

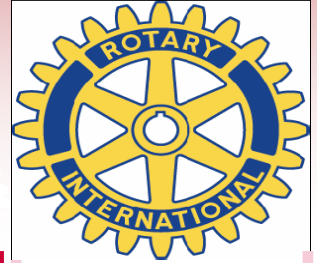
"Service Above Self"



The  Sparkplug



A Message From Our Rotary Club President



December 2010

Seasoned Givers

Wow, it's hard to believe it is December already! Even harder to believe that I am half-way through my term as our Club's President. It is an honor to serve in this role with a club of dedicated, generous Rotarians who demonstrate the spirit of service and fellowship.

The Board of Directors will soon select various organizations in our community that support youth development and provide these organizations with a financial contribution. We will have the opportunity to hear from representatives of these youth focused organizations to see how they will put to work the dollars we contribute to them.

In the near future, more information will be shared in the newsletter related to the Rotary International Foundation and the many programs nationwide that are assisted through donations. In addition, the Community Foundation here in Decatur manages a local Rotary Foundation fund through the oversight of fellow Rotarian, Wegi Stewart. If during this season of giving you are seeking to make year end gift donations, please consider Rotary International or our local Rotary Foundation

We have done well over this last six months in attracting new Rotarians to our club. We have a few more slated to join after the first of the year. Please continue your efforts in spreading the word about Rotary. I think part of the attraction is the fact that we are a viable club with a growing diversity amongst our members and we have had a number of years of great programs.

In continuing with the theme of "gratitude" from last month, I will end with this quote from Albert Schweitzer: *"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."*

Yours in Rotary,

Diana Knaebe



Rotarians are asked to sign up for the annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing Event. We will be ringing bells at 3 different Kroger locations on Saturday, December 18th. Shifts are 1-hour increments. Call Delmar Sandage at 454-2874 to sign up.





Rotarian Announcements

Rotarian Larry Foster has special tie with Thanksgiving luncheon held on November 23rd. He borrowed the idea in 1990 and started the first Rancho Bernardo Thanksgiving Luncheon while he lived there. 230 people attended the first event and it continues today. Way to go, Larry!

Rotarian Bill Owen with TourGroupPro LLC says that people are still traveling these days. 2010 is up 32.8% over 2009 & 2011's booked total is already 98.8% of this year's income. Bill will be working on his 39th year in the travel industry in 2011. Congrats on your success, Bill!

Rotarian Lindsey Walters reports that St. Theresa's athletic teams are having a great year. Women's Cross Country is the Class 1A State Champions; Women's Volleyball - 4th in State; Amy & Tracy Kuhle received 3rd in State in Doubles Tennis. In

addition, 300 St. Theresa students and family members participated in the United Way's Lend a Hand Day of Service.

Rotarian Jody Cox, owner of An Affair to Remember and Red Carpet Promotions has opened a new showroom at 151 E. Prairie in Downtown Decatur to display decorative rental items for special events and to consult with brides and other clients. An Affair to Remember specializes in party/wedding planning, decorating, and rentals. Red Carpet Promotions, promotional events and consulting, will also operate out of the new location. Store hours are by appointment only, but will aim to be open daily 3:30-6 to accommodate clients after work. Visit www.affair-remember.com and www.redcarpetpromotion.com. Jody notes that Rotarians will always receive discounted services!

Rotarian Paul Stanzione Kiwanis Pavilion at Y Camp Sokkia has been completed on the YMCA campus. This pavilion is a 60 x 30 yard rustic center that will be used primarily for youth day camp. However, it can be used by any youth serving agency hosting a youth event. Funds for the pavilion were provided by two local Kiwanis clubs and the Ulrich Foundation at Busey Wealth Management. Paul invites everyone to stop by and see the new Kiwanis Pavilion.

Rotarian Anastasia Lingle is happy to report that the Decatur StarTek location received the 2nd Quarter Best Site Award. It is ranked 2nd overall out of 49 call centers in customer satisfaction.



November Teacher of the Month



November Teacher of the Month was awarded to Rick Austin of Eisenhower high school. He has been a teacher for 27 years and a coach for 28 years. During those years, he has been a facilitator for Decision 4 Decatur, head of the P.E. Department, lead chair on the EHS advisory committee, the Driver's Education Coordinator and served as a mentor for staff and students alike.

Concert to End Polio

A PolioPlus Benefit

The Rotary Foundation is teaming up with world-renowned violinist and polio survivor Itzhak Perlman and Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to present the Concert to End Polio, a benefit performance supporting the PolioPlus Fund.

The Concert to End Polio will be at 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 7, 2011 at Symphony Center in Chicago. Concert tickets are \$50-\$200 and are currently on sale. A private reception with Perlman will follow the concert. Reception tickets are \$150 each. All proceeds will benefit Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge.

To order your tickets for the concert and post-concert reception, please call the CSO box office at 1-312-294-3000. Be sure to mention that you are a Rotarian.



Rotary Women’s Weekend Getaway

While the ladies are away, the men will... well, they’ll be bored! All women members, spouses, and friends are invited to attend a weekend getaway Friday, January 21st - Saturday, January 22nd at Oak Terrace Resort in Pana. Gentlemen: This would make a FANTASTIC gift for Christmas!

Here are the details:

Friday Evening: reception at the spa, including fruit and cheese tray, snack mixes, wine, tea, and lemonade. Plus each attendee will get a chair massage and a hand paraffin dip just to have a little teaser into any spa services they may want to enjoy on Saturday.

Overnight stay at the Inn (double occupancy, upgrade options available - see below). Each room will be provided with a breakfast basket with assorted Danish and whole fruit. Juice will be available at the front desk.

Saturday Spa Day: Each guest receives a complimentary Lakeview Luxe card, valued at \$20. This card allows guests to select spa services for Saturday with discounts starting at 25% on the first, most expensive service and each additional discount will increase by 5%.

In addition, ladies can choose to add the following:

Zumba Toning class at 8:15 Saturday morning at \$4 per person

Friday night dinner at Mulligan’s for \$25.00 per person (includes entrée, dessert and nonalcoholic beverage)

Saturday lunch at the spa at \$12.00 per person

To book your Rotary Women’s Weekend Getaway, contact

Rotarian Jody Cox at redcarpetpromotion@gmail.com.

Upgraded Room Accommodations:

Villa Suite – additional \$12.50 per person plus tax based on double occupancy (queen bed and pullout twin)

Villa Studio - additional \$21.25 per person plus tax based on double occupancy (queen bed and pullout twin)

1 Bedroom villa - additional \$55 per person plus tax based on double occupancy (King bed and pullout Queen) - The 1 bedroom can sleep 4, bringing the cost to \$27.50 per person if two people sleep in each bed.

2 Bedroom Townhome - additional \$27.50 per person plus tax based on four person occupancy (2 twin beds in each bedroom)

2 Bedroom Villa - additional \$41.88 per person plus tax based on four person occupancy (King bed, queen bed, pullout queen and pullout twin)

November Scholar Athletes

On left: Holly Haskins

Academics: 10th in class/ 4.34 GPA

Sports: Volleyball, Basketball, Track and Field

College: Undecided Major



St. Theresa High School

Far right: Matt Miller

Academics: 1st in class/ 4.13 GPA

Sports: Football, Baseball, Basketball, Track and Field

College: Physical Therapy Major at a College in Illinois

Building the Rotary Club of Decatur Charitable Fund Through The Community Foundation of Decatur and Macon County

Each year, our Rotary Board of Directors decides how to allocate and spend our local and international projects. We currently fund community projects, youth grants and international missions with meal surplus dollars raised by charging each Rotarian \$10 for lunch whether you are present or not. This leads to a classic Catch-22. We expect you to attend, but we make money if you don't. Our meal policy negates good attendance.

Three years ago, the board set a goal of moving from meal surplus funds to interest income from the Rotary Club #180 Charitable Fund through the Community Foundation of Decatur and Macon County as the source for giving by the time we celebrate our club's 100th anniversary in 2015. With lower rates of return and fewer members than in years past, we need to step up our efforts to meet our goal. Our current account balance is \$18,077. As the calendar year comes to an end, please consider making a donation in honor of or in memory of those who are important to you. Mail contributions to:

The Community Foundation of Decatur Macon County
125 North Water Street
Suite 200
Decatur, Illinois 62523

If you have questions about the Rotary Endowment, please contact our own Rotarian Wegi Stewart, President of the Community Foundation, at 429-3000 or by e-mail at: wegi@endowdecatur.org.

Rotary Program Notes

Programs:

December 6: Mike King (Mari-Mann) **December 13:** Mark Sorenson (Art Restoration in the State Capital)

December 20: Lutheran School Association (Christmas songs for the season)

If you have ideas for programs make sure you get those to Gretchen Murphy, Susan Keane.

Do Good Dollars: Decatur Club Wait Staff

School of the Month: Garfield Montessori School

December Anniversaries

12/13/1999 Tony Wilkins
12/15/2002 Diana Knaebe
12/21/2002 Jim Fouse
12/20/2004 Mary Ann Koucky
12/1/2005 Bert Gray
12/6/2006 Steve Hill
12/3/2007 Denise Smith
12/29/2008 Nicole Bateman

December Birthdays

12/11 Erin McKee
12/18 Amber Kauffman
12/19 Jim Montgomery
12/23 Jody Cox
12/24 Heather Stoa
12/29 George Streckfuss
12/29 Todd Brunner



The newsletter committee would like to hear from you. Please send us your business or personal achievements and upcoming events to include in the January newsletter by Tuesday, December 28th.

Please send all news to Nicole Bateman (nbateman@lucu.org) or Stacey Young (syoung4@ameren.com).