

ROTARY ANCHOR



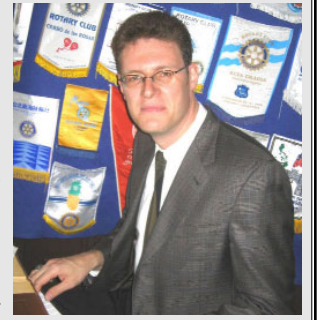
2009/2010 Rotary Theme

New London Rotary Club
District 7980 Club 6741
 P.O. Box 654 New London, CT 06320
 www.newlondonrotary.org

Meeting Thursday December 24, 2009

New London AM Club at City News

**Pianist
 Ian Frenkel**
 As a special Holiday treat for the club, Ian, our accompanist will feature a program of a variety of music. Ian has a strong jazz background but plays all kinds of music.



Dec 24 - Special Piano program by Ian Frenkel

Dec 31 - Henry Savin - Storyteller

Reporters:	Dec 24	Robin Aitcheson
	Dec 31	Alan Mayer
Greeter:	Dec 24	Rod White
	Dec 31	Michel Belt
Song Leader:	Dec 24	Mille Devine
	Dec 31	Peg Curtin
Birthdays	Dec 26	Pam Akins
	Dec 27	Rod White
	Dec 31	MaryLou Underwood
Anniversaries	Dec 28	Ivan Sadler & Andrea
	Dec 31	Neil Feinberg & Marie

Service Person on the Month

Petty Officer Townsend, who enlisted in the Navy on February 2, 1997 reported to his present command in December 2006. Townsend attended Thomas Edison State College.

Petty Officer Townsend has dedicated numerous hours improving the Electrical/ Electronics Repair Division as well as volunteering in his off-duty hours. Specifically, he was hand selected for the recent fly-away mission to repair critical equipment on USS MEMPHIS. Due to his technical expertise, the equipment repair was efficiently completed and allowed the unit to continue on their underway mission. Additionally, as a SAVI representative, he has provided the necessary counseling to several Naval personnel who needed his services. His strict adherence to his duty ensures all personnel receive confidential and direct support.

On his off-duty hours, he volunteered to be the Assistant Coach for 35 youth who are part of the Whalers Football Team. Due to his commitment to the youth of the community, he provided exceptional leadership, guidance and created a spirit of sportsmanship for future leaders. Also, he volunteered several hours at his church in various committee positions including the usher committee, financial committee, and video committee. His dedication resulted in the quality of services provided by the church to the congregation.

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT sponsors the Service Person of the Month Program.



Petty Officer Townsend & his wife

Program December 10, 2009

By: Todd Gipstein

Todd O'Donnell and Rich Caruso, representing Shoreline East, gave a persuasive talk about why the extension of rail service to New London will be good for the city. Introduced by Penny Parsekian, who added her positive viewpoint, the two explained why connecting New London to the existing Shoreline East line, which currently ends in Saybrook, will enable New London to fulfill its destiny as a transportation hub and help revitalize downtown.

Caruso explained that I-95 is already hopelessly overwhelmed by the volume of traffic on it -- 3 times what it was built to handle. And it won't get any better anytime soon. A viable rail line -- not just for commuters but for tourists and others visiting the city -- would be an economical and efficient alternative to the mess of I-95. Penny interjected that a single railroad track can carry the same amount of passengers as a 6-lane highway. There are also environmental benefits to travel by rail, which creates 1/10th the amount of CO2 emissions compared to cars per person.

The Shoreline East line will be an alternative to driving and to Amtrak, which is expensive, not very reliable, and thinks of itself as an interstate service. Those commuting to work or events need a cheap service that runs on time. Shoreline East promises to be just that, and would perhaps entice more folks to make New London home.

Caruso shared a number of anecdotal stories from his store, where customers seem to frequently lament the lack of train service to the city.

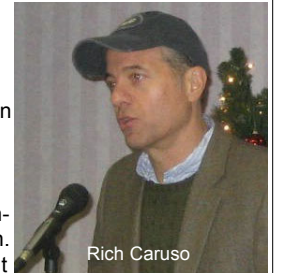
By making it easier for people to get to New London, the train line would expand the numbers who come here for tourism, the arts scene, shows at the Garde, waterfront activities, recreation, the casinos, and to live and work. Both men believe that "if you build it, they will come," not only to see, but to live. Often, extensions of train or subway lines kick-starts housing sales and building. The rail lines are a crucial part of the economic infrastructure. They pointed out that what is needed -- the tracks, garages, passengers -- are all already in place. O'Donnell, the owner of Union Station, stated that the New London station is the third busiest in the state. How big might it become if the Shoreline East works out well?

They also explained that New London needs to beef up the "last mile" leg of the journey -- the connection of the railroad hub to other places around town. Buses, van, taxis and maybe even a trolley line might all help get folks from Union Station to area hotels, Ocean Beach, Conn. College and so on.

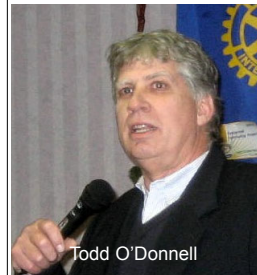
Expanded service to New London has already been promised by the state, and though delayed, should start in early 2010.

Listening to Todd and Rich, there seem no downsides to the plan. While it will cost 3.5 million a year to run it, they explained that all railroads are subsidized. They earn their keep through convenience, efficiency, and the economy they generate through tourism and other activities. Some of that cost will, of course, be covered by ticket sales.

When asked how we can help, Caruso explained that it only takes 4 phone calls to the mayor to get the wheels turning on something. He and Todd suggested we call the mayor and Governor Rell as well, telling them we support and need the Shoreline Service to New London.



Rich Caruso



Todd O'Donnell