

Country Squires Minutes: 8/11/2022

Joe Watts, president, opened the meeting welcoming some forty Squires and their guests. Dan Allen followed with a brief "Irish Blessing." Lunch was offered in three courses centered by chicken parm in a bed of pasta. Joe chaired the business portion of the meeting inducting a new member, Dick Thielen, and introducing two guests, Ron Crowell and Maynard Wheeler. Bill Helm was then called upon to introduce the luncheon speaker, Neil Shifrin. Neil's credentials included a Ph.D from MIT in Environmental Engineering and 25 years as a consultant in that field.

Neil's subject was "The Pressing Issue of Healthcare Costs and Universal Health Care," —a subject undertaken by only the brave, and with a Squire's audience peppered with physicians, one might say, only the bravest. Neil outlined the extraordinary cost of the American healthcare system. He detailed where the money goes and where it comes from and noted the burden the uninsured place upon the general community. He estimated this at between \$5K and \$8K yearly per uninsured person. Neil made the case for a blending of Universal Health Care and private insurance saying that it would be less expensive than the current system. He stated several times that the problem was one of implementation and not costs.

A lively discussion followed, easily as long as the talk itself. Several physicians cautioned about any program run by the government. Others cited the current problems of duplication, over utilization, lack of competition, disincentives to economies, and the multiplication of profit centers, all of which, they felt, contributed to high costs without improving outcomes.

The meeting ended with Bill Helm announcing the September speaker, Commander David Kenny, (ret.) and his subject, the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery at Boscowen.

We look forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

Submitted,  
Art Rosen, secretary