

Brandon's Bits



Greetings fellow Rotarians!

I wish to devote the President's message in this issue to our esteemed Program Committee Chair and his committee members. I am sure you will agree they have done an excellent job this year! In the past couple months alone, our club heard from an entrepreneur, an entre-manure, a spokesperson for Big Tobacco, and found that Decatur is hosting an important art exhibit later this year, along with Tokyo and Paris. Miley Palmer - thanks to you and your committee, Rotary #180 has been entertained, informed and enlightened in a most delightful way!

When Michael Neece of Philip Morris USA, through the company's local ad agency, approached Miley and I about speaking to our club, it gave us pause. Should we subject our members to what we thought very well could be a "whitewashed" corporate message making Big Tobacco out to be some kind of victim. Miley and I discussed the matter at length and were told that Mr. Neece had addressed fellow Rotarians in Peoria and Springfield, so I contacted Rotarians from those clubs to see how it went. I began to get the picture that Philip Morris was trying to change its corporate culture in a sincere and significant way, and felt it would be a healthy exercise for our club to have the opportunity to hear what the man had to say and to ask our questions following the presentation. I applauded the insightful questions from our members and went away feeling quite positive about the whole experience. I hope you did as well.

One last reminder - "Bridge the Centuries," our District Conference, will be held May 5-6 at the Decatur Convention Center and Hotel. Our weekly meeting will be Friday May 5th at our old stomping grounds (those newer members may not know the club met at the Holiday Inn for many years) so we will not meet Monday 1st at the Decatur Club. Yours truly will emcee the kickoff luncheon and Mayor Paul Osborne will issue the formal community greeting to the large crowd of District 6490 Rotarians expected to attend. The Metro Club and Forsyth Sunrise are planning to have their weekly meetings on Friday as well.

We will hear from a representative of RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer, and later in the conference Rotary Foundation Peace Scholar Jonathan Eischen, selected as one of 60 worldwide to receive this prestigious award and currently studying at the University of Bradford in England, will be one of the featured speakers. Jonathan is from Tuscola, and his experiences since graduating high school have included humanitarian missions to Bosnia and Kosovo and work experiences hosting peace and reconciliation workshops for youth from areas of conflict. Hope to see you at the conference!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dave Brandon".

With humility, Dave Brandon

Newsletter Progress & Recurring Appointments

News that's fit to print

The continuing story of the Sparkplug's Evolution. We accomplished a few projects with the newsletter last time:

1. The Rotary email list is now stored on a server which you can subscribe to or [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) from this newsletter.
2. Sending the email via a robotic company (ours is called Mail Chimp!) makes it more likely that some emails will get to you because the robot mails 1 at a time rather than all at once as "cc" or "bcc". The latter way is likely to trigger many people's "spam filters" which would ditch the mail.
3. The newsletter is available on the web 24/7 at www.rotary180.com so you can see it (and previous ones) easily without downloading a pdf or finding an old email.
4. If you want to see the progress your editor and staff is making, it will often be available on the web in draft form before the first Monday of the month!
5. If you see errors in the newsletter, do tell!
6. Through the miracle of technology, (in theory!) Mail Chimp will send this to you while I'm on my way to the new National Air & Space Museum at Dulles Airport in Washington DC during the Cherry Blossom Festival.

Would you like to make the newsletter appear at a given moment rather than wait for the email? You can do this:

- A. set up a RECURRING appointment in your Calendar if you have Outlook (other programs may have similar features too)
- B. Make sure you have a reminder or alert that will beep or blink when the appointment occurs
- C. put the webpage "URL" www.rotary180.com in the subject line (or message line as you think best)
- D. when the appointment appears, click on the webpage in step "C" (or enter the "URL" in your browser if not underlined)

Oh, what does URL stand for? Uniform Resource Locator or commonly, web page address. Thanks- Bill Owen (**contact information at bottom**)

Library Books & Penny Fund

March's speakers honorarium, library books, went to Mt Zion grade school and April's will go to Mt Zion intermediate school. March's penny fund of \$235.94 went to Salvation Army. Be generous in April... but I don't know who the money's going to. Let's see... who has the list?

On The Calendar



- April 3, Bob Disbrow, C.P.A. and a member of the club, offers his annual thoughts on dealing with taxes. Come and take notes!
- April 10, Youth Leadership Institute students report on this year's learning, with the help of leader Rosalind White
- April 17, at **Tuscany** (Decatur Club is closed) Paul Chiligris, member of Decatur's Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church explains Orthodox Easter customs
- April 24, Jeff Johnston, an executive at Continental Carbonics, explains the work of this local business.
- May 1, No meeting; instead, because of District Conference; our meeting is moved to Friday May 5 (and the conference continues Saturday May 6) at the hotel formerly named Holiday Inn. **Members should sign in and receive credit for club attendance.**
- May 5, **Friday** meet at District Conference (see above)
- May 8, College students and faculty sponsors will report on our new Rotaract Club at Millikin and Richland
- May 15, Club meets at **Scovill Park** (Not at Decatur Club); program to be presentation by the Park District, "Updating Project Playground for the next generation."
- May 22, Dane Bragg, Assistant to the City Manager and a member of our club, will discuss new downtown development strategies and priorities
- May 29, No meeting, Memorial Day

ABOVE ON THE CALENDAR ITEMS from:

http://www.decaturreotary.org/main_asp/programs.asp

MISSED MEMORABLE MOMENTS? (my micro-summation)

March 6 Miley Palmer, retired clergyman WANTED to share some funny "Scenes from a Minister's Life" but with extra features like a deserved tribute to Jim Masey, alas, we ran out of time.

March 13 Eric Robinson of the Philip Morris Corporation said cigarettes are bad but legal and we didn't quite celebrate diversity with him.

March 20 Christine Pinckard, District 61 Schools Coordinator for the Dropout Program and Liaison for Homeless Children told how 400 families locally are classified as homeless (or at least not in their own home) and 160 of their kids are in school.

March 27 Dr. Nick Vlachos, and Sue Powell, told us how the Arts Council (in May and June) is featuring French painter, Eugene Carriere, died 100 years ago. There are only 2 other international exhibits recognizing Carriere's accomplishments this summer... lil' burgs like Tokyo & Paris.

The other sleeper might be the start of Decatur's reimagining itself as an arts destination--20 years from now you may get to say, "Sonny, I was here WHEN..." What amazing things we can do IN UNITY, wouldn't you say Nehemiah?

What is 4444 Rotary? (Part Deux)

Four 4's above stand for the **four core lists of beliefs** of Rotary. The Four-Way Test was featured last month... do you know the other 2 lists? Here's part 2 in our series of 4 lists...

The Four Avenues of Service

Based on the Object of Rotary, the Four Avenues of Service are Rotary's philosophical cornerstone and the foundation on which club activity is based:

1. Club Service focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club.
 2. Vocational Service encourages Rotarians to serve others through their vocations and to practice high ethical standards.
 3. Community Service covers the projects and activities the club undertakes to improve life in its community.
 4. International Service encompasses actions taken to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace.
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Where could I make up?

Other District 6490 Rotary Clubs meet Monday noon in Champaign through Thursday 6:15 PM in Moweaqua. For details, just go to:

http://www.decaturreotary.org/main_asp/programs.asp

Annual District Conference to be held in our own back yard!

Instead of our Monday meeting that week, we will meet Friday May 5 as a part of the district's conference. **Have you put the dates in your calendar?** Fri-Sat May 5th - 6th District 6490 Rotarians from throughout Central Illinois will gather at the Decatur Holiday Inn Select for the annual conference. The theme for this year's event will be "Bridging the Centuries".

More on the District:

<http://www.rotary6490.org/welcome.htm>

Rotary 180 Shirts, Hats & Stuffed Bears



Just like you've seen at the sign-in table, you can order your own hat, shirt etc. with "Rotary 180 Since 1914" logo (above) to wear at the conference at:

www.cafepress.com/rotary180 (with money back guarantee) or call toll free 877-809-1659... There is no "mark-up"; they are sold at "cost" to our club members on a print-on-demand basis (no inventory or upfront cost either).

Our club started in 1914!



Consulting an oracle we have determined that our club started in 1914. What oracle, you ask? The little banner that we give out when visiting new clubs! It says: DECATUR ILLINOIS USA Chartered 1914 Rotary International. So, I changed all the logo clothing (above) to say this instead of 1915.

Teacher of the month



Martin Getty presented the social worker for Dennis School, Debra Veon. She made a powerful presentation of the reasons she became a social worker. Growing up in Springfield poor but with loving parents, she experienced numerous tragedies and atrocities among nearby kids. She personalized the stories with the first names of her friends and neighbors who suffered many troubles and had 1 wish: let me help. Granted. It is apparent that she makes a quiet but powerful difference.

This is what her peers had to say: "Mrs Veon has been the Dennis School social worker for the past 10 years. Mrs Veon efficiently and accurately complete the Social Worker responsibilities related to student identification for special education eligibility, delivery of resources reflecting developed IEP's, and direct supporting services enhancing the academic, social and emotional needs of the Dennis School students at-large.

Mrs. Veon coordinates special education materials in preparation of effective Multi-Disciplinary Conferences. In the staffings, Mrs. Veon contributes case-study information in a professional manner, offering valuable contributions in the determination of eligibility and appropriate services. Mrs. Veon chairs the Dennis School assistance program for the development of supportive intervention strategies, and follow-up activities.

Mrs. Veon provides a valuable contribution supporting a positive school climate, assisting in crisis interventions of emergent situations by helping resolve academic, personal and peer issues. Mrs. Veon provides services through individual counseling, small focus groups, and classroom presentations. Students, faculty, and parents seek her expertise as resources are accessed within the school and throughout the community."

Outstanding Scholar Athletes



In March the Decatur Athletic Council, Ameren IP, and the Rotary Club honored two outstanding Scholar Athletes from St Teresa High School. Dave demoted Tony Wilkins to "infamous" and Tony shrugged it off and introduced then awarded:

Katie Binder, daughter of Thomas and Mary Beth Binder, is a senior and 4th out 87 in her class. Her sports include Cross Country for 3 years and Varsity Soccer for 4 years. A girl scout for 12 years, she served for 2 years on the Council Youth Band and won Gold & Silver Awards. Vice president of SADD, executive student council officer and Lifesavers member. Her coach, Leo Berger, says, "Katie is a co-captain of our team. Katie shown herself to be a real leader. She has great confidence and is an asset to the team. Her future is bright and determination is a great quality she possesses." She plans to attend either Saint Louis University or Illinois State University with a Nutrition and Dietetics Major.

Jay Patel, son of Hareesh and Nisha Patel, is a senior and 5th out 87 in the class. Sports include Soccer as MVP and Tennis. He participated in Scholastic Bowl and WYSE. His coach, Leo Berger, said, "Jay was co-captain this year. Jay is a person who can give his all when it is needed. He could find an inner strength that allowed him to be successful." He plans to attend SLU's Pre-Medicine program ...or with last minute arm-twisting from Tony and mom, Millikin!

Congratulations to both!

Club Officers

- President Dave Brandon dbrandon@mail.millikin.edu
- Vice President Heather Stoa
- Secretary Steve Furrow
- Treasurer Pen Shade
- Immediate Past President Stu Ellis

Board Members

- Dane Bragg
- Robin Crowe
- Dr. James Finn
- Dr. Paula Finn
- Martin Getty
- Kevin Kehoe

- Diane Knabe
 - Kim Lockart (resigned)
 - Harold Murphy
 - Bill Owen (new)
 - Jackson Owens
 - Miley Palmer
 - Paul Stanzione
 - Andy Thomas
 - Bill Welch
 - Glenda Williamson
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Quick Links...

Home sweet homepage:

<http://www.decaturrerotary.org>

Rotary District 6490 East Central Illinois:

<http://www.rotary6490.org/welcome.htm>

Rotaract International: 186,277 Rotaractors (age 18-30 year olds)

<http://www.rotary.org/programs/rotaract/index.html>

Rotary International: 1.2 million Rotarians meet here

<http://www.rotary.org/>

Newsletter

Past Issues: [MARCH 2006](#) [APRIL 2006](#) <-You're reading it!

Note photos may not appear in past newsletters for the next few days; Pandora, our tech support robot assures us that the problem will be fixed soon.

Chief writer: *R. Caine* Proofreader: *Miss Pelt* Emailer: *Mail Chimp* Robot: *Pandora*

Newsletter deadline: last Monday meeting of month 1:01 P.M.

Stories preferred: via email bill@game.fan.org rather than fax 423-6067

Published: by next Monday meeting

So-called editor: *Bill Owen* 217 454-4525, Franklin Travel, 304 S Franklin St, Decatur IL 62523

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Last Glance: World War II Memorial Washington DC with my in-laws & Cherry Blossoms in D.C. April 2005 (latter especially for Vi Eggers) by Bill

Owen (who's there April 1-4, 2006):



Last word: how did the Four Way Test STOP you from doing something?

- -o-O-o- - End of Message - -o-O-o- -