

THE SPARK PLUG

Rotary Club of Decatur #180
April 2008

PO Box 131
Decatur, Illinois 62525

www.decaturreotary.org



Wanted: New Rotarians!

Although Rotary International has seen an increase in membership worldwide to 1,210,648 members, our own club has seen a decrease from 128 members last year to 122 members this year. Sadly, some of our older members have died while others have moved away or cited business pressures as reasons for discontinuing membership.

The good news is that we have welcomed 11 new members this year and have several others ready to join. If you haven't met Melanie Brown, Dave Moran, Julienne Pajer, Tara Winter, Jack O'Riley, Denise Smith, Terry Lovekamp, Julie Moore, Candace Poe, David Cooper or Kendra DelSignore, introduce yourself and get to know our newest Rotarians.

Our club offers great programs, strong networking and lots of friendly conversation each week. We are a terrific organization to join for the community, business and social connections and service opportunities! The board is asking each member to invite guests to meetings and follow-up by asking them to join our club. If you enjoy Rotary, your friends and business associates will, too.

April Programs

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

All meetings begin at 12:10

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| April 7 | Michael D'Ambrose, Senior VP of Human Resources, will talk about the future direction of Archer Daniels Midland. |
| April 14 | Coaches Jeremy Moore from Eisenhower High School and Vic Binkley from Warrensburg-Latham High School, along with a few of their players, will share highlights of their success during this year's exciting basketball season. |
| April 21 | Ed Mattson, Rotarian from Mishawaka, IN - District 6540, will update our club on two action groups of Rotary International – Humanitarian Services and Disaster Relief. |
| April 28 | Ryan McCreery of Rockies Express Pipeline will inform our club about the proposed pipeline that would carry natural gas through Central Illinois. |





Kudos for Weekly Service to Our Club

Thank you to Dick Cain, Stu Ellis, Erin Brownlow and Paula Finn for beginning our meetings with thoughtful invocations; to Sergeants-at-Arms Bud Wilcox, Jim Montgomery, Howard Edwards, Dick Shelby and David Goebel for introducing visitors and collecting Do Good Dollars; to our greeters Tami Crouch, Glen Dalluge, Sue Watts, Kit Paulin and Phil Zeni for making everyone feel welcome; to David Coopridier for leading us in our opening song; to Tony Wilkins for introducing the scholar-athletes, their parents and school officials; to Erin Brownlow for helping us wish Rotarians born in March Happy Birthday and to Lora Dills for providing Macon Ice Cream for the birthday table celebration; and to Kevin Kast and St. Mary's Hospital for hosting us on March 24th.

Insightbb.com to Comcast.net



To all of our members and friends who had insightbb.com e-mail addresses, please contact Newsletter Editor Heather Stoa at hhstoa@gmail.com, Program Chair Melinda Hawbaker at mhawbaker@chealthctr.org or President Steve Furrow at steve_furrow@admworld.com (underscore between steve and furrow) with your new e-mail address. We don't want to lose you when we send out the newsletter, weekly program announcements or other Rotary news.

April Birthdays



In the Netherlands, Koningsdag or Queen's Day is celebrated on April 30th as the official birthday of the queen. Queen Beatrix, the current reigning monarch much prefers April 30th to her own birthday in January when the weather is usually dank and gloomy. Diamonds are the traditional birthstone for April and are enjoyed by royalty and commoners alike! Happy Birthday to April Rotarians – may you be showered with diamonds and birthday wishes!

4/3 Debbie Seitz
4/4 Robin Crowe
4/6 Susan Keane
4/10 Jack O'Riley
4/10 Gayle Saunders
4/11 Norma Quihuis
4/14 Mary Ann Koucky
4/15 Julie Moore
4/17 Wayne Allen
4/25 David Wilhour
4/25 Wegi Stewart
4/28 Randy Prince
4/30 Gloria Davis



Get well wishes are extended to Bob Weidrich as he recovers from a broken hip.

Eradicating Polio – How We Can Help

On November 26th, 2007 Rotary International and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) announced a partnership to provide \$200 million over four years for the intensified push to eradicate polio. The BMGF has awarded the Rotary Foundation with one of its largest-ever challenge grants of \$100 million which Rotary will match dollar-for-dollar over the next three years.



Bill Gates noted, “The extraordinary dedication of Rotary members has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication. Eradicating polio will be one of the most significant public health accomplishments in history, and we are committed to helping reach that goal.”

The exemplary leadership shown by Rotary International and the BMGF is a heartening response to World Health Organization Director-General Dr Margaret Chan’s call for funds made at a stakeholder consultation on polio eradication on February 28th, 2007. It is hoped that this shared commitment will inspire and challenge other donors and polio affected countries themselves to ensure that the financial resources necessary to eradicate polio once and for all are rapidly mobilized.

Our *Quarterly Dues* bills will be in the mail soon. To support the ongoing effort to eradicate Polio, please consider inserting a contribution for the polio effort and note in the space provided at the bottom of your dues statement that your contribution is for the eradication of polio!

Thank you Rotarians – \$148 was raised for Watseka and Pontiac flood relief.

A Great Reason to Celebrate - Rotary Membership Anniversary Dates

Celebrating membership anniversaries in April are:

Rotarians	Number of Years in Rotary
Dave Brandon	9
Dan Martini	4
Michael Sexton	4
Erin Brownlow	1
Tami Crouch	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.



April 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 March donation will be sent to **Harristown Elementary School**.

Membership Updates



Our club welcomed new member David Cooper on March 10th. Dave is the President of Marquis Beverage. He and his wife, Madelyn, live in Decatur and have three grown children. Dave enjoys flying, skiing, scuba diving, and collecting coffee grinders, tins, and other coffee items. He was sponsored for membership by Michael DelSignore.

Mike DelSignore sponsored another very special person for membership in our club on March 25th, his wife, Kendra DelSignore. Kendra returns to our club after taking time out to establish her boutique, The Fox's Den, at 124 E. Prairie Ave.



The board accepted with regret the resignations of Bob Pancoast, Stu Sellers and Kemper Willcut II. Rotary Club of Decatur currently has 122 members including two honorary members.

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>

April Do Good Dollars



This month **Do Good Dollars** will be given to Christ Tabernacle for the purchase of games, books and crafts to be distributed by their youth when they visit children in hospitals. The youth group members will play, read and color with the children who are ill.

Steve Carlson Teacher of the Month

Superintendent Gloria Davis introduce Steve Carlson Agri Science Technology and Pre-Vet Studies teacher at the Decatur Area Technical Academy to the club as the March Teacher of the Month.

Steve didn't always want to be a teacher, but after serving in the military and trying several other jobs, the teaching gene kicked in. His parents, one brother and two sisters-in-law are teachers. He recalled a letter his mother received from a young woman who had been a third grade student in his mother's classroom 20 years earlier. Steve's mother had encouraged the girl to reach for her dreams of becoming a nurse, and the young woman wanted Steve's mother to know that she was now a nurse.



Steve went back to school to earn his teaching certificate and began his career with Decatur Public Schools in 1999. He told Rotarians, "I am a teacher. I don't want to be a doctor, veterinarian, environmental scientist, forester, park ranger, or biotechnologist, but my students do. Rewards for teaching are not always immediately evident...but I remind myself of my mother's story. If I use the gifts God has given me for teaching, then the gifts all of my students have that still need to be nurtured and developed will eventually be given back to the benefit of all."

March Scholar-Athletes



The Decatur Athletic Council and Ameren selected Katie Groesch and Brad Phillips from MacArthur High School as the Scholar-Athletes for March.

Katie is the daughter of Drs. Robert Groesch and Shelly Stevens. She ranks 3rd in her class of 225 and has a 4.59 GPA. While in high school, Katie played tennis her freshman and sophomore years and served as varsity captain both years, but her favorite sport is soccer. She was varsity captain all four years of high school and was named All-Area Team 2005, 2006, 2007; All-Conference Team 2005, 2006, 2007 and All-Section Team 2006, 2007. Katie also participated in club soccer. She was on the State and Regional Olympic Development Program Teams from 2003-2007 and in the Regional Olympic Development Program Pool in 2007.

In addition to sports, Katie is a member of National Honor Society and is an Illinois State Scholar. She plans to attend Loyola University in Chicago to play Division I Soccer and study pre-medicine.

Brad Phillips is the son of Steve and Sue Phillips. He ranks 18th in his class and has 3.6 GPA. Brad is also a soccer player. He was named 2006 junior varsity MVP, 2008 varsity soccer Co-MVP and 2008 varsity soccer captain. He enjoys playing Decatur Legion Baseball in the summers.

Brad is on the Honor Roll at MacArthur High School. He plans to attend Franklin College, play baseball and soccer and major in journalism.

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships Available

Every year, The Rotary Foundation offers approximately 1,000 Ambassadorial Scholarships for international study. Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship are grants of \$23,000 for one year's study in a country different from the scholar's home country, usually in language other than the scholar's native language. These scholarships are awarded for graduate study in a field related to Rotary's objectives of world peace, international understanding, eliminating disease, conquering hunger and fostering literacy.

Rotary Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarships are for three or six months intensive study of language and culture at one of a number of institutions which The Rotary Foundation designates. The three month award is worth \$10,000; the six month award is worth \$15,000. Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarships may be awarded to undergraduates who have demonstrated a potential for furthering the objectives of Rotary. Information and applications in PDF format are available at Rotary.org. Click on "Students and Youth" then on "Ambassadorial Scholarships" and then on "How to apply".

Rotary Scholars are selected by committees in each Rotary District. It is recommended that a student apply through his or her home district, but applications are also sometimes made in the district where a candidate attends school. Applications must first be submitted through and endorsed by a local Rotary Club. For our District applications are due from local clubs by July 15, 2008 for students interested in starting their studies abroad after July 1, 2009 and before June 30, 2010. There is a mandatory interview for scholarship candidates on August 16, 2008. Applicants may not be the descendant of a current or recent Rotarian.

If you know a young adult who would be a good candidate for a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, please encourage him or her to complete an application and send it by June 30, 2008 to:

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2008 RYLA Students Selected



The RYLA Committee is pleased to announce that six sophomores have been selected to attend the May 2-4 RYLA Camp held at Allerton Park. We received 18 applications this year and conducted 10 interviews on three afternoons.

The sophomores who will represent our club and the Decatur Metro Club are :

- Nikisha Adams, MacArthur High School
- Leigh Bundy, MacArthur High School
- Olivia Hays, Argenta-Oreana High School
- Natalie Stoerger, Argenta-Oreana High School
- Valdimir Talley III, Eisenhower High School, and
- Lynette Ungrund, St. Teresa High School.

Students who are selected as sophomores commit to attending the camp for three years. Sponsored by our club and returning to the Junior/Senior RYLA Camp on April 18-20 are:

- Jeremy Fain, MacArthur High School, and
- Tyler Mikeworth, Mt. Zion High School.

Erin Brownlow chaired the committee and did a terrific job of contacting counselors, scheduling interviews and notifying the students. Serving on the committee with Erin Brownlow were Paul Stanzione, Tim Stock and Heather Stoa from our club and Karen Sandelin from Metro. Our club will pay the way for six students and Metro will pay for two (\$165 each). The students will be asked to share their experiences at one of our meetings in early June.

Volunteers are needed to help at the camps for two-hour time slots April 18-20 or May 2-4. Please contact Erin at erin.brownlow@busey.com or 425-8243 if you are available to share two hours of your time with these young leaders. Your service will definitely count as a make-up!

Silent Auction Winners to Be Announced On April 7th



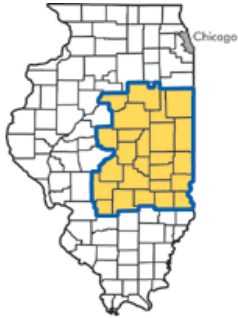
The winners of the bracelets made by Lucia, a 12 year old girl from Chiapas, Mexico now living at Amor Y Vida Orphanage in Mérida, will be named at the April 7th Rotary meeting.

Each bracelet made from strands of thread takes about two hours to create. Lucia learned to make the knot patterns by watching others.

The money raised from the silent auction will be added to the \$3000 allocated by the board for repairs that are needed to the orphanage and wired to the home.

Many thanks to all who participated in the auction.

Rotary District 6490 Conference—May 2-3, 2008 The Chateau Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington



Rotarians and guests are invited to attend the District Conference in Bloomington the first weekend in May. The event kicks off with a 9:30 am Friday Leadership Seminar for Past Club Presidents. The two days will be filled with plenary sessions, awards ceremonies and discussions of club projects. Club and vendor displays will provide a glimpse of club activities throughout the District. In addition to Rotary programs, participants will have the opportunity to visit the Funk Prairie Home Gem and Mineral Museum or the David Davis Mansion or take the Bloomington Lincoln Tour.

Each club is donating door prizes for the conference and there will also be special drawings for: four \$50 Eastland Mall gift certificates for registered partners, spouses, or guests to be held before the Conference and awarded at the Conference; four drawings for four individual free AirTran roundtrip tickets; a drawing for the first 100 paid Conference Registrants: a drawing for those Rotarians, partners, spouses, or guests attending the Friday Night Banquet at the Timber Pointe Lodge, and; a drawing for those Rotarians, partners, spouses, or guests attending the Saturday Night Governor's Banquet.

For registration forms and meal prices, visit the District 6490 website: <http://www.Rotary6490.org/Newsletter.cfm>. To guarantee meal reservations; registrations accompanied by checks payable to 'Rotary District 6490 Conference' must be postmarked by April 15th. Mail to:

Don Rutledge
2709 McGraw Drive
Bloomington, IL 61704

This Month in Rotary History Rotary in Cuba

The first Rotary club to be organized outside an English-speaking country was established in Havana, Cuba on April 29, 1916, with 22 charter members. The club was admitted to Rotary on June 1, 1916.



During 1923, the Rotary Club of Havana celebrated its seventh anniversary, in what became a very busy year. The club sponsored a carnival attended by more than 1,500 children, won a prohibition against bullfighting in Cuba, worked to get the city's water sanitized and properly purified, and obtained pavement repairs in certain areas.

By the time the RI Convention was held in Havana from June 9-14, 1940, 42 of the 48 clubs that had been chartered in Cuba were still active. Another 20 clubs would be chartered thereafter, ending with the Rotary Club of San Cristobal, on October, 16 1957.

Rotary clubs in Cuba produced four RI directors – Mario Nuñez Mesa, 1922-23; Felix Silva Fernandez, 1936-37; Manuel Galigarcia Hernández, 1942-43; and Horacio Navarrete, 1953-54. All clubs in Cuba were terminated by January 31, 1979.

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.decaturrerotary.org
