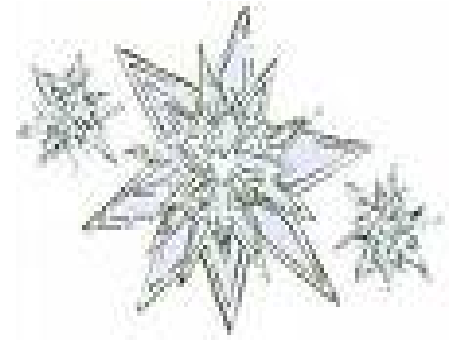


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# THE SPARKPLUG

**Rotary Club of Decatur #180**  
**January, 2007**

[www.decaturre Rotary.org](http://www.decaturre Rotary.org)



## **A Message from the President**

Greetings Fellow Rotarians,

If you are like me, January 1st is a day to put away the holiday decorations, spend quiet time with my family, and update my calendar for the new year. This January, it is also a time to appraise how the first half of the Rotary year has gone and see what remains to be accomplished.

Last April, the board and I put together a list of new goals for the 2006-07 year.

### **Membership**

- 1 Net increase of one new member from 123 to 124. [We have a current gain of two new members for a total of 125.](#)
- 2 Assign mentor to each new member
- 3 Place membership brochures, classification lists and white card forms on tables to encourage current members to recruit new members [These are available at the sign-in table at every meeting.](#)
- 4 Contact 501 Club members to see if any are interested in joining Rotary.
- 5 Offer new member orientation prior to joining. [Two potential members attended the first new member orientation in addition to seven new members.](#)

### **Service**

- 1 Provide volunteers when we do not provide financial assistance.
- 2 Suggestions for local volunteer projects include Scovill Park playground renovation, serving at the Good Samaritan Inn.
- 3 Send a group to Mérida, Mexico to meet with Mérida Rotarians and the children at the Amor Y Vida Orphanage. [Please join us from January 27-30 in Mérida.](#)

### **Foundation**

- 1 Change quarterly billing statement to read, “ Check this box to include a \$25 TRF tax-deductible contribution towards becoming a Paul Harris Fellow”. [This appears on your billing statement and a form is available at the end of this newsletter to complete and turn in at any time.](#)
- 2 Match first time contributions of \$100 with \$50. We currently have \$1712 available in Foundation funds to use for matching gifts. [We have had three new donors to The Rotary Foundation from July 1 to December 31.](#)

- 3 Include a flyer in the quarterly bill explaining The Rotary Foundation, how to donate, and how to leave funds through a will or trust to Rotary. [Hopefully, the flyers have helped all members understand the importance of The Rotary Foundation and the good works accomplished through our donations.](#)

#### **Administrative**

1. Develop a Board Manual. [While this remains a work in progress, it is available on our Web site: \[www.decaturre Rotary.org\]\(http://www.decaturre Rotary.org\) under "Club Members".](#)
2. Institute the use of QuickBooks for our financial records. [This is being implemented with the help of a Millikin University intern.](#)

Goals without blue notes are areas where we still need to concentrate our efforts. If you are willing to assist in any of these capacities, please let me or one of the board members know of your interest. As times change, needs change. Please let the board know if there is an area of service or an unmet need where our Rotary club can help.

There is still time to make your reservations for the trip to Mérida, Mexico at the end of the month. Currently four Rotarians and two spouses will be traveling South of the Border to meet with fellow Rotarians in Merida, tour and meet the caretakers and children of the Amor Y Vida Orphanage (Love and Life Orphanage), and soak up the Mexican sun and sights. Flyers with more information are available at the sign-in table.

I am extremely grateful to all of the Committees and Board Members who have made the first half of the Rotary year successful, and I thank them in advance for their efforts for the second half of the year. It takes time to attend meetings, send cards, complete reports, call, e-mail, and schedule speakers, greeters, invocators, sergeants, scholar-athletes, parents, coaches, teachers, birthday recipients, outstanding members, Paul Harris recipients and volunteers on behalf of our club. Your dedication is appreciated.

Please contact me at 875-3752 or by e-mail at: [hstoa@hotmail.com](mailto:hstoa@hotmail.com) with any questions or suggestions. As the new year begins, I wish each of you a happy and joyous Rotary year with family and friends, in business and in service as each of us contributes to the betterment of our club, families, workplace, community, and world.

In Service,  
*Heather Stoa*

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"It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness." Chinese Proverb

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## **January Birthdays**

Feliz cumpleaños, Joyeux Anniversaire, Briethla Shona Dhuit, Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Geburtstag, Happy Birthday! No matter the language: Spanish, French, Gaelic, German or English, these Rotarians are wished a Happy Birthday as they blow out candles in January.

1/4 Stu Sellers  
1/10 Tom Burns  
1/11 Bill Clevenger  
1/12 Bob Weidrich  
1/14 Alec Messamore  
1/20 Mike Gibson  
1/24 Harold Murphy  
1/31 Jim Williams



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## January Programs

Once again our Program Committee has been hard at work lining up terrific speakers for the month. Invite a friend or co-worker to join you for one of these outstanding presentations.

- January 8 Kevin Graham, owner of Decanter Fine Wines, will talk to us about his shop.
- January 15 Former member Roger Walker will present a Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.
- January 22 Rick Harnish, a representative of the Midwest High Speed Rail Association, will update us on their efforts to bring Amtrak to Decatur.
- January 29 Tom Emery will provide an Early History of Rotary International.



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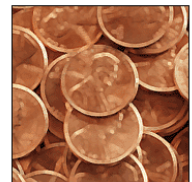
## December Speakers' Honorarium

Each month, Rotary Club of Decatur donates funds in honor of our speakers to a Decatur or Macon County elementary school library for the purchase of new books. This month the donation will be sent to St. Patrick School.

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## January Penny Fund

Pennies collected in the month of January will be donated to the Community Relief Fund administered by United Way and Dove to help individuals and families who sustained damage in the November 30<sup>th</sup> ice storm.



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## Congratulations to Our New Board Members

Many thanks to these Rotarians for saying "Yes". Filling a board position for the remainder of the 2006-07 year is Bryan Mikeworth. Jamie Maccari and Bud Wilcox have agreed to serve through 2008. Mike Del Signore, Al Luchetti, Randy Prince and Jane Shade will begin their terms on July 1 and serve through June 30, 2010. Andy Thomas will be our new treasurer and will work his way through the chairs to become president in 2010-2011.

Thank you to our nominating committee: Dave Brandon, chair; Jon French, Bruce Nims, Jimmy Sober and Wegi Stewart for their efforts.

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## District 6490 Newsletter Available On-line

The latest district newsletter has been published on the District 6490 Web site. You may read it on-line by visiting <http://www.Rotary6490.org/Newsletter.cfm>.

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## Rotary Bell Ringers Make Christmas Merrier



Once again this Christmas, 28 Rotarians participated in the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign by ringing bells on December 9<sup>th</sup> at two Wal-Mart entrances and two Kroger locations. Many thanks for sharing a bright, sunny hour with shoppers for the good of others:

Chair Wayne Allen, Howard Beede, Dave Brandon, Glen Dalluge, Steve Furrow, Martin Getty, David Goebel, Bert Gray, Melinda Hawbaker, Mary Ann Koucky, Bob Lloyd, Norma Maddio, Harold Murphy, Tina Noland, Bill Owen, Jackson Owens, Kit Paulin, David Rayhill, Kurt Rudsinski, Debbie Seitz, Pen Shade, Paul Stanzione, Wegi Stewart, Heather Stoa, Jeff Stout, Bill Welch, Bud Wilcox and Dave Wilhour.



### Smile!

Glen Dalluge has volunteered to take digital photos of members for our on-line directory. If you do not have a photo or would like a more recent photo, please see Glen before or after the meeting for a quick picture. Or if you have a photo that you would like to have used, please give it to Heather Stoa or e-mail it to her at: [hstoa@hotmail.com](mailto:hstoa@hotmail.com). She will scan photos and return them to you.

Our directory is great for checking contact information or remembering the name of the new member you sat with at lunch. The directory is only available to our club members. If you need assistance with logging in and remembering your password, please contact Vice-President Steve Furrow at: [Steve\\_Furrow@admworld.com](mailto:Steve_Furrow@admworld.com).

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## Changes in Membership

Welcome to our newest member, Steve Hill, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Steve was sponsored for membership by Jack Dolan. Steve and his wife, Laurie, have two daughters and one grandson.

Although we knew it was coming, it is with reluctance that we say "Good-bye" to two of our members. Dane Bragg begins his new position as Galesburg, Illinois City Manager on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Jimmy Sober moved with his family to Decatur, Alabama. Jimmy didn't wait long to accept an invitation to join Rotary in his new Decatur. Jim's new address is: 3015 Lenox Dr SW, Decatur, AL 35603 and visitors driving I-65 from Decatur, IL are welcome.

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## Kudos for Weekly Service to Our Club

Thank you to Vice-President Steve Furrow for presiding while President Heather Stoa attended her husband's grandmother's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday party in Hatton, North Dakota the first Monday in December, to Paul Stanzione, Dick Shelby and Glenda Williamson for beginning our meetings with thoughtful prayers and meditations; to Sergeants-at-Arms Bert Gray, Al Luchetti, and Dave Goebel for recognizing visitors and collecting Happy Bucks; and to our greeters David Goebel, Steve Furrow and Janis Rhodes for making everyone feel welcome.



Special thanks to the terrific Rotary Chorus of Howard Brown, David Coopridger, Bert Gray, Jim Montgomery, Harold Murphy, and Miley Palmer. The last minute request from your president for music was organized via e-mail and with no practice! The chorus led us in song, with harmony no less, as we closed our last meeting of 2006 with familiar Christmas carols.

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## December Scholar-Athletes

Eisenhower High Schools students Jesse Reising and Gwen Bafford were accompanied to the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with their parents and principal, Ms. Coleen Legge, as they were honored as the Scholar-Athletes of the Month. Jesse ranks first in his class and plans to study civil engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton or Yale. Gwen is 7<sup>th</sup> in her class and plans to study accounting at the University of Kentucky or Indiana University

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## January is Rotary Awareness Month. Guess Which Year Each Event Took Place?

### 1. When was the first RI Convention in Chicago?

- a. 1910
- b. 1911
- c. 1912

### 2. When did the *The National Rotarian* magazine (a precursor to *The Rotarian*) debut?

- a. 1905
- b. 1906
- c. 1911

### 3. When were the first International Rotary Youth Leadership Awards held?

- a. 2000
- b. 2001
- c. 2005

### 4. When was the first club outside the United States chartered?

- a. 1907
- b. 1912
- c. 1916

**Bonus question: Where was this club?**

Answers are found in the January issue of *The Rotarian* or on-line at: [rotaryinternational.org](http://rotaryinternational.org)

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## Millikin University Rotaract is Official!

Rotaract is now an official student organization at Millikin University and, accordingly, funds donated to Millikin and restricted to Rotaract qualify for a charitable deduction to the extent provided by law. If you would like to make a donation directly to Rotaract you may send it to:

Dave Brandon  
Millikin University  
1184 W. Main St.  
Decatur, IL 62522

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## Quarterly Bills and The Rotary Foundation

Start the new year off right with a contribution to The Rotary Foundation. Include a donation with your next quarterly check or complete the following and return it to Treasurer Lucy Murphy.

**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**  
**\$100 Every Rotarian, Every Year**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please add \$25 to my quarterly bill for TRF

\_\_\_\_\_ Please add \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my quarterly bill for TRF

\_\_\_\_\_ My check to TRF for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.  
Payable to Rotary Club of Decatur

Our Rotary Club of Decatur Board has approved using funds available to our club from The Rotary Foundation to match every \$100 contributed by new donors with \$50 until the funds are depleted. Please make a personal commitment with your financial resources to the humanitarian work of The Rotary Foundation and contribute today.



### Wanted: A New or Used Clavinova

Because of the poor condition of the keyboard the Decatur Club owns, our Rotary Club Board was asked to consider the purchase of a new Clavinova and dolly for use by our club and others that meet at the Decatur Club. The cost with tax for the keyboard is \$1443.08; the dolly is \$250.28 for a grand total of \$1693.36. This is a terrific instrument that never needs tuning, is easy to move between rooms or floors and can have speakers hooked into it. While the Board agreed it would be a wonderful instrument to play, the minimal use by our club makes it hard to justify the cost. The Board tabled the motion to purchase the Clavinova. If anyone is willing to purchase the Clavinova for the club or knows of someone willing to donate or sell a used Clavinova, please contact Heather Stoa.

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Happy  
New Year!

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For past issues of **The Sparkplug**, to read board minutes, to consult the board manual and club by-laws, or to look up member contact information, visit our Web site at [www.decaturreotary.org](http://www.decaturreotary.org)

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