



the eye-opener

January 2008

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Brian Monroe

I would like to start by saying, “happy new year and the best wishes for a successful and prosperous new year to all”. The Rotary theme for this month is “Rotary Awareness” especially in regards to our global humanitarian efforts. I have learned more about Rotary this year as your president and would like to share my heightened awareness of it with all of you; because I feel the more that I am aware of Rotary’s activities and unceasing desire to improve the world, the better Rotarian and president I can be for all of you.

In preparations for these monthly letters I have found myself reading the “Rotarian” magazine for ideas and themes to share with you. The January issue is filled with articles that brought more awareness to me and other readers about many local and global projects, especially the need to keep the funds coming in for the “Polio Plus” program. I was extremely encouraged and very proud of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s gift of \$100,000,000 to RI and the partnership created in this life saving program that was wonderfully described by Bill Gates Sr. They realize the importance of Rotary’s commitment to finish this project, before we lose ground to this crippling childhood disease and see our progress reversed. Now for those of us who read and were moved by these articles we need to share these stories with others, we just have to look for the opportunity to do so.

Our club is very fortunate for we have many excellent tools at our disposal to create these opportunities to share Rotary awareness with others. First and foremost we are a very active and welcoming club and any guest that you might invite to breakfast would experience that and get a glimpse of Rotary in action. If that visitor has questions about our club you can’t answer, answers can be provided with a new member packet that Dorothy Wahner has creatively assembled, or direct them to our website that Carole Blaney keeps updated for us. It is very easy to direct those inquiring minds to it, for once there they are able to see, read and learn about our many projects. A website visitor could also click on our newsletter to drill deeper into what our club is doing to make the world a little bit better for others, or view the GMRP power point to see how we have reached beyond Mequon and Thiensville and out into our global community. Some may happen to open a local paper and read an article about a Rotary club project and chances are that Jean Hill had made that publication aware of that event so that it could be shared with others. For those who frequent “You-Tube” search for Rotary + Polio to view clips that show “humanity in motion”. Please open our Rotary tool box and help build Rotary awareness.

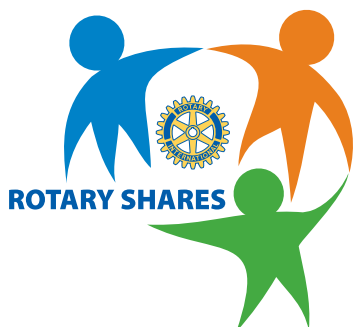
January first is often the incentive for us to make a “New Year’s Resolution” to do something different and create a new habit. This year I will wear my Rotary pin, hat, or shirt with a new resolve to bring Rotary awareness to others and when they ask me, “what is Rotary?” I will have so much more to share with them. Who knows, they may want to join us or contribute to our efforts? We need all the awareness to help advance world understanding, good will and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty.

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WHERE CAN I GET MAKE-UP?

Go to www.mtsunriserotary.org or www.rotary.org for worldwide opportunities.



Officers

- Brian Monroe ✓ - Pres.
- Dan O'Connor - Pres. Elect
- Tom Johnson - VP
- Dick Dieffenbach ✓ - Treasurer
- Mike Reuteman - Asst. Treas.
- Gordon Hetzel - Secretary
- Sharon Pechiva - Sgt. Arms
- Dorothy Wahner* ✓ - Past Pres.

Avenues of Service Chairs

- Club: Holly Bern
- Community: Lynn Streeer
- International: Bob Blazich ✓
- Vocational: Sharon Pechiva

Members

- Tom Aranow
- Roanne Barnes* ✓
- Carole Blaney
- Rich Bub* ✓
- Jim Button
- George Coulter
- Tom Czaja
- Barb Doll
- Gustav Dreyer, Jr. ✓
- Karl Ekman
- Bert Eversly
- Mike Fletcher* ✓
- Chris Frommell
- Roger Gronwick
- Julia Henkle Penn
- Jean Hill* ✓
- Dave Jackson
- Jackie Kaminski
- Brian Kendzor
- Michael Kim
- David Kliber
- Chet Lukaszewicz
- Andy Moss* ✓
- Alicia Nickols
- Jim Ott
- Deb Patton ✓
- Steve Peterman* ✓
- Roger Reinemann* ✓
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- Terry Schacht
- Alice Sedgwick* ✓
- Deb Simpson ✓
- Wally Sommer ✓
- Amy Sterkenburg ✓
- Patti Stevens
- Eric Strande
- Lee Szymborski*
- Tom VanDemortel
- Mark Wildermuth
- Chuck Zamora
- Ken Zganjar* ✓

Deceased

- Doyle Barker
- Dick Miller ✓
- Don Roensch ✓

*Past President
 ✓ Paul Harris Fellow

HOLIDAY PARTY

By Holly Bern

Once again Shully's Catering and Cusine provided a gorgeous backdrop to our well-attended holiday dinner, which took place on Friday evening, December 7, 2007. Thanks to Scott and Beth Shully, Maryann Penkal and the outstanding Shully's staff for meticulous attention to every detail.

Thanks, also, to the decorating committee--Jim Ott, Steve Peterman, Eric Strande, Barb Doll, Jackie Kaminski, Julie Shlensky, Deborah Simpson, and Patti Stevens--who joined me in providing centerpieces and candy for each table. The party was extra lovely because of your contributions. Thanks also to Club Service members who served as greeters, with a special appreciative nod to Jim and Carol Ott, who exemplified dedication, warmth and graciousness as they welcomed members and guests.

Special thanks to Gordon Hetzel for sitting with me at the place card table and making the first part of the evening a lot of fun.

Very special thanks to Julia Penn for arranging for her harp teacher, the amazing John Manno, to play for us during the party. John's music added elegance to the party, and Julia was very generous to gift the club in this thoughtful, charming way.

Finally, thanks to all the party-goers for making the 2007 holiday party a beautiful and memorable occasion.



FEBRUARY AFTER-HOURS

By Holly Bern

Our next get-together will be Wednesday, February 20th at Harvey's Central Grille (formerly Chip and Py's).

Start time is 5:30 PM. Special good news: bar and restaurant are non-smoking!

Members wishing to stay for dinner should call the restaurant to make reservations. Harvey's fills up fast and advanced reservations are recommended. The phone number is (262) 241-9589. You may also let me know any time before February 15th if you want me to make a 6:45 PM reservation for you and your guest or guests for seating at a Rotary table. See you at Harvey's!

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS TOUCHES MANY

By Brian Monroe

Holly came up with a wonderful idea that became an opportunity to touch the lives of many. The objective of the Random Acts of Kindness is to make a positive small difference to as many as possible without just writing a check. We had \$147, but how many could we possibly touch? We have to remember that in giving we receive. Let's see...we started with 12 residents at Lasta who were able to send out Holiday cards to family and friends, so add in another 139 for those card recipients; now add in another 12 National Honor Society students from HHS for assisting us (2 actually went to the room of someone too weak to come down to join us); with MT members friends and family that came out and donated items, we need to add another 25 to our list (2 of Gordy & Diane's friends even brought in and gave away 2 hand knit blankets); Jan Blazich gave hope to 2 residents that suffer from Parkinson's disease by sharing the story of her successful operation; wait there is still more...Julia sat down at a piano and treated many more residents and visitors to some truly beautiful music, Flint O'Connor with his father in tow ran around and said hello and talked to anyone who was awake, so add in another combined 30 plus and finally with the dollars that were not used up went toward our two Holiday Families which adds 10 more. Whew, if you were doing the math with me we stretched the \$147 to touch the lives of maybe 230 people.

Thanks Holly and to everyone else involved, for I too was one of the 230 that was touched.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY THANK YOU

Thank you! We were able to help two local families for the Holidays. We fulfilled every item on their "wish lists" and more. We stocked their pantries, gave them individual gifts and did a basket of goodies and gift cards for each of the families. As the school contact said, Rotary always does it right and goes above and beyond.

SHOOT THE JUICE BRUCE

By Gordon Hetzel

What you see in this photo is an electrical service meter. This particular meter is located out on the pole at the edge of the property for the school building in Oliveros, Guatemala. Some of you (all of you after you finish this sentence) know that this school building is home to the annual health mission our club supports with people and money. Those two little wires that you see out the bottom end of the meter carry all the electricity to the school building. Those wires are about the size of the wires that supply one wall outlet in your house. Now, when you hear Bob Blazich mention (Bob never complains) the problems with electric power at the school while attempting to energize some of the gadgets they need for the health clinic, you can begin to understand the reality of life in Oliveros.



A truck departs the second week in January for Guatemala. The truck and trailer were donated for the purpose of delivering a trailer load of materials for projects. Ask Bob for details of all the other projects that are headed south on this truck. On that trailer will be a couple skids of conduit, wire, circuit breakers, etc.; all that is necessary for improving the electrical system within the school, all purchased from Nelson-Electric in Racine with cash donations from Tom Reiss (Reiss International, Watertown) and Jim Bassindale (Nelson-Electric, Racine), and a credit from Nelson-Electric.

When this project is completed later in 2008: the school will have a new electrical service, a proper breaker box to safely distribute power to new outlets, lights, and fans in every school room, and plenty of power to make the mission in 2009 more comfortable and efficient. And by the way, the kids will be more comfortable and safer all year-round, too.



Don't like the title? Write your suggestion for improvement on the reverse of \$20 bill and we'll publish it next month.

Mequon-Thiensville Sunrise Rotary

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Mequon, WI 53092

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Activities

January 25Regular Meeting Held @
Frank L. Weyenberg Library

February 1Regular Meeting Held @
Mequon City Hall

February 8Regular Meeting Held @
Thiensville's Fireman's Training Room
(Thiensville Village Hall)

February 20After-Hours @ Chip & Py's

SPEAKERS FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

January 18.....Kathleen Schilling
.....Oz. Co. Economic Devel.
Thought of the dayJulia Henkle Penn

January 25.....Ron Pirrung
.....Ultramarathon Running
Thought of the dayGordon Hetzel

February 1Classification Talks
Thought of the dayDave Jackson

February 8
Thought of the dayTom Johnson

February 15
Thought of the dayJackie Kaminski

SPEAKER UPDATE

By Brian Monroe

George Coulter and Mike Reutemann have been doing a great job of lining up speakers for us. Interesting speakers are a very integral component of a successful, viable Rotary Club. Please help us find speakers to fill in the January calendar and beyond. Many of us interact with very interesting people that have a story to share that members of our club could benefit from. Please take a moment to ask them if they would like to share their information or story with us on a Friday morning over breakfast, a Rotary stainless steel travel mug is another added benefit too.

MEETING LOCATION CHANGES

In the early days of Rotary Paul Harris and friends would rotate to each other's businesses, well for three weeks we are going to back to Rotary's early days and do the same thing. NSCC will be closed for their off-season, thus effecting us on Jan 25th, Feb 1st & 8th. Please mark your calendars and pencil in our guest locations: Jan 25th Linda Bendix will open up the Frank L Weyenberg Library for us; Feb 1st Lee Szymborski will open up Mequon's City Hall and on Feb 8th Diane Robertson will open up Thiensville's Fireman's Training room (Thiensville Village Hall). We are very fortunate that these three Rotarians are so generous with their willingness and ability to host us on these dates.