

HATT Annual Meeting

October 11, 2017 at Lake Naomi Clubhouse

At 6:30 p.m. all were welcomed by Chuck Waygood, HATT president. He invited the veterans to stand as they were applauded. We were then served a delicious dinner by excellent wait staff. The official meeting began at 7:30 pm.

Rick Bodenschatz introduced himself as the current program director and began by advising those present that Board of Directors had designated this annual meeting to honor our media friends. He began by introducing Seth and Ruth Eisdenberg from the *Journal Plateau*, then Kim and Chaz deBourbon our web designers and then Jeanine Hoffbauer from *This Week in the Poconos*. They were sincerely thanked along with the folks from Pocono Printing and the Pocono Record for their generosity and support.

Rick then outlined the program for November which will be on the 9th at 5:30 p.m. The Home for the Holidays concert is scheduled for December 9th and tickets will be available as before at the Clymer Library. Watch for signs and information. He solicited volunteers to hang posters on the programs for November and we thank all who volunteered.

There is no programming from January to April when we will have an April program at the usual time of Thursday evening at Clymer Library. Rick is working on programming for the 2018 calendar year. The programming has been set but there are a few changes in that the picnic will be in June in the evening following our June meeting and the annual dinner meeting will be in September in order to capture more folks who normally go south for winter.

Rick then introduced Ben Gelber, Meteorologist with NBC affiliate in Columbus, Ohio. He pointed out Mr. Gelber's three books on weather, all of which are in Clymer Library or can be obtained online. Mr. Gelber was born in Kentucky but his family moved to East Stroudsburg when his father took a job at East Stroudsburg State College before it became a University. It was there that he grew up and admits that he LOVES the snow. He recalls that as a teenager he would constantly measure the temperature and pressure as well as track storms. He feels fortunate to have had the resources of the ESU's library where he researched historical data on weather and tracked current weather patterns in his younger years. When in PA, he was connected to the Pocono Record and was instrumental in getting the weather station at ESU made part of the National Weather Service grid.

As a TV personality now for some 37 plus years, he hasn't lost his enthusiasm for weather, weather patterns and changes occurring on our planet. He has followed the well established weather stations and was appreciative of the pure data sets available to him on NEPA weather, patterns old and new.

He then outlined the patterns in current past history starting with floods past which wiped out bridges, homes and major roads. NEPA in on a flood plain which adds to the possibility of future flooding especially when hit with multiple storms which drop an enormous amount of water in a short time. He showed pictures of some of the damage from these events.

His next concern was the number of severe storms in the area. The wind issues in hurricanes, straight line winds and tornados are a problem because we are on a plateau and there is little to no protection.

Tornado activity has been documented more than a few times in our area. He showed pictures the worst of which as in 1985, there was a 2 ½ mile wide tornado in PA which took out a farm and woodlands.

Because we also have high precipitation in the area, we have a great amount of snow in winter. This varies but we have been known to get upwards of 4 feet plus of snow at one time!

Following his presentation, Mr. Gelber took questions and considerable discussion followed. Rick then thanked Ben Gelber and presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his kind service to our community and HATT members.

The meeting was closed at 8:57 pm with many folks continuing the conversation with Mr. Gelber.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Rapp

Peggy Rapp, Secretary