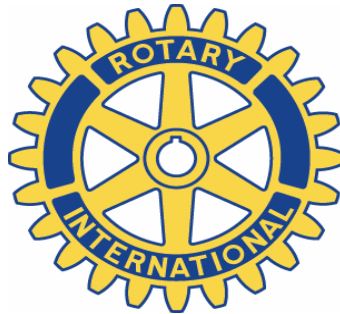


# THE SPARK PLUG

Rotary Club of Decatur #180  
May 2008

PO Box 131  
Decatur, Illinois 62525

[www.decaturrotary.org](http://www.decaturrotary.org)



## A Message from the President

Greetings Fellow Rotarians!

Our club needs new members! Identifying and inducting new members is important to our club and Rotary International.

Unfortunately, there is an attrition rate that constantly must be overcome. We have had three veteran members die in the past 10 months. In addition, another 17 members have resigned from the club because of job changes, moving out of the Decatur area, business pressure, or lack of time or interest.

We have added 14 new members, leaving a shortfall of six since July 1. Our current membership now stands at 123. Interestingly, it is not just our club that is experiencing this situation. Rotary clubs and other service clubs, in general, throughout the U.S. are experiencing this. In order to maintain a vibrant and strong club, we must constantly be on the lookout for those individuals who fit Rotary ideals and would be good additions.

The board identified membership strategies at its March meeting that were sent out to the entire membership via e-mail, and we will be working to bring these to fruition. However, this is not the "job" of just board members or officers, but of all club members, including you. Who can you think of that you would be willing to propose and sponsor as a member? Bring this co-worker, colleague, business acquaintance, relative or friend to a meeting as your guest to show them what we are all about.

New Member Brochures which list facts/figures about our club including our history, local and international grant recipients, dues info, and the Rotary 4-Way Test are available on the back table at each meeting. They were also mailed with your last quarter's statement. These are a concise piece to give to prospective members.

Will you take action today? Your club is counting on you!

In service,  
*Steve Furrow*

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## May Programs

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

**All meetings will begin at 12:10**

- May 5            Our club's own Monte Cherry of the Sanitary District, along with Rexlyn Nicole, will update us on the increasing success of their Engineers in the Classroom Project.
- May 12           We will meet at **MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY** in the lower level of Richards Treat University Center for a State of the University address from President Doug Zemke.
- May 19           Steve Horve will update our club on his development of Decatur's Conference Center and Hotel. .
- May 26           NO MEETING – ENJOY THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.



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## Kudos for Weekly Service to Our Club



Thank you to **Stu Ellis, Diana Knaebe, Bert Gray** and **Al Luchetti** for beginning our meetings with thoughtful invocations; to Sergeants-at-Arms **Bud Wilcox, Miley Palmer, Howard Edwards** and **Dick Shelby** for introducing visitors and collecting Do Good Dollars; to our greeters **Sue Watts, Julie Moore, Dave Cooper** and **Norma Quihuis** for making everyone feel welcome; to **David Coopriider** for leading us in our opening song; to **Stacey Young** for introducing the scholar-athletes and their parents; to **Miley Palmer** for helping us wish Rotarians born in April Happy Birthday and to **Lora Dills** for providing Macon Ice Cream for the birthday table celebration.

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## A Great Reason to Celebrate - Rotary Membership Anniversary Dates

Celebrating membership anniversaries in May are:

<b>Rotarians</b>	<b>Number of Years in Rotary</b>
Alec Messamore	7
Susan Keane	4
Bud Wilcox	2



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.

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## May 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 May donation will be sent to Holy Family School.

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## Doug Burdick Named Distinguished Rotarian



Kit Paulin, Recognition Chair, honored Doug Burdick as a Distinguished Rotarian and presented him with a Rotary tie at the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Doug was born in Decatur and is a 1971 graduate of Stephen Decatur High School. He entered college at DePauw University in Indiana and spent two years at DePauw. When he realized that he would like a career in the Mechanical Industry he transferred to Purdue and graduated from there in 1975.

Doug's father, Bill Burdick, and Bill's brother, Dick Burdick, started Burdick Plumbing and Heating in 1955. In 1957 they moved the company to its present location at 728 South Main Street. Dick left the business in the early 1970's. Doug joined the business when he graduated from college. He worked in the field for three years and then moved into the office to become an estimator and project manager. Bill, Doug's father, was active in the business until he had a stroke in 1995. At that time Doug became President of the company, overseeing all operations.

Burdick Plumbing and Heating handles industrial piping. Their largest clients are Caterpillar and PPG. They also deal in commercial plumbing, HVAC, water and sewer mains, and treatment plants. At one time 75% of the business was industrial. Approximately 10 years ago, Burdick Plumbing and Heating expanded into residential new homes and plumbing service work.

Doug and his wife, Jan, married in 1987. They have two sons. Colby is an 18 year old freshman at Millikin University where he plays on the golf team. Their younger son, Brandon, is a sophomore at Mt. Zion High School. Doug's mother, Helen, still lives in Decatur.

Doug describes his hobbies as "Outdoor Activities" his favorites being golf and boating on Lake Decatur.

Doug joined Rotary in August of 1982 and was sponsored by Box Bob Smith. In only three short years, Doug will have been a Rotarian for half of his life!



## Membership Updates

Our club welcomed three new members in April. **Gretchen Murphy** joined the club on April 7<sup>th</sup>. She is Senior Vice President at Soy Capital Bank and was sponsored for membership by Paula Finn. Gretchen is married to Bob Murphy and enjoys golf, gardening, boating and watching their kids play sports.

**Stacey Young**, a lifelong resident of Decatur, is the Community Relations Coordinator for Ameren Illinois Utilities. She has one son and enjoys reading. Stacey was sponsored for membership by Tony Wilkins. She joined on April 14<sup>th</sup> and introduced the Scholar-Athletes the next week! (Watch for Stacey's picture next month).



We welcomed back **Carla Brinkoetter** to membership on April 28<sup>th</sup>. She is the President of Brinkoetter & Associates, Realtors. Carla is married to Terry Smith and spends many hours on the road driving to and from Cincinnati to spend time with her first grandson.

The board accepted with regret the resignation of Kurt Rudsinski and wishes him well as he moves out of state for a new position.

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

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## Paul Harris Fellows



Jim Masey



Lucy Murphy



Miley Palmer

Jim Masey was honored as our club's newest Paul Harris Fellow. He joins 105 Rotarians and named donors from our club who have contributed to \$1000 to The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Since the inception of the Paul Harris Fellowship program our club members have given \$170,321 to TRF. Lucy Murphy and Miley Palmer received their second Paul Harris Fellow. By contributing \$100 to the Annual Program Fund through *Every Rotarian, Every Year*, Rotarians help to support International and District projects for humanitarian and educational purposes

### Current Rotary Club of Decatur Paul Harris Fellows

Wayne Allen, PHF  
William H. Blake, PHF+1  
David E. Brandon, PHF  
B Thomas Burns, PHF+2  
Richard D. Cain, PHF+2  
Phillip W. Cochran, PHF  
G. Glen Dalluge, PHF+2  
Jack Dolan, PHF  
Larry W. Foster, PHF  
Jon D. French, PHF+1

Michael O. Gibson, PHF  
Charles E. Hippler, PHF  
Jefferson L. Hunt, PHF  
Bryan Mikeworth, PHF+1  
Walter T. Morey, PHF  
Harold R. Murphy, PHF  
Lucy Murphy, PHF +1  
Noel Myers, PHF  
Everett E. Nicholas, PHF  
Bruce Nims, PHF+1

Jim Masey, PHF  
Miley Palmer, PHF +1  
Kit Paulin, PHF  
Paul Stanzione, PHF  
Wegi Stewart, PHF  
Heather Stoa, PHF  
Robert C. Smith, PHF  
Robert Weidrich, PHF

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## May Do Good Dollars

This month **Do Good Dollars** will be given to Old Kings Orchard for their after school program.



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## Auction Funds to Amor Y Vida

Thank you to Rotarians Howard Beede, Jo Caulkins, Paula Finn, Steve Furrow, Susan Keene, Noel Myers, Miley Palmer and Sue Watts for purchasing bracelets made by Lucia, a 12 year old girl from Chiapas, Mexico. \$215 will be sent to Amor Y Vida along with our \$3000 contribution for repairs to plumbing at the orphanage.

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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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## May Birthdays



"I mean, what is an un-birthday present?"  
"A present given when it isn't your birthday, of course."  
Alice considered a little. "I like birthday presents best," she said at last.  
"You don't know what you're talking about!" cried Humpty Dumpty. "How many days are there in a year?"  
"Three hundred and sixty-five," said Alice.  
"And how many birthdays have you?"  
"One."

We wish Rotarians born in May a Happy Birthday on your one special day!

5/5	Bert Gray
5/13	Steve Furrow
5/13	Cathy Ashby
5/17	Dennis Messamore
5/19	Julie Pajer
5/20	Bob Brady
5/22	Gretchen Murphy
5/24	Dave Brandon
5/29	Lora



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## April Teacher of the Month

Martha Henderson, first/second grade teacher at Durfee School, was introduced by Superintendent Gloria Davis. Martha has been a teacher with Decatur Public Schools for the past 13 years. She likes to instill in her students a sense of community and encourages the children to give to United Way. She is a champion of Junior Achievement which teaches students about the differences between needs and wants and what it means to be a good citizen.

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## April Scholar-Athletes



Scholar-Athletes honored in the month of January were seniors Sara Rosenbery and Kyle Bendsen from Eisenhower High School.

Sara is the daughter of Kris and Mike Rosenbery. She ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in her class and has a 4.146 GPA. Sara has played soccer and run cross country while in high school. In soccer she is a 3 year letter winner, was named Offensive MVP, team captain and Big 12 All-Conference Honorable Mention. She was a three year letter winner in cross-country and was named most improved in 2005. Sara is a member of National Honor Society and Student Council. Her plans are to attend SIUE and study nursing.



Kyle is the son of Chris and Deanne Bendsen. He ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in his class and has a 4.5 GPA. Kyle was a four year letter winner and team captain for soccer. He also played tennis where he was a three year letter winner, had the most doubles wins his sophomore year and served as team captain. Kyle is a member of National Honor Society and is active in music programs. He plans to attend the University of Illinois and major in aerospace engineering and minor in music.

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## Macon County Farm Bureau Sends Thank You

Jennifer Edgecombe, Ag Literacy Coordinator for the Macon County Farm Bureau, sent photos and a note of thanks for the \$500 grant from Rotary Club of Decatur that helped with Agucation, a day for 5th grade students held during National Agriculture Week at Richland Community College.



The program is designed to provide exposure to the many aspects of agriculture. Students participated in several hands-on activities during their two-hour tour.

Farmers Tom Fiesler (L) and Mark Lilillopop (R) talked to students about the equipment used in farming.

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## This month in Rotary history -- Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland



In May 1914, Rotary clubs in Great Britain and Ireland met in London and agreed to form the British Association of Rotary Clubs. They elected R.W. Pentland as the first president of the organization, which was to have its own constitution. The next month, at that year's Rotary convention in Houston, the International Association of Rotary Clubs recognized the British group as a legitimate extension of Rotary, and clubs in Britain agreed to affiliate with and pay fees to the international organization.

In his convention address, RI President Russell F. Greiner said: "Feeling that we were not familiar with local conditions in Great Britain and Ireland, I strongly favored the forming of an association of the clubs. . . . It has done splendid work in knitting into a closer union the Rotarians of the cities of the United Kingdom."

Even with limited communication among international clubs during World War I, the British association managed to keep the clubs in Great Britain, Ireland, and some mainland European communities connected. By 1921, more than 50 clubs were active in the region.

Other historic developments occurred at the 1922 RI Convention in Los Angeles. The International Association of Rotary Clubs changed its name to Rotary International, and a principle was established that allowed any country with 25 clubs to become a territorial unit with representation on the RI Board. At the convention, Great Britain requested and received territorial status as Rotary International Association for Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI).

No other group in the world had asked for or received this standing when the territorial unit concept was repealed in 1927. Nevertheless, the rights, privileges, and powers of existing territories were forever protected, so RIBI has continued to function as an independent unit of Rotary International, subject to certain conditions under the RI Constitution.

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

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