

Decatur Rotary Club #180 - www.decaturrotary.org



President's Ponderances

Rotarians:

As we move into the holiday season, we find the Rotarian spirit of service is alive and thriving as well. The quick response that 8 of you gave to the call for volunteers to help with the Turkey Basketball Tournament was unbelievable. Yes, we've done it for many years, but for 8 of you to quickly sign on to the assignment was truly admirable.

Ditto that to the 24 Rotarians who signed up for Salvation Army bell ringing duty on December 11. While the typical bell ringer may be an anonymous person in the community, when a Rotarian is standing beside the kettle, there is extra personality that goes into the job. You will recognize many of the folks who pass by and they will recognize you, and when that happens, a bit more money goes into the kettle than ordinarily would. Congratulations to those of you who signed up to ring the bell. To make the time go faster, take a friend or a family member, outfit

them with a bell and try your hand at some Christmas melodies, literally and figuratively!

Speaking of Christmas melodies, consider bringing a guest to the December 13 meeting when Milt Scott and the Lutheran School Association Choir will celebrate the music of the season. Milt's kids have performed many times for us and it is always a great show.

As the year winds to a close, and you are looking for opportunities for charitable giving, please consider the Rotary Foundation through the Decatur Community Fund. Your matchable gift will do a lot of good for those who can't make contributions.

May your holiday season be bright, cheerful, and full of the Rotary spirit of "service above self."

Stu Ellis

A Tribute To

Jean Brooks joined Rotary in 1961 and has faithfully attended meetings since that time. In October 2004 was the first meeting he missed. His example will be missed when he moves to Oak Crest, a retirement village outside of Dekalb, IL. This move will put he and his wife closer to their daughter.

We wish you well!



Rotary Aids Hurricane Victims

As promised in the November 1st newsletter, our October contributions to the Penny Fund and Happy Bucks were sent to the Punta Gorda Rotary Club in Punta Gorda, FL to go toward a Florida Hurricane Relief fund. Evidently, Decatur Rotary Club #180 wasn't alone in its efforts. Inspired by the damage in Arcadia, Punta Gorda, Fort Myers Beach and Charlotte Harbor, Rotary's District 6960 Governor Jerry Hearn sent out a plea to help the victims of southwest Florida. Within four weeks

after Hurricane Charley, Rotarians worldwide had donated more than \$120,000 and there is "at least that much" more in pledges", Hearn said.

Once approved, the committee boasts a turnaround time of 24-48 hours with one hundred percent of the money going to the victims.

Thankful for November's Scholar Athletes

This month, November 29th, Tony Wilkins presented Brit Miller and Catharine "Catie" Clark both of Eisenhower High School with a certificate of recognition plaque and a monetary donation from Illinois Power.

Each month Ameren Illinois Power, The Decatur Athletic Council, and the Rotary Club jointly sponsor the Scholar /Athletic Award to one female and one male student from the Decatur High Schools that is outstanding on the field and in the classroom. Catie, the daughter of Tony and Debbie Clark, is a valuable member of this year's Eisenhower Girls Golf team (3 yrs.), and has also participated in Eisenhower's bowling team (3 yrs.), soccer (1 yr.), and cheerleading squad (2 yrs.). Her other school activities include memberships in the Elite Energy Show Choir (2 yrs.) and Concert Choir (3yrs.), WYSE science club, Astronomy club, the French club, and the Panther Press school newspaper. Catie has a current grade point of 3.81 with a class rank of 70 out of 248. Her activities extend to the community by participating in Macon County Safe Kids, which is a program of the Macon County Health Department, Juvenile Justice Committee, the Macon County Youth Mayoral Council, and she volunteers for the Decatur Area Arts Council. Catie plans to attend Lincoln College for two years and the then transfer to Millikin



University. Scholastically, she will pursue general education with an emphasis on Art and Music Education. She hopes to continue her sports involvement by playing golf at Lincoln College. "During her senior year, Catie brought a new vision of what her golfing potential can be."

Brit, the son of Randy and Teresa Miller, is ranked 3 out of 248 in his class with a grade point average of 4.925. His athletic involvement includes football, basketball, and track. He is All-Conference Linebacker – Junior and Senior years, All-Conference Running back – Senior year, All-Conference Quarterback – Junior Year, Most Valuable Player Award – Junior and Senior Year. He is a 4 year letter winner for football, 3 year letter winner for basketball, and a 3 year letter winner in track. Brit's other activities include a Dare Role Model, Student Council, and class officer. He is known for "leading by example and deeds not just vocally." He is a dedicated athlete, honor student, terrific student citizen. Brit has received a football scholarship from the University of Illinois and plans on attending there in the fall of 2005. Currently he is choosing between two majors; either Civil Engineering or Secondary Education Administration.

Penny Fund

As you know, we support our Penny Fund by donating our spare change at our weekly meetings. To further grow this fund, every month we add the proceeds from Happy Bucks, where members pay a buck to share good news at our meetings. Our November donations to the Penny Fund and Happy



Bucks totaled \$250.72. This was presented to The Community Foundation Rotary Fund.

The December Penny Fund proceeds will go to the Decatur Club wait staff.

Korean Vets Share Experiences

The November 8th Veteran's Day program was given by three Korean War veterans involved with TellAmerica, an organization dedicated to teaching middle school and high school students about the Forgotten War. A museum dedicated to the Korean War is located in Rantoul at the former airbase.

Floyd Cooper, a former Marine and machine gunner during the war told Rotarians, the war lasted three years, three months and one day from June of 1950 to July of 1953. He described the country as primitive with only one paved road.

Duane Boriff, an Army draftee, worked in control towers. He cited the extreme temperatures that soldiers had to deal with while serving in Korea. He also explained that Korea was the only war fought under United Nations supervision.

Dave Mayberry, a career Army veteran was a mechanic turned infantry. Dave served in Korea for six months and later served two tours of duty in Vietnam. The lasting impression that stays with Dave and the other vets was the horrible smell in Korea, created when human waste was used as fertilizer.

Dave shared the following poem he wrote the night the US Air Force bombed Baghdad in 1991.

Rotarians listening to the Korean War vets speak who also served in Korea were Bill Blank, Bob Lloyd, Stu Black and Walter Morey. These Rotarians and other Rotarians who served in our military are saluted for their service to our country, and we honor those protecting us today.

My Spirit Lives On

My birth began that day
When the first shot was
Fired in the cause of liberty.
My spirit was there at
The crossing of the Potomac.
Though they were low
On food and supplies
My spirit kept them going.
My spirit was sewn
In the first flag of stars and stripes.
My spirit was there
When the national anthem was written.
At Fort Sumter I was torn and tattered,
But my spirit lived on.
My spirit was there in
Tripoli, Cuba and WWI.
At Pearl Harbor, I was attacked.
I arose from the depths and flames,
And my spirit lived on to victory.
I have been burned, spat on,
Walked on and desecrated
During the Korean and Vietnam Wars,
But my spirit lived on.
And again, I am now being burned,
Spat on and walked on,
But let me tell you, my friend and foe
alike, My spirit still lives on.
God bless our country,
And those that protect her.
And with God, my spirit lives on.



Centennial E-cards

Spread the excitement of the Rotary Centennial by sending an electronic greeting, or e-card (like the one attached with this newsletter), to fellow Rotarians, family, and friends. These free and easy-to-use e-cards feature historical images from Rotary's past, an animated Rotary Centennial bell, and more. Express your centennial spirit now by clicking on the "Send an E-card" link at www.rotary.org/centennial.



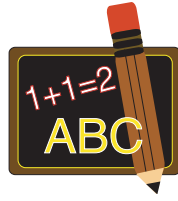


The Gift of Reading

As a tribute to our weekly speakers, Rotary Club makes a monthly donation to a pre-selected School of the Month. Thanks to the generosity of all our previous speakers, a \$60 Speakers Honorarium went to Durfee Grade School for the purchase of library books.

Enterprise Grade School will be the recipient of our December gift

Teacher of the Month



Sherry Brunaman, November's Outstanding Educator of the Month, is a teacher at McArthur High School where she teaches college preparatory courses including Social Science, Psychology, and Advanced Placement History. She receives the recognition which included a plaque and donation of Metro Money provided by Soy Capital Bank and Trust Company.

Sherry's philosophy of teaching includes the fact that she wants her students to leave the classes with a love for learning. Long after high school, students have forgotten dates and details, she

wants the students to remember skills that they will use in college and in life. Instilling a passion for learning is just one of those life skills that continues to produce a harvest of benefits.

Sherry, her husband, their son and two daughters reside in Decatur. Sherry is a product of the Decatur School District as she is a Decatur native. She has spent her lifetime, except for five years, living in our community. In 1978 she moved back to Decatur, after living in Bloomington-Normal, and accepted a teaching position with the Decatur School District.

New Members and Applicants

It's always a pleasure to introduce new Rotary members and those interested in becoming a member. This month our club had the pleasure of welcoming Jane Shade and Kirt Rizzinski. Wegi Stewart introduced and sponsored Jane Shade. Jane is originally from the area outside of Boston. She moved to Decatur when she and her husband wanted

to be nearer to family. They have three sons and they all went through the Decatur Public Schools. Jane is starting her 7th year of working with Project Success. She looks forward to continued opportunities to be involved in community service through rotary.

Jim Finn introduced and sponsored Kirt Rizzinski. Kirt is not new to Rotary. He was involved in Bloomington-Normal before moving to Decatur. Kirt moved to Decatur after accepting the Community Bank President's position with National City. He has been married eleven years and has three children. He looks forward to being involved for many years to come.



Jane Shade



Kirt Rizzinski



December 6, 2004

Bruce Stoddard, Vice-President, Parke Warehouses, will present an overview of his business' current success in Decatur. He will also share its history, which includes families of the rich and famous.

December 13, 2004

We will have a musical program presented by the Lutheran School Association, which is under the direction of Milt Scott. Milt and his students will present a Christmas music program for the club.

December 20, 2004

Remember last year's Christmas program? Everyone was so pleased with that program that we have asked Miley Palmer to prepare another one. Miley is planning to do a program on Christmas traditions to get everyone in the spirit!

December 27, 2004

Decatur Rotary member and Chamber of Commerce President, Randy Prince, will share with us his thoughts on "2004: a VERY good year for Decatur!" Randy will talk about how our community is making progress and what Rotarians can do to help make the best day of 2004 the worst of 2005!

Rotary 180 Officers

Stu Ellis - President
Dave Brandon - President Elect
Heather Stoa - Secretary
Steve Furrow - Treasurer
Miley Palmer- Immediate Past President

For a list of board members and committee chairs visit our website at:

www.decaturotary.org

Rotary District Conference

Our own Bill Owen, along with Jack Dolan and Jim Williams attended the District Conference in Urbana this past month. These comments were shared by Bill following the meeting.

Rotary at the club level is a great thing - like my Mom's one-room school house. Going to the District Conference gives you a new perspective of the Rotary picture like going from the one-room school house to a community high school. You begin to realize on an "eye-to-eye and handshake level" just how many Rotarians are involved in service in our region. Many clubs were represented. Using the same analogy, going to the international conference must be like going to a big university—you

meet people from all over the world involved in many diverse pursuits.

Whether you join Rotary for local networking, an opportunity to serve the community, or bit of both, the meaning of the Rotary Mission statement hit home while I was at the district conference:

Aquaintance as a means to service.

The Objective of Rotary as given at rotary.org is to encourage and foster the ideal of service, particularly in the following four areas:

- 1st - The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- 2nd - High ethical standards of business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's

occupation and an opportunity to serve society;

- 3rd - The application of the idea of service in each Rotarian's personal business, and community life;
- 4th - The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The District Conference is another opportunity to further these four parts of the Objective of Rotary. I encourage everyone to attend the next opportunity to meet other Rotarians in our district. See for yourself the level of service by other Rotarians.