cassin** was four quarters worth of happy because he was entrusted with an advance copy of the Westfield Evening News's



annual business outlook section for delivery to **Father Joe Soltysiak**. **Chris Lindquist** said he was happy because he's per-

fected "a method of printing dollar bills," and displayed an example of his "handiwork." (Actually, an uncut pair of genuine dollar bills, in case anyone from the Treasury Department happens to be reading this). **Mike Monahan** was happy because the TV Auction effort is "moving ahead." Mike displayed one of the brand-new hands-free telephone headsets the club has purchased for our Auction phone volunteers' use. **Mike Silvestri's** dollar was without comment. **George Delisle** was happy because the "Norwegian Olympic Curling Team's Pants" page on Facebook, which
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RETURN OF THE PRODIGALS - Yes, Bob Plasse, left, and Chris Lindquist, were both present for Thursday's meeting and information session on our new TV Auction software. We're hoping to see more of them both.

Father Joe Soltysiak led us in a verse of "God Bless America," Bob Plasse led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Father Joe offered a prayer to start off Thursday's regular meeting.

After calling us to order, President Chris Roncolato told us that the new K-Kids chapter at Munger Hill Elementary School was presented with its charter last week. Christine spoke about the new club's

members' energy and excitement, and said we can expect great things from the club very soon.

Christine reminded the club that next week's (March 4) meeting will be a Board of Directors meeting. She also reminded us that the week of March 21 will be a busy one, although there will be no regular meeting at Tucker's that week. On Wednesday, March

Christine L. Roncolato, President • Sharon P. Ashton President-Elect • Adam Wright, 1st Vice President Janet Cassanelli, 2nd Vice President • Kelly Silvestri, Secretary • Michael A. Silvestri, Treasurer

Meetings every Thursday, 6:05 PM at Tucker's Restaurant, 625 College Hwy, Southwick, MA. Meeting and membership information at www.westfieldkiwanis.org. Postal mail to Box 773, Westfield, MA 01086-0773

New auction software registers bids in real time

Happy-Sad Dollars

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was originated by one of George's daughter's high school friends, has attracted nearly half a million fans in just 10 days and was mentioned in a national AP news story Thursday.

Bill Parks was happy to be traveling to Denver to visit his son Friday.

Father Joe was happy despite forgetting his "white collar thing."

Adam Wright was happy to proclaim that he "loves Thursday nights!" **PP** (for our newer members, "PP" means "Past President" –

Paul gets testy when we omit his title!) **Paul Hutchinson** was happy that Major League Baseball's spring training is under way, and went on at some length about the prospects of "the number one team," but appeared somewhat confused about which team that is – he kept referring to some team "from The Bronx."

Jim Brown was most certainly not confused on that score, as his happy dollar was for his feeling that the "Sox are ready" to win the AL East.

Tiffany Moran was happy because she's getting a "paid vacation" to Florida in July with a family she does child care for.

Paul Nunez was happy because he helped serve Father Joe's golumbki at the Westfield Soup Kitchen Monday. **Kevin O'Connor** was happy that we were not getting snowed on.

24, (at 5:30 PM) our members will attend the annual Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield's Youth of the Year banquet at East Mountain Country Club, an annual tradition. On Friday of that week, March 26, we'll also be attending the annual Lenten fish dinner at Father Joe's St. Joseph's National Catholic Church. The club will be purchasing at least a table for the Boys & Girls Club event; tickets must be purchased in advance for the fish dinner.

Also coming up on April 22 is our annual meeting with the members of our Westfield State College Circle K Club, which will be held at the college. President Chris asked that members consider donating items for a raffle that evening which would benefit the Circle K Club. Please contact Chris if you can donate something for the raffle.

Our program for the evening was a presentation by Nick Meszaros, a senior at Westfield State College who has been the lead developer for our new TV Auction database. Nick, who will graduate with a computer science degree in May, has led a team of Westfield State students in transforming our collective vision of an auction software

package into an actual set of programs that will be used for the first time at the March 7 auction.

Nick demonstrated the portion of the software that will be used by our auction telephone volunteers. He explained that auction bid takers will be able to access the current auction block, the current "Big Block," or the "Super Block" from their laptop screens throughout the auction. Callers will be asked for their pre-assigned Speed Bid Numbers, which, once entered, will bring up a screen which identified the holder of the number. Our volunteers will then ask the caller for his or her name, making sure that the caller and account match.

Posting of bids through the system is virtually instantaneous, Nick said, and the system makes duplicate bids impossible. This will eliminate the possibility of tie bids, and assure that the highest possible bid is record for each item being sold.

Auction phone volunteers will be trained on use of the software at the Westfield State College TV Studio at 10 AM on auction day. Student volunteers will also be on hand to support volunteers throughout the auction program.

The first president of Kiwanis International was George F. Hixson of the Rochester, New York, club. He was elected at the first convention in Cleveland in 1916 and re-elected the next year. He is the only International President to serve for two terms. The Hixson Fellowship of the Kiwanis International Foundation is named in his honor; Hixson medals are presented to donors who have contributed at least \$1,000 to the Hixson Endowment Fund or the Worldwide Service Project..