

President's Ponderances

Happy Centennial to all Rotarians!

Ours is an amazing organization. Few entities survive 100 years, but the precepts laid down by Paul Harris, Sylvester Schiele, Gus Loehr, and Hiram Shorey were apparently as timeless as the framers of our Constitution.

Paul Harris said, "I thought that we in business should gather on some regular basis to get better acquainted, have some fellowship, and meet others from other walks of life. In this, we could enlarge our circle of business and professional acquaintances." Paul Harris also said he was always curious and enthusiastic, looking for new ways to do things and not always content to stay within the rules. "I think Rotary should be the same way, not just a knife and fork club. It should be questing for new ways of service. That's the only way to attract young and vigorous new members."

President
Stu Ellis

President Elect
Dave Brandon

Secretary
Heather Stoa

Treasurer
Steve Furrow

**Immediate
Past President**
Miley Palmer

Harry Ruggles was the fifth member brought into the Harris group, and they formally adopted the name Rotary Club of Chicago, because we rotated our meetings among the businesses of our members, never meeting at the same place twice in a row. We did that so we could see first hand what our members did for a living and could learn about their field of endeavor. We also decided early on to have as our symbol a wagon wheel to symbolize our moving about.

In 1932, Rotarian Herbert Taylor undertook a challenge to salvage a bankrupt company. His code of ethics for every employee became Rotary's Four Way test:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

At the first national meeting in 1910, Rotarians adopted a motto, which has been modified several times, to: Service Above Self.

Looking back at 100 years of Rotary, one can easily see why there will be another 100 years. And just think, you are the mortar that holds the bricks together!

Stu Ellis





Penny Fund

The total collected for the February Penny Fund was \$196.19. This amount will go to the Tsunami Relief fund to buy solar ovens (as coordinated by the Aurora, IL Rotary Club).

The March Penny Fund will go to the Old King's Orchard Community Center for funding towards the Merlin Mobile - a van to be purchased in honor of longtime, former member, Merlin Outcalt.



Excellence in Teaching

Toni Forrester, February's Outstanding Educator of the Month, has been a teaching professional for 33 years; most of those years have been in District 61. The only exceptions are a two-year position with the State Board Of Education Office when she worked with schools on the state watch list to get them off the watch list and for four years Toni was Principal at Washington Elementary School in District 61. The recognition that she receives is a plaque and donation of Metro Money provided by Soy Capital Bank and Trust Company.

During her acceptance speech, Toni indicated that she wanted to communicate two goals with her speech.

- How teachers become who they are?
- Your responsibility to impact young minds.

She is the teaching professional that

she is, not because of the bachelors and two masters degrees, but rather because of the educators who work with her shoulder to shoulder. The educators that she works with provide her vision and encouragement as she watches their excellent role modeling.

The second goal of the acceptance speech was to remind each one of their responsibility to impact young minds. This portion revolved around the thought of discovering ways to help children learn to love reading. Teachers in the classroom support what significant adults in each child's life value. May each Rotarian take opportunities to impact the children in their lives to love reading.



Excellence in Our Youth

In February the Decatur Athletic Council, Ameren IP, and the Rotary Club honored two outstanding Scholar Athletes from Eisenhower High School. Tony Wilkins on February 23rd presented Erica Butts and Eric Scholl with a certificate of recognition plaque and a monetary donation from Ameren IP. Both of these students excel in the classroom as well as the sports field.

Erica, the daughter of Dave and Janie Butts, is a 17-year-old senior at Eisenhower with plans to attend St. Louis University majoring in education next year. Her current sports accomplishments include basketball all four years of high school, softball her freshman and sophomore years, soccer and cross-country her junior and senior years. She has been twice previously

recognized as a Scholar Athlete. Her other activities include Elite Energy show choir for all four years, EHS Concert Choir, Vice President of National Honors Society, Youth Leadership Institute, and Student Council for three years. At the present time she is ranked 9th out of 227 with a GPA of 4.8.

Eric is the 17-year-old son of Rick Scholl and Kristine Hardy. A senior at Eisenhower he plans to attend either U of I or Illinois Wesleyan in the fall. Eric's class rank is 8th out of 227 with a GPA of 4.829. His sports accomplishments include cross-country and track. In 2003 he was a sectional qualifier for cross country and in 2004 a sectional 5th place winner in the 800 for track. He is involved with National Honors Society and marching band.

U of I: Helping Our Economy

On February 28, Rotarians and guests listened intently as Dr. David Chicoine, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Research at the University of Illinois explained the latest work in technology development at the U of I and in Illinois. While land grant universities were established to improve economic well being through education and science, it has just been in the past 25 years that significant advances have been made in bridging the gap between the research lab and the market. The change began in 1980 with the passage of the Bayh/Dole Act, which obligates universities to pursue commercialization if they receive federal research funds and requires them to report to the Department of Commerce.

In order to further expand and grow Illinois' high-tech sector, the University of Illinois created Dr. Chicoine's position, established a Technology and Economic Development Commission, developed Illinois VENTURES, and transformed a former bull pasture into an incubation facility. In the years prior to 2001, the University of Illinois had 176 patents and 270 licenses. During the past three years with the University's increased commitment to technology commercialization, 232 patents and 300 licenses have been

granted leading to 30 start-up companies. The Illinois Senate passed a resolution in 2000 that formalized the technology-based economic mission of the University. Support from Governor Ryan and Governor Blagojevich has provided additional opportunities for utilizing technology-based economic growth.

According to Dr. Chicoine, keys to success for technology-based economic growth hinge on four factors: 1. high quality university research, 2. aligning research with the strengths of the region being served, 3. effective technology transfer and commercialization mechanisms, and 4. a commercial sector with experience in new company management, early stage investment capital, support for the emerging technology, and commitment to civic and economic development. He believes there are gaps in capital, management talent, and corporate and civic involvement, but he also sees these gaps as opportunities. Central Illinois is fortunate to be endowed with considerable R&D spending and with our agriculture base, prospects for agri-science high-tech growth are significant. The selection of Decatur for the Farm Progress Show bodes well for our community and for all of Central Illinois.



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 February speakers, a \$60 Speakers Honorarium went to Franklin Grade School for the purchase of library books.

French Academy will be the recipient of our February gift.

RYLA

On February 21st our group had the pleasure of hearing from Lindsey Castleman-Zia and Brittany Longsdorf. Both Lindsey and Brittany attended RLYA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Camp and took the opportunity to share their camp experiences and express a heartfelt Thank You. Both agreed the most important lessons learned were on trust and friendship.



New Members

As always, it is with great pleasure that we have the opportunity to introduce new members and those interested in joining our club. This month we welcomed Tim Stock, Mike McElroy and Al Luchetti as new members. Tim Stock, Executive Vice President of the Macon County Farm Bureau, was introduced and sponsored by Stu Ellis.

Mike "Tuna" McElroy Vice President of Sales with Skeff Distributing was introduced and sponsored by Rich Smith.

Al Luchetti is the Director of the Small Business and Development Center University of Illinois Extension, was also sponsored by Stu Ellis.



March 7, 2005

Peg Luy, Development Director at Millikin University, will join us to share information about the history of Millikin, new developments at the University, and Peg will take questions about Millikin.

March 14, 2005

Glenda Williamson, owner of Glenda Williamson Realty and a member of Rotary #180, will bring us up to date on the "state of the state" in real estate in Macon County.

March 21, 2005

Macon County Coroner Michael Day has a very interesting job! Many people know little about the workings of the Coroner's office. Michael Day will shed some light on the workings of his office.

March 28, 2005

Terry Mikeworth was one of the initial people who got Race for the Cure going in Decatur. She joins us to remind us of the work that this great group has done and to let us know that this if the 15th anniversary of the Race for the Cure.

Update . . .

Noel Myers would like to share the following pictures from the Armor Y Vida Children's Home in Merida, Yucaton, Mexico. As some of you may remember Rotary Club #180 presented a grant to the Home in March 2004. The money was used to purchased furniture (pictured) for the Home's library. Thanks Again! For additional information you can reread the original article in the April '04 issue of the newsletter which is posted on our web site at www.decaturreotary.org

