

THE SPARK PLUG

Rotary Club of Decatur #180

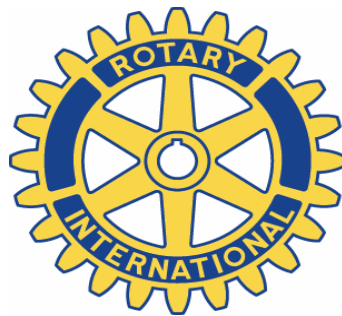
June 2008

PO Box 131

Decatur, Illinois 62525



www.decaturRotary.org



A Message from the President

Greetings Fellow Rotarians!

After almost 50 weekly meetings, my term as president is winding down. What a terrific opportunity it has been to serve the club! I have enjoyed getting to know many of you better through committee work or volunteer opportunities. I have appreciated all of you who have given of your time and talents to make the club “go.”

Have we had a successful year? Absolutely, and I believe the following results bear it out:

Local Grants: We supported 15 Decatur-area organizations with \$11,000 in grants. We will make the second (of three) \$5,000 pledge payments to the Decatur Park District for the pavilion at Dreamland Lake in Fairview Park yet this fiscal year.

International Grants: We continued our support of an orphanage in Mérida, Mexico for the 15th year, providing funding for bathroom and plumbing remodeling. We allocated \$3,000 for Dr. Sushant Sinha, a local ophthalmologist, who visits his native country of India to provide eye surgeries for indigent patients. This grant project is an ongoing joint effort with the Blue Mound and Metro Clubs and includes Rotary District and Rotary Foundation matching funding – bringing the total grant to almost \$25,000.

Honors: Our club presented Paul Harris Fellowships to four members. We continued a long-standing tradition of emphasis on youth by honoring top scholar-athletes from three area high schools. We sponsored and paid for six high school youth to attend a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) weekend. We paid tribute to the best Decatur teachers, also. On the college level, we continued financial support for the Rotaract Club at Millikin University.

Planning for the future, our officers are meeting in June to set the 2008-2009 club budget.

And we have had fun, too, enjoying the camaraderie and fellowship at our weekly meetings!

In closing, I would encourage each of you to think about how you might make your mark on the club next year – see Pen Shade, incoming president, if you would like to get involved as a committee member.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve, and I thank you for the opportunity!

In service,

Steve Furrow

“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

June Programs

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

All meetings will begin at 12:10

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 2 | Beth Stringer will preview the Shadows of Lincoln Festival to be held this week in conjunction with the Republican Convention. |
| June 9 | Kara Demirjian Huss, Tournament Co-Director of the 2008 Michelob Ultra Duramed FUTURES Players Championship, will share what's new with this event this year. |
| June 16 | Our own Howard Edwards, Principal of Stephen Decatur Middle School, will share highlights of his recent trip to New Orleans to assist with rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina. |
| June 23 | A representative from the National Pork Board will present to our club about "The Pork Industry: More Than Just the Other White Meat." |
| June 30 | President Steve Furrow will summarize the success of our past Rotary Year. |



District 6490 Newsletter Available On-line

The latest district newsletter has been published on the District 6490 Web site. You June read it on-line by visiting:

<http://www.Rotary6490.org/Newsletter.cfm>



June Do Good Dollars

This month **Do Good Dollars** will be given to **Race for the Cure** in the ongoing effort to treat and cure breast cancer.



A Great Reason to Celebrate - Rotary Membership Anniversary Dates

Celebrating membership anniversaries in Rotary Club of Decatur in June are:

Rotarians	Number of Years in Rotary
Steve Furrow	9
David Tyrolt	8
Bob Disbrow	7
Jim Fouse	5
Glen Dalluge	3
Kelly Day	3



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.

June 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 June donation will be sent to Hope Academy.

June Birthdays



Born on Monday,
Fair in face;
Born on Tuesday,
Full of God's grace;
Born on Wednesday,
Sour and sad;
Born on Thursday,
Merry and glad;
Born on Friday,
Worthily given;
Born on Saturday,
Work hard for your living;
Born on Sunday,
You will never know want.

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

6/6	Doug Burdick
6/15	Phil Cochran
6/22	Glen Dalluge
6/22	Kevin Breheny
6/23	Bill Blank





Kudos for Weekly Service to Our Club

Thank you to **Bob Gauthier**, **Dave Brandon** and **Stu Ellis** for beginning our meetings with thoughtful invocations; to Sergeants-at-Arms **Bud Wilcox**, **Al Luchetti** and **Howard Edwards** for introducing visitors and collecting Do Good Dollars; to our greeters **Sue Watts**, **Paul Stanzione**, and **Dick Shelby** for making everyone feel welcome; to **David Coopridger** for leading us in our opening song; 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.

May Teacher of the Month



Anita Schwartz, 1st grade teacher at Franklin Elementary School was named Teacher of the Month at the May 12th meeting at Millikin University.



Membership Updates



Introduce yourself to Stacey Young, one of our newest members and Community Relations Coordinator for Ameren Illinois Utilities.

The board accepted with regret the resignation of long time member Bill Welch as he retires to spend time traveling, golfing and gardening.

Rotary Club of Decatur currently has 122 members including two honorary members.



Presidents' Party June 24th Decatur Area Arts Council Gallery 5:00-7:00



Save the date, invite your spouse or a friend to join you for our annual party to thank Steve Furrow, our outgoing president, and to welcome Pen Shade, our incoming president.



Celebrate
Celebrate



Eradicating Polio

Glen Dalluge, Foundation Chair

In 1985, Rotary became a spearheading partner in global eradication of polio. Other partners are World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and UNICEF.

At that time Rotary International through the Rotary Foundation set out on a journey that most thought would be finished in as little as five to ten years. The goal was to have polio completely eradicated by Rotary's 100th birthday in 2005.

The complexity and extent of such an undertaking was not fully understood. Our 2005 goal was not reached. However, great - very great - progress has been made. Now, in 2007-08, we can say that polio has been reduced from over 350,000 children in 1985 to fewer than 2000 cases world-wide last year. That's a 99% reduction! That last 1% is going to be the most difficult and costly. We must achieve complete 100% eradication, otherwise recurring outbreaks will result in re-exposure on an international scale, and this great effort will have been in vain. The bottom line is that as long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, all children, wherever they live will, remain at risk.

Rotarians have already provided nearly \$700 million towards this effort and that amount will need to grow to almost one billion by the time the world is certified polio free.

Now, here is the good news and a serious challenge that involves all of us. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has made \$100 million available to the Rotary Foundation to help completely rid the world of polio. Our opportunity and challenge is that Rotarians must match the Gates contribution over the next three years. There are 1.2 million Rotarians in the world, and 122 of them are right here - members of Decatur Rotary Club. The challenge and opportunity will require that we provide \$100 per member to match the Gates grant - that boils down to about \$35 per year each. If we all add just \$10 per quarter when we pay our dues, we will more than do our share in this worthy project.

It would be a shame if part of the Gates family's generous contribution is not matched. I don't think we want that to happen, and I feel certain that our Rotary International leadership will do everything possible to be sure it doesn't happen.

Please give serious thought to this, and please, join with Rotarians around the world to get this job done!!



A Rotarian immunizes a child against polio in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Photo by Jean-Marc Giboux.

Thank You for a Great Year of Club Service

- Thank you for a great year of service and leadership to the club: President Steve Furrow, Vice-President Pen Shade, Secretary Lucy Murphy, Treasurer Andy Thomas and Past President Heather Stoa.
- Thank you to board members Diana Knaebe, Kathy Merner, Tim Stock, Glenda Williamson, and Bud Wilcox who complete their terms of office on June 30th.
- Thank you to our committee chairs and committee members for a terrific job of insuring that club events, communications, programs and activities ran smoothly.

Family – Mary Ann Koucky

Fellowship – Erin Brownlow, Miley Palmer, Lora Dills, Jim Finn

Foundation – Glen Dalluge, Lucy Murphy

Grants – Paul Stanzione, Melanie Brown, Kelly Day, Dave Moran, Bob Pancoast, Jane Shade

Greeters – Sue Watts

International – Bert Gray

Invocations – Robin Crowe, Jeff Stout

Membership – Larry Foster, Bud Wilcox

Newsletter – Heather Stoa

Nominating – Heather Stoa, Dick Cain, Stu Ellis, Miley Palmer

Programs –Melinda Hawbaker, Kim Bauer, Dave Brandon, Michael DelSignore, Larry Foster, Diana Knaebe, Terry Lovekamp, Julie Moore, Georganne Sadomytschenko, Debbie Seitz, Glenda Williamson

Public Relations – Paula Finn

Recognition – Kit Paulin

RYLA – Erin Brownlow, Paul Stanzione, Tim Stock, Heather Stoa

Sergeants at Arms – David Goebel, Al Luchetti, Jim Montgomery, Dick Shelby, Bud Wilcox

Volunteers – Wayne Allen, David Coopriider

Their service to the club is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in serving on one of the committees next year, please contact incoming President Pen Shade: william.p.shade.iv@smithbarney.com or return the *Committee Interest Survey* on the following page and return it to Pen Shade or incoming Secretary Diana Knaebe: dknaebe@heritagenet.org.

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

Committee Interests Survey

Name: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please check your areas of interest and bring this survey to the weekly meeting or return it to Pen Shade at: william.p.shade.iv@smithbarney.com or Diana Knaebe at: dknaebe@heritagenet.org

Please remember that while the following committee activities are delegated on a regular basis to fellow Rotarians, they are the responsibilities of all Rotarians at all times.

Committee Descriptions and Responsibilities

_____ **Family:** To receive notice from club members that a Rotarian or his/her family member is experiencing a difficulty, to follow up with a card or phone call, and to report back to the club on the status of the Rotarian or his/her family member.

_____ **Fellowship:** To organize social activities or events for Rotarians; to serve as mentors for new members; to contact members not attending and invite them to a meeting; to arrange a members' birthday table the first meeting of each month

_____ **Foundation:** To educate Rotarians about the RI Foundation and its work; to encourage Rotarians to donate \$100 a year to the Foundation; to recognize Rotarians who contribute; to recognize Paul Harris Fellows

_____ **Grants:** To review, rank and award grant funds to community organizations and individuals who apply for local funding; to host recipients at meetings where funds are distributed; to recommend Do Good Dollar recipients

_____ **Greeters:** To greet Rotarians, visiting Rotarians and guests at the door at each weekly meeting; to assist visitors and guests with nametags, food and seating

_____ **International Activities:** To manage the club's response to service projects of our choosing and Rotary International projects and to coordinate exchanges with other countries, including hosting international visitors and students

_____ **Invocations:** To solicit and schedule Rotarians to provide an invocation at the beginning of each meeting

_____ **Membership:** To contact potential members; to invite potential members to a meeting; to serve as sponsors for the new members; to encourage attendance at a New Member Orientation

_____ **Member Recognition:** To recognize the Distinguished Rotarian of the Quarter and to recognize members for accomplishments within the club and community.

_____ **Newsletter:** To submit articles for the newsletter each month, to publish, e-mail and make hard copies of the newsletter available to the membership

_____ **Programs:** To solicit ideas for programs; to contact and schedule speakers; to submit information about upcoming programs to club members and to the media; to introduce the programs

_____ **Public Relations:** To submit information about Rotary special events, activities, or members to the press

_____ **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards:** To review applications and select area high school sophomores, juniors and seniors (in conjunction with representatives from Metro, Forsyth Sunrise and Blue Mound Rotary Clubs) to attend the District Rotary Youth Leadership Camp held by grade group one weekend each spring at Allerton Park; to chaperone during RYLA Camp

_____ **Sergeant at Arms:** To introduce guests, visiting Rotarians, announce make-ups and solicit Happy Bucks at each meeting

_____ **Volunteers:** To solicit and schedule individuals to help with Rotary activities or Rotary supported activities such as the Turkey Tournament, Salvation Army bell ringing, weeding and planting at Rotary Park

I am willing to serve on _____ committee(s)

or serve as chair of the _____ committee.

Other _____