



Mequon-Thiensville Sunrise Rotary the eye-opener

the eye-opener
August-September 2009

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President's Letter

By Tom Johnson

Greetings fellow Rotarians and friends,

In August we held our annual Lobsterfest fundraiser and we were very pleased by the record attendance of 580 persons. The pictures show lots of smiles on many faces and the comments we have heard suggest that people generally enjoyed themselves very much. Shully's, our caterer, did an excellent job and we thank the Rotarians on our Lobsterfest committee as well as all those who volunteered to help that night. We are already looking forward to next year and have many ideas and suggestions as to how to further enhance the event.

Haunted Hayride, our next event, is coming up on October 28th. It will be held at Rotary Park as it has been in recent years. We expect to serve around 600 children and their parents and other guests. Antique tractors will pull wagons around and through the woods while students perform skits (could be quite scary) and entertain. Games will be held in the tent while chili is served in the Reuter Pavilion. This event is a major community service and one that the kids look forward to every year. Help will be needed in the game tent, selling and preparing food and for the cleanup. Be there is you possibly can. You will enjoy it!



On Friday September 18th Bill Wresch, our current District Governor, addressed our regular weekly meeting. He focused on polio and the amazing gains Rotary has made in its efforts to eradicate it. He told us that worldwide we are down to 1000 cases per year in four countries (two of which are currently war zones). However, only total eradication can prevent a resurgence of the disease. Our club has strongly supported the polio effort in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Bill also told us about the upcoming spring District Conference to be held May 14-16 at Lambeau Field. This event will include members of the Green bay Packers, private tours of Lambeau Field and the Packers Hall of Fame as well as a semi-formal ball. Members were further pleased to hear that costs will be roughly half of what they have been at previous conferences. This will be a fun event that you don't

CALENDAR

District 6270 Fall Seminar "Eradicating Polio"	10/24/09
Haunted Hayride	10/28/09
District 6270 Rotary Foundation Celebration	11/5/09
Nov Board Meeting	11/19/09

Join Us for a
Halloween Fun Night!
HAUNTED HAYRIDE
Wednesday, October 28
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

President's Letter

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want to miss!

Best regards to all,

Tom Johnson
President M-T Sunrise Rotary

Inbound Youth Exchange

As part of Rotary District 6270, our Club supports the Central States Youth Exchange program and hosts an international student each year. Under the program, the visiting student stays with a host family, attends school, practices English, and learns first-hand about Wisconsin and the United States. In return, the host family has the opportunity to learn more about the student's culture, perhaps even learning some of their language, and to see their own culture through the fresh eyes of the visitor. Normally three host families provide the warm family setting for the visiting student for about three months each.

This year Tiia Renlund is the Inbound Youth Exchange student visiting us from Finland. Tiia has been staying with Club Member Judith Neal and her family and will be moving to her new host family in November. Take a minute to read Tiia's comments on her stay — she has certainly been busy!

For more information on the Youth Exchange Program, both Inbound and Outbound, check the District 6270 website at <http://www.rotary6270.org/youth.html>.



Barbara and Tom Johnson

My Time in Mequon

By Tiia Renlund

I arrived in Mequon on August 11. So, I have been here a month and a week. I have had great time in Mequon I really like this place. The size is good, of course it's good, because my Finnish home village looks almost the same.

I have done lot of things in this first month. I went to Wisconsin State Fair with Jean Hill. It was a lot of fun. There were animals, good food, music and all that American happiness. Mr. and Mrs. Hill also took me to the Zoo. That was great. There were more exotic animals than in the State Fair. I have been in Zoo in Finland before, so it wasn't so new thing for me, but it was still very wonderful day. I have been few times to Rotary meetings and I participate in Lobster Fest. Lobster Fest was nice dinner, it was a little bit hard to eat that lobster though.

In my first month, there have been many dinners, bowling and potting plants with Rotary members. I want to thank everybody for nice times.



Tiia and her Host-Family
From the Left: David Stockbridge, Richard Stockbridge, Tiia Renlund, and Judith Neal

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My Time in Mequon

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Something about my school; I'm in Homestead high school and I'm a senior. School is huge for me, because I am used to little 300-kid school in Finland. Well, believe or not, it was quite a shock at first. Now, after two weeks, it's not bad at all. And because there are so much people, it's easier get to know people.

I chose easy classes, for example: math, U.S. history, P.E., international foods, psychology and film. I think the hardest one will be the U.S. history, because the vocabulary is quite hard for me. Different wars and revolutions... I still believe that I can survive that.

Temporarily I don't do any after school sport, but I joined with the schools Ski-team. I have done much skiing in Finland, both cross country and downhill skiing. It's a lot of fun and I'm already waiting for frost and snow!

Similarities and differences between Finland and USA

This is the great question, are there really similarities? Only Coca-Cola is the same and it's still in the different package. Well, I was just kidding. I can't even say similarities between Finland and USA, so I think I have to start with similarities between Finland and Wisconsin.

First of all, the climate is very similar, warm summer and cold winter. There are also a lot of forests in Finland and Wisconsin. Food is almost the same, Finnish people eat more potatoes.

Then, something about differences, people are so much friendlier in Wisconsin and in the whole USA. It's good thing though. This country is bigger than Finland. There are so many different people and cultural heritage is much larger. In Finland there is our own little community where people have the Finnish heritage.

Tiia Renlund,
Foreign exchange student from Finland

Member Spotlight

By Carole Blaney

This month we begin a new feature, a special spotlight article on a current Club Member. Our members are an active group, with many interests both inside and outside Rotary. Our lives keep changing and it's difficult to keep up, even when we see each other every week! Here we have an opportunity to learn more about one of our fellow Rotarians. Dave Jackson is the brave soul who agreed to be the first contributor. Thanks Dave!



Gathering outside the Auction Tent at Lobster Fest

Member Spotlight: Dave Jackson

By Dave Jackson

When I was being retired by Bostik, Inc. in 2002, I formed Apollo as a consulting venture, after extensive planning. My son was part of the effort and chose the name, citing the Greek / Roman god as one who saw the future and brought harmony, order and reason. As news of my retirement spread, friends and associates from around the world phoned to ask if I'd consider their ideas or projects. I threw away my plans and followed their directions.

As a result I have helped a Swiss manufacturer write a plan for the Americas to support their strategic plan, acted as temporary general manager of a Swedish company setting up America headquarters, warehousing and sales, helped a British company find an American partner and aided in transferred technology, found and set up European distributors

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Visit our website at
www.mtsunriserotary.org for

- News on Activities
- Calendar
- Newsletters
- Donations



The Auction tables with some wonderful items!



Just a few of the student volunteers

Member Spotlight

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for an American company making boat lifts, represented an Egyptian manufacturer in getting them ready to be sold and found a buyer in the global market, and now represent a Denver manufacture in building international distribution. In between, I have done sales training and coached several businesses in leadership training and succession planning.

Have coached and planned by phone and internet with companies in Russia, France, Mexico and Australia. The work has involved travel to Finland, Sweden, Great Britain, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Brazil and perhaps soon, back to Japan.

Organized miscellany. Great fun.

Cheers!

Dave