

THE SPARK PLUG

Rotary Club of Decatur #180
January 2008



PO Box 131
Decatur, Illinois 62525

www.decaturrotary.org



A Message from the President

Greetings Fellow Rotarians!

New Year's is the only holiday that celebrates the passage of time. Perhaps that is why, as the final seconds of the year tick away, we become introspective. Inevitably, that introspection turns to thoughts of self-improvement and the annual ritual of making resolutions which offer the first of many important tools for remaking ourselves.

On the USA.gov website, the following list appears for popular New Year's resolutions:

- Lose weight
- Pay off debt
- Save money
- Get a better job
- Get fit
- Eat right
- Get a better education
- Drink less alcohol
- Quit smoking
- Reduce stress overall
- Reduce stress at work
- Take a trip
- Volunteer to help others

Don't worry – I'm not going to ask for a show of hands as to which of these might apply to you! However; as I work in the wellness arena, I can assure you that our business will increase in January due to people keying in on some of these resolutions.

Many of you may agree that 2007 just flew by. As I enter the second half of my presidential tenure, it seems like I can barely keep all the balls juggling in the air. It's both exhilarating and challenging! Stay tuned for progress reports on the goals I set at the beginning of my term, and also for a couple of new items that hopefully will come to fruition.

As I reflect back I know I have a lot to thank God for- especially my family, my job, my health, my religion, my country, and my freedom. All three of my children are members of the Air Force National Guard, and I'm proud of

them for wanting to give something back for the freedoms they enjoy. I would like to say thanks to all of the service men and women both domestic and abroad who protect those freedoms.

Here is wishing you a great start to a fresh year. As the last item on the above list asserts, I hope each of you are willing to find a way to volunteer to make a difference in someone's life.

In service,

Steve Farrow

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

January Programs

Invite a friend or co-worker to join you for these outstanding presentations.

- January 7 Scott Perry will share his perspective on our community as editor of our local *Business Journal*.
- January 14 A representative from *ChangeDecatur* will explain their proposal to change the form of city government.
- January 21 **NO MEETING - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- January 28 George Buss will report on his involvement in *Looking for Lincoln*.



January Birthdays

January is Bath Safety Month, National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Book Blitz Month, Gourmet Coffee Month, Diet Month, Hobby Month, Oatmeal Month, Prune Breakfast Month, Soup Month, Stamp Collectors Month, Hot Tea Month, and of course, Birthday Month for these special Rotarians!

Happy Birthday to all of the Rotarians born in the first month of the year!



- 1/4 **Stu Sellers**
1/7 **Bob Gauthier**
1/10 **Tom Burns**
1/11 **Bill Clevenger**
1/12 **Bob Weidrich**
1/14 **Alec Messamore**
1/18 **Howard Edwards**
1/18 **Kevin Kast**
1/20 **Mike Gibson**
1/24 **Harold Murphy**
1/31 **Jim Williams**
-

A Great Reason to Celebrate - Rotary Membership Anniversary Dates

Celebrating membership anniversaries in December are:

Rotarians	Number of Years in Rotary
Jim Masey	36
Pen Shade	8
Sue Watts	1



Rotary Club of Decatur is happy to have each of these terrific Rotarians as a member, and we look forward to seeing them every week for many more years to come.

Membership Updates



Our club welcomed Denise Smith as a new member on December 3rd. Denise is the Executive Director of United Way. She enjoys walking, gardening and reading. She and her husband, Dale, reside in Sullivan with their children. Denise was sponsored for membership by David Wilhour.

The board accepted with regret the resignations of Robert Hawkins and Tony Hotchkiss. We wish Tony and his family well in their move to Memphis, Tennessee. Matt Drain, Mark Kuhn, and Oluwatoyin Ottun were dropped from membership.

Rotary Club of Decatur currently has 123 members including three honorary members.

Jill Hughes Named Teacher of the Month

Jill Hughes, kindergarten teacher from Oak Grove Elementary School, was honored by the Rotary Club of Decatur as Teacher of the Month in December. Jill was introduced to the club by Superintendent Gloria Davis and praised for her work as a teacher, “Jill gets kids off to a great start in school.” She was recognized for her efforts in helping to produce a video for parents sending their first child to kindergarten. In her remarks to the club, Jill shared one of her favorite quotes from Eleanor Roosevelt that summarizes why she became a teacher, “To the world you may be one person, but to that one person, you may be the world.”



Kudos for Weekly Service to Our Club



Thank you to Glenda Williamson, Miley Palmer and Paul Stanzione for beginning our meetings with thoughtful invocations; to Sergeants-at-Arms Bud Wilcox, Paul Stanzione and Howard Edwards for introducing visitors and collecting Do Good Dollars; to our greeters Howard Beede, Jane Shade and Glen Dalluge for making everyone feel welcome; to David Coopridge for leading us in our opening song; to Heather Stoa for introducing the scholar-athletes, their parents and school officials; to Miley Palmer for helping us wish Rotarians born in December Happy Birthday and to Lora Dills for providing Macon Ice Cream for the birthday table celebration.

Thanks to Salvation Army Bell Ringers



Many thanks to Rotarians, their spouses and children for volunteering to ring bells during the Salvation Army's Annual Red Kettle campaign on a cold and icy December Saturday. Wayne Allen, Howard Beede, Dave Brandon, Erin Brownlow, Glen Dalluge, Stu Ellis, Bob Flider, Jon French, Steve Furrow, Dave Goebel, Jim Montgomery, Dave Moran, Harold Murphy, Bill Owen, Miley Palmer, Kit Paulin, Dave Rayhill, Jane Shade, Pen Shade, Dick Shelby, Paul Stanzione, Wegi Stewart, Heather Stoa, Andy Thomas, Bud Wilcox, Jackie Wilhour, Kemper Willcut and Glenda Williamson spread holiday cheer and collected donations for those in need in our community. Special appreciation is extended to the YMCA Youth Leaders who helped ring bells again this year with Rotarians.



Morgan Stanzione, YMCA Youth Leader and Rotarian Glen Dalluge



Stephanie Hackert, YMCA Youth Leader



Glen Dalluge thanking two young donors

January Do Good Dollars

This month **Do Good Dollars** will be given to Gum Park (United Methodist Church) for after school programs to provide activities and tutoring for children from low income families. Programs will take place at Dennis Elementary School and Old Kings Orchard Community Center.



January Speakers' Honorarium – Doing our Part for Literacy

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. The January donation will be sent to Durfee Grade School.

Amor Y Vida's Remodeled Kitchen

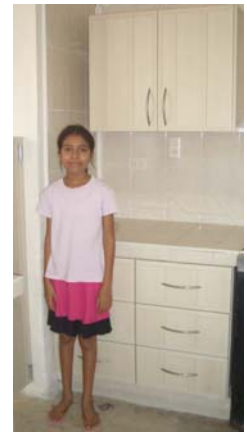
Last year, our club sent a donation to Amor Y Vida Orphanage in Mérida, Mexico to remodel an awkward kitchen in need of many repairs where 40+ meals are prepared three times a day. The remodeling project was completed in December and the following photos and thank you note were sent to our club from founder Katinka Kelleher.



The tour begins at the entrance to the kitchen



Three amigos perch on the new counter



One of the older girls



Preschoolers showing off the kitchen from premium seats



The new center island and view of the refrigerator and pantry

Dear Rotary Members,

It is my pleasure to inform you that we have finally finished our kitchen project. It took longer than we expected, but it came out beautiful, and it is a wonderful improvement for the children's home. We really thank you for the wonderful support Rotary members have given us.

I understand you will be visiting us soon. We really look forward to seeing you again. You will see the great improvement of the kitchen.

I wish all the members of your Rotary Club a wonderful Christmas.

Katinka Kelleher

Al Luchetti and Heather and Terry Stoa will be returning to the home later this month to make some minor repairs and visit with the staff and children. They will present a program to the club on February 18th about their trip.



December Scholar-Athletes

Scholar-Athletes honored in the month of December were seniors Crystal McCoy and Andrew Miller from MacArthur High School. They were accompanied to the meeting by Principal Dean Schultz and their parents.

Crystal McCoy ranks 46th in her class and has a 3.68 GPA. Crystal has participated in several sports during high school. She bowled for two years, played one year of basketball, four years of volleyball and four years of softball. She was named to the Softball All County Team and the Softball Big 12 All Conference Team in 2007. In addition to playing for MHS, Crystal also played for the Rebels in the Central Illinois Girls Softball League.

Drew Miller ranks 31st in his class and has a 4.05 GPA. He played baseball his freshman, sophomore and junior years, basketball his sophomore year, and football all four years. Other activities include Student Council and band. Football Coach Derek Spates said, "Drew is the epitome of a scholar-athlete. Not only does he excel on the football field, he excels in the classroom. I've known Drew since he was 11 years old. He has always been respectful, dependable and a hard worker. Our relationship transcends that of a coach and a football player. He is truly one of the most special individuals that I have had the pleasure to coach in my eight years at MacArthur High School. Drew has the necessary tools to be successful in any field that he chooses for a career."

2007-2008 Grant Recipients Named

On December 20th the board accepted the recommendations of the Grants Committee and approved funding the following organizations and projects:

- American Red Cross, \$1000 – Summer safety camp for 70 children
- Baby TALK, \$1000 – Information, books, activities, family literacy for teen parenting classes
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters, \$1000 – Construction of Farm Park and organic garden for inner city youth
- Camp One Way, \$500 – Family education
- Decatur Area Arts Council, \$500 – Performing Arts Program
- Easter Seals, \$500 – Teaching interacting skills to youth
- EHS, \$500 – Close-up of Washington through government studies
- Farm Bureau, \$500 – Ag in the Classroom for 5th graders
- Girl Scouts, \$1000 – Summer day camp study of other countries
- Junior Achievement, \$500 – Sponsorship of classroom program at SDMS
- Junior Fire Cadets, \$500 – Summer citizenship program
- Partners in Education, \$500 – Youth Leadership Program
- Project Success, \$1000 – Collaboration for middle school tutoring programs
- UCP, \$1000 – Play group for children ages 6-12
- YMCA Teen Leaders, \$1000 – Community service and leadership development activities

Many thanks to Chair Paul Stanzone and committee members Melanie Brown, Kelly Day, Susan Keane, Bob Pancoast and Jane Shade for reviewing and ranking the 21 grant applications. The recipients will be presented with checks during our upcoming meetings, and members and guests will learn more about the worthy youth projects that have been funded by our club.

For past issues of *The Spark Plug*, 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.decaturotary.org
