

THE SPARKPLUG

Rotary Club of Decatur #180
August, 2007

PO Box 131
Decatur, Illinois 62525

www.decaturreotary.org



A Message from the President

Greetings Fellow Rotarians!

Wow! The first month of the new Rotary year has zipped by, and what fun it has been!

August is Rotary Membership Month. What a perfect time to invite a friend to join you for a Monday meeting. Come see our own Steve John present on how protecting Lake Decatur can help protect the planet; see the sights of Thailand as Ngozi Onura presents on the annual Rotary educators tour; hear our own State Rep. Bob Flider give a report on the State; and learn about living and working in the eastern European block countries in a presentation by our own John Cook.

Pick up a Membership Brochure from the sign-in table and introduce a friend to Rotary. "White card" application forms are available from Secretary Lucy Murphy for nominating a new member. Complete it and return it to Lucy or me. If you haven't seen fellow Rotarians for a while, give them a call and offer to swing by work or home and pick them up on your way to a meeting. It will give you more time to catch up while you are driving to and from the Decatur Club. Not sure of someone's phone number – check the Club Members section on our Web site at: <http://www.decaturreotary.org>.

Look for the club members with a star on their name badge. They have attended at least 60% of the Monday meetings in the past year. Congratulate them, and ask them what it is that keeps them coming back every Monday. I am sure that the fellowship they share with club members will be among the top reasons that they give for returning each week.

It has been said that a stranger is just a friend waiting to happen. If you have heard good things about a community or business leader who would be great Rotarian but don't know that person, share the name with Norma Maddio, Larry Foster or Bud Wilcox. Our membership committee members will contact the individual and invite him or her

to a Rotary meeting, or make it a point to meet the person yourself and extend an invitation to visit our club with you.

Just as August is traditionally “back to school time”, let’s also make August “back to Rotary time”. If you haven’t been here for a while, we miss you. Come back. It is time to reconnect with Rotary.

As always, please contact me by e-mail: steve_furrow@admworld.com or by phone: 451-7036 (work) or 876-7617 (home) with questions or suggestions for making our club even better.

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

August Programs

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

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| August 6 | Our club's own Steve John will share with us how Helping Protect Lake Decatur Can Help Protect the Planet. |
| August 13 | Millikin education instructor Ngozi Onura will present photos and related information about her involvement with the annual Rotary Educators Tour of Thailand in March 2007. |
| August 20 | Our club’s own Bob Flider, State Representative for the 101 st District, will bring us up to date with a report on the “state” of Illinois. |
| August 27 | Our club's own John Cook will share his experience living and working in Eastern Europe; including the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Poland and Austria. |



August 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 July donation will be sent to Argenta-Oreana Early Learning Center.

August Do Good Dollars

This month **Do Good Dollars** will be given to the Northeast Community Fund to assist in their efforts to provide food for those in need in Decatur. Donations of canned and packaged foods are always welcomed by the food pantry which is located at 825 N. Water.





Kudos for Weekly Service to Our Club

Thank you to Dave Brandon, Wegi Stewart, and Howard Brown for beginning our meetings with thoughtful invocations; to Sergeants-at-Arms Al Luchetti, Dick Shelby and David Goebel for introducing visitors and collecting Happy Bucks; to our greeters Sue Watts, Erin Brownlow and Janis Rhodes for making everyone feel welcome; to Howard Brown for leading us in song; to Miley Palmer for helping us sing birthday wishes and to Lora Dills for providing Macon Ice Cream for the birthday table.

Happy Birthday to Rotarians Born in August

You Know You Are Lost between Baby Boomer and Generation X if...

- A predominant pattern in your family photos is plaid.
- You rode in the back of the station wagon facing the cars behind you.
- You've recently horrified yourself by using any one of the following phrases: "You know, back when...", "When I was your age...", or "When I was younger..."
- You remember when there were two types of sneakers for girls and boys; Keds & PF Flyers, and the only time you wore them at school was for gym.
- You're currently employed doing something that has absolutely nothing to do with your college major.
- You had a front-row seat (i.e., blew off one or more classes) for Luke and Laura's wedding on "GH."
- You know who shot J.R.
- You were unsure if Diet Coke would ever catch on.
- You remember when movies were only G.
- You remember having a rotary phone.



8/1 Gary Likins
8/2 Walter Morey
8/3 David Goebel
8/5 Jeff Stout
8/6 Rich Smith
8/9 Noel Myers
8/13 Chuck Hippler
8/16 Bill Welch
8/18 Melinda Hawbaker
8/20 Jane Shade
8/22 Kathy Merner

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>.

Fundraising Opportunity for Our Consideration

President Steve Furrow recently met with fellow Rotarian Bud Wilcox, General Manager of the Decatur Civic Center, to discuss an opportunity that our Rotary Club might be interested in pursuing. It involves the staging of a show entitled *Lost in the 50's*. This show has been running in Branson, MO for eight years and it is now going on tour. This could serve as a fundraiser for our club and a great publicity vehicle for Rotary. Please take a look at the website: www.starlitebooking.com. Click on the *Lost in the 50's* tab to see slides and a video about the production.

Following are estimated expenses and revenue.

Total Potential Revenue:

The revenue from this event would be generated from ticket sales. There would be eight (8) shows with the availability of 500 seats per show at a ticket price of \$35.00 per seat. If each show sold out, the potential revenue generated from ticket sales would be \$140,000.00.

Presenters Contribution (estimate):

\$ 12,000.00 Starlight Booking Agency (\$6,000.00 deposit, with the balance due March 5, 2008.)
\$ 5,000.00 Advertising Fee (\$2K radio, \$2K TV, \$750 newspaper, \$250 flyers/posters)
\$ 4,000.00 Sound/Lighting Equipment and Labor (stage hands, theater techs, coordinator, etc)
\$ 800.00 Event Staff (ticket takers, ushers, etc.)
\$ 600.00 Hospitality (food, drink, and shanks for the performers and stage hands)
\$ 2,500.00 Theater Rent (5 days @ \$500 per day)
\$ 5,000.00 Box Office Charges (ticket production, ticket seller, book keeping, etc.)
\$ 29,900.00 Fixed Cost (estimate)

Presenter's Initial Deposit Due with signed contracts:

Starlight Booking Agency Fee \$6,000.00 (\$6,000.00 balance due March 5, 2008)
Decatur Civic Center Fee \$2,500.00 (deposit represents room rental fees)
General Liability Insurance Provided by the Presenter

Presenters/Starlight Booking Agency Split

After the \$29,900.00 estimated expenses and a 12% royalty fee (licensing), the Presenter and the Starlight Booking Agency will split the remaining profit 50/50.

Presenter's Revenue Potential after Estimated Expenses (based on four different scenarios):

Percentage of House Sold/Presenters Revenue
25% (or) 1,000 seats \$ 450.00
50% (or) 2,000 seats \$ 15,850.00
75% (or) 3,000 seats \$ 31,250.00
100% (or) 4,000 seats \$ 46,650.00

There is some risk involved with this project. If we decide to pursue this and don't sell enough tickets, the club could lose money. If we sold a reasonable amount of tickets, we could make a profit. If we sold only 25% of those seats (1,000), we would break even. Selling more than that would lead to a profit.

To successfully pull this off, our club members would need to buy tickets themselves and market this heavily to family, friends, and business and social connections. It would require little sweat equity beyond ticket selling as the Civic Center and the touring group handles all of the production and logistic details.

Please review the information and let Steve or one of the board members know what you think prior to the board meeting on August 16.

Membership Updates

Rotary Club of Decatur currently has 128 members, including three honorary members. Our goal for the current year is a net increase of four members. August is Membership Month – invite a friend to join you for our meetings. Share the excitement and benefits of Rotary with others.

Meet Our Club's Committee Chairs

Family – Mary Ann Koucky
Fellowship – Erin Brownlow
Foundation – Glen Dalluge
Grants – Paul Stanzione
Greeters – Janis Rhodes
International – Bert Gray
Invocations – Robin Crowe, Jeff Stout
Membership – Norma Maddio
Newsletter – Heather Stoa
Programs – Melinda Hawbaker
Public Relations – Paula Finn
Recognition – Kit Paulin
RYLA – Tina Noland
Sergeants at Arms – Dave Goebel
Volunteers – Wayne Allen, David Coopriider



If you are available to help with a club activity or would like to serve on a Rotary Club Committee, please let the committee chair know of your interest. We always need help.

Cardinals Care Grant Received

Each club in Rotary District 6490 received a portion of a Cardinals Care Grant. Our allocation of \$121.00 was used to purchase books in Spanish to take to the children at Amor Y Vida Orphanage in Mérida, Mexico when we travel there in January for a week of work and fun. Children's biographies and reference books on snakes, oceans, insects, hurricanes, dinosaurs, birds, and pyramids should pique the interest of the elementary age children.



A Search for Rotary Club of Decatur Archives

Alas, our club's history is missing. Please search your attic, basement, garage, file cabinets and closets to see if you have any photographs or newspaper clippings from past Rotary activities. Heather Stoa will scan your photos and clippings and return them to you. Please write down as much as you remember about the event and the individuals pictured.

For past issues of **The Sparkplug**, 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
