

Miley's Musings

Rotarians believe in "Service Above Self," and one of the ways we put that belief into action is through the Rotary Foundation. Last year, the Foundation gave nearly \$94 million to support such things as Ambassadorial Scholarships, Group Exchange programs, and PolioPlus. Because of PolioPlus, we are well on our way to eradicating polio from the planet by the end of next year.

A number of Decatur Rotary Club members have made an on-going commitment to give regularly to the Rotary Foundation. We usually do this by having an extra \$25 added to our quarterly bill. In this way, we donate

\$100 a year to the charitable activities of Rotary. By the end of ten years, we have also reached the goal of achieving a Paul Harris Fellowship, for either a loved one or ourselves.

We also have our own fund established in the Decatur Foundation. Income from this invested fund can be designated by our club for local charities.

I hope you will join me in making a regular commitment to giving to the Rotary Foundation, and to our own Decatur Foundation.

Gratefully, Miley

Project Success Awarded Grant

Yet another worthy group was awarded a \$1,000 grant at our February 9th meeting. On hand to accept the award for Project Success of Decatur and Macon County was Jane Shay, Executive Director. Project Success is an Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation providing school-based services to reduce truancy, increase parent involvement and increase student achievement. Serving over 20 schools, Project Success coordinates programs including the Right Track Truancy Program (weekly after school tutoring utilizing 53 certified teachers at 19 sites), Family Liaisons (to link families to necessary prevention and intervention services), Seniors for Success (56 senior citizens who tutor students weekly) and both parent education programs and funding to promote **STICK WITH YOUR KIDS!** parent involvement activities.

Jane says our Rotary Club funding will support development of the first

Middle School Youth Court in the state of Illinois. The Youth Court pilot at Thomas Jefferson Middle School is a collaborative effort between Project Success, the Illinois Attorney General's Office, local educators and local law enforcement. This Court will handle truancy and minor misconduct infractions at school, with broad youth participation. Through the establishment of a peer jury, offending students have the choice to repair the harm they've caused their victims and community. Peer jurors will determine "sentences" such as community service, counseling, tutoring and the like.

Project Success is primarily grant funded. Contributions from local businesses, individuals and organizations such as Rotary are critical. These grants allow Project Success to continue to leverage state and federal matching funds requirements. Over 70% of every dollar raised supports direct services to children and families.

Officers

Miley Palmer – President
Stu Ellis – President-Elect
Kit Paulin – Secretary
Heather Stoa – Treasurer
Daryl Sieplinga – Immediate Past President



Excellence in Our Youth

Another example of the level of academic and athletic excellence here in Decatur was honored at the February 23rd Rotary Luncheon. Two exceptional St. Teresa High School Seniors, Andrea Riebock and Josh Durbin, were honored for their achievements both in the classroom and on the playing field.

Illinois Power, the Decatur Athletic Council and your Rotary Club jointly sponsor the Scholar/Athlete award. Each month two exceptional athletes who are also high scholastic

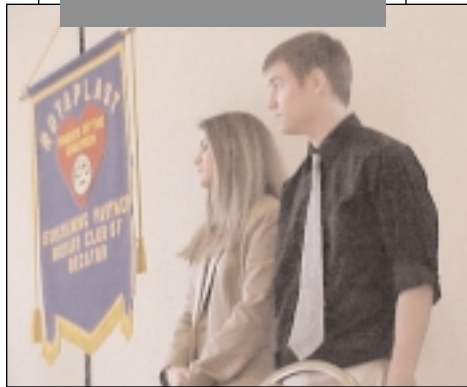
achievers are chosen from one of the three Decatur high schools. One female and one male scholar/athlete is recognized every month, and awarded a monetary donation from Illinois Power, along with a plaque.

Andrea is a National Honor Society Member (2 yrs.), an Illinois State Scholar, listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students (3 yrs.), a United States Achievement National Honor roll Award recipient, SADD Member/Class Representative and attained High Honor Roll during her entire High School career.

Her athletic resume includes honors in

both Basketball and Softball all four years. Andrea made All Okaw Conference and All Macon County in both sports. As a junior she was a member of the Elite Eight and Sectionals and Super Sectional Champs in Basketball. She also earned several St. T awards, including Most Dedicated, Most Assists, Most Hustles, Softball Rookie of the Year and MVP Softball Award. Andrea's future plans include a college degree in either education or law, while playing both basketball and softball.

Josh played three sports, Football, Baseball and Basketball, during his High School career, and excelled in all. He made Herald and Review Football All County Team Offense (2 yrs.) and All Okaw Valley Football Team Offense and Defense. In 2003, he was St. T's High School Baseball Gold Glove Winner and the Basketball Team Captain. Josh lettered in all three sports, too, earning three for both football and baseball, and two in basketball. Active in other school and community activities Josh was a 2003 Winter Ball Junior Class Attendant. He's also very active in Holy Family parish. After graduation, Josh plans to major in Business at a four year University.



Penny Fund

A local charity is selected each month to receive our donations to the Penny Fund. At each weekly meeting, members are asked to donate their spare change. Added to this are the funds collected through Happy Bucks.



February donations to the Penny Fund and Happy Bucks totaled \$217.04, and were donated to Dove. March Penny Fund proceeds will support 4-H.

Member *A Chance to Honor One of Our Own*

An eagerly anticipated event occurred at the February 9th Rotary Club Luncheon. That's when we had the pleasure to announce Jack Dolan as our Distinguished Rotarian Award winner. This award is presented quarterly to an individual who, for many years, has been both an active and a committed member of Rotary. It's not only our way of saying a heartfelt "Thank You" to loyal members, it's also an opportunity for newer members to get to know the wonderful people who've contributed to the success and vitality of Rotary Club of Decatur. Jack also snags March 2004 Member of the Month honors.

Jack's been a loyal Rotary member for

35 years. Always involved, Jack has served as our Club President, been a Volunteer Link, served on many local and regional committees, is an original member of the Polio Plus committee and was a long-standing Salvation Army bell ringer. Additionally, he's a Paul Harris Fellow and is a Rotary Foundation Benefactor, naming the Foundation in his will.

Enjoying retirement with the same gusto that made him an outstanding Rotary member, Jack has thrown himself into new projects, primarily spending more time with family and playing plenty of golf. *Thank you, Jack.*



It's that time again!

Just a friendly reminder that quarterly dues and lunch fees must be paid before the end of March, or your Rotary status may be in jeopardy! We all know how important our Rotary Memberships are, and the many wonderful programs and individuals Rotary supports and encourages in our community. And we also know that our support of these worthy programs is only made possible with the continued support and growth of our membership. Renew today!

Committee *Continuing Rotary's Charitable Activities*

The spotlight this month is on the Foundations Committee. Their primary goal this year is to increase the number of Club members who make a contribution through the billing process. Members who contribute \$1,000 or more to Rotary achieve and are awarded Paul Harris Fellow status. The easiest way to accomplish this generous goal is through a sustaining donation.

Sustaining donations are added to your quarterly Rotary Club dues bill. Lucy Murphy, Chair for the Foundation Committee, is working with the Board to grow this program through increased Club Membership participation. For more information, or to sign up for this wonderful program, please call either Lucy Murphy or Bob Lloyd.

The Gift of Reading

Each week, in lieu of a speaker's gift or fee, all invited presenters agree that in their honor, Rotary Club will make a donation to a pre-selected School of the Month. The gift is then used to buy a library book or books. All schools in the area are rotated as recipients. At the end of each month, Rotary sends the selected school the donated fees. Included

along with the check are the names of all of the month's speakers whom Rotary honored this way.

Washington Grade School in Decatur received a \$60 gift this month to purchase library books.



Save The Date

March 15, 2004

We will have the opportunity to hear Decatur's own Kyle Cline, the University of Illinois' next Chief Illiniwek. Kyle will share with us his thoughts about the Chief, and also what he is doing to his prepare for his new role.

March 22, 2004

Dr. Tom Hill is an educator, administrator, real estate developer, writer and speaker. He will share with our club his thoughts on "Establishing Life's Priorities." Tom regularly speaks to thousands of people every year. He is the author of *Living at the Summit* and

is co-authoring the upcoming *Chicken Soup for the Entrepreneurial Soul*.

March 29

TBA

2005

Centennial Celebration News

To celebrate Rotary International's centennial project, our club voted to support the Million Flower Project of Decatur. Members will plant flowers, such as Marigolds and Salvia, at Rotary Park. Stay tuned for upcoming information on this exciting collaboration to see how you can be a part of it all!



Coming Attractions-
As you are reading this, Rotary member Tom Brinkoetter of Brinkoetter Services is doing diligent work to our Chapter's web site. Please continue to check back to our site frequently to see what new things are in store for us! Our website address is www.decaturreotary.org. In the coming weeks, this new and improved, greatly increased web page content site will be a wealth of information for all Rotary #180 Members, both those of long-standing and those who are a bit newer! And please don't forget to thank Tom for his hard work and dedication.

National Rotary Tidbits

On February 23rd, Rotary International turned 99 years old. Quite an achievement! The thoughts of Rotarians around the world are surely on 2005, Rotary's centennial year. You can peruse information relative to Rotary International's centennial birthday bash at their official website, www.rotary.org/centennial. As well, the site's Resources page is available with ideas and resources to

complement our local Club's planning for centennial activities.

This centennial celebration is especially meaningful to our Rotary Club, as we'll be celebrating our 90th birthday in 2005! Decatur's Rotary #180 Club is among the oldest Clubs in existence. Almost 90 years of Service is an admirable accomplishment.
Happy Birthday to us!



Tel: 217.876.0749
Cell: 217.620.4636
E-MAIL: mpalmer520@aol.com

MILEY E. PALMER
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
2121 SHERIDAN ROAD
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

This could be you!

For just \$ 25 a month you get a business card sized ad.

Promote yourself and support our programs.