



Galena ROTARY NEWS

Serving Jo Daviess County Dick Laubhan, Editor February 2007



President's Message: **The Right "ism" Makes All the Difference**

There are all kinds of "isms" in the world, and the two that affect us most as Rotarians are of our own making. They are "optimism" and "pessimism."

I thank that one's success or failure in life depends on what one thinks he/she **can** do, or **cannot** do. I believe that the power behind our club's success centers on our many members in leadership or support roles who are confident, positive thinkers. The confident optimist says, "I'm sure there is a way." That, my friends, is what makes you as a Rotarian stand head and shoulders above the crowd. You are not only sure there is a way ... you **Make the Way and Lead the Way!**

Thank you for all you do in the name of Rotary in exemplifying Rotary International's "Service Above Self" motto.

Duane

Duane Grenier
President

Long-Term Goals Are Discussed at Planning Session

What should the Rotary Club of Galena "look like" in 2012? At a Feb. 2 Strategic Planning Session organized by Club Services Chair Vince Toepfer, he, Pres. Duane Grenier, 2007-08 President-elect Bob Wehrle, President-elect for 2008-09 Joel Holland, board members Rev. Bob North, Barbara Sloan, Dorte Breckenridge, Dick Laubhan, along with Past-President Pat McCarthy and Rotarian Deb Bertucci came up with a flood of ideas for member consideration.

Alan Wenzel, who heads up the Jo Daviess County Leadership Forum, Highland Community College, moderated the meeting, and he and Vince have put together a report of the proceedings that will be distributed to the membership.

The three-hour session produced a consensus of opinion on a number of critical issues, among them:

- In acquiring new members we should concentrate on lowering the average age of our membership, not increasing the size of our club. This is to make up for deaths and less serious reasons for members' exiting the club. We should do a better job of "targeting" prospective members for their "service" potential.
- Improve our club communications to members via the newsletter, special programs at our weekly meetings, bulletins, etc. A case in point: there is still some confusion about "Foundations." We deal
- with only two Foundations, our own Galena Rotary Club Charitable Foundation – which primarily oversees scholarship monies collected from our yearly "Rotary Roars For Youth" auction; and, the Rotary International Foundation, supported by Rotarians who have earned Paul Harris Fellow status by contributing \$1000 or more to the Foundation, or "sustaining" Paul Harris Fellow contributors on their way to the \$1000 amount. The board is in the process of amending our charitable foundation bylaws to broaden the scope of its activities, while not disturbing its original purpose of awarding advanced education scholarships for college and/or trade schools. Different accounts will be set up within the foundation, keeping scholarship funds separate from other charitable contributions.
- Regarding youth, we should look for ways to assist Jo Daviess County young folks in ways other than college scholarships for mostly top students. Is there some kind of "mentoring" of secondary and high school students that would help them in making decisions about their lives and careers?
- We should encourage or "train" new member sponsors – at the outset -- to emphasize the commitment – both time and financial – that Rotary Club membership entails. Stress the fact that committee

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Planning Session (Continued from front page)

service is not just encouraged, but required; that with dues and support of our programs, a prospective member can expect an outlay of around \$1200 or more a year; that 60% attendance (with makeups) is mandatory; that Rotary is not a social club, but a work club.

- We should not be content with doing just the “same things every year,” but investigate opportunities to extend our service programs not only in Galena, but to other Jo Daviess County communities. Some research will be necessary.
- We should get our various committees and sub-committees more “on track” in getting members involved. One possibility, one luncheon meeting per quarter devoted to official committee meetings – committee members all seated at the same table with a “what can we do” agenda. The group decided to try this approach this year.
- We should look for more projects on the International scene, such as helping provide clean drinking water in under-developed countries. Rotary’s PolioPlus program has been an outstanding success, and there are other things that can be accomplished.

This & That

Our guest from Combarbala, Chile, English teacher Keny Fernandez, has been extremely busy of late being exposed to ESL (English Second Language) and other English classes at a variety of schools and institutions in our general area.

Divine Word College in Epworth, IA has occupied a lot of her time. She has also participated in an ESL program for Galena adults put on by Highland Community College; attended English and other classes at Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA; and, classes in a Spanish Immersion School for upper grade and high school pupils in Grand Rapids, MI (on a visit to Muskegon, MI with Carter Newton, where they also attended a Rotary meeting). On tap are working visits at a number of Galena and other Jo Daviess County schools, and a stop at Rockford College.

Thus far Keny has stayed with the Newtons, Wehrles, Mattas’s, Kelly-Trains, and will wind up her visit with the Bob Norths. They and a number of other Rotarians have provided her with transportation for her study of ESL and other English teaching methods, and also for some shopping and dinner excursions.

Said Carter Newton: “Keny’s doing

an A-plus job, and the trip and other experiences have been memorable for her.” By the way, she’ll be going back to Chile with a recent model laptop computer donated by John Cooke – very handy for going from classroom to classroom.

Our other “out-of-towner,” Polish exchange student Marcin Splochanski, is also doing an A-plus job at Galena High School, in both academics and sports. He’s eager to meet people and do things, so we urge members to invite them to their homes, take him on weekend trips, out for dinner or to educational or sports activities. Marcin has good command of our language, getting better all the time. Besides being pleasurable for Marcin, you’ll find it pleasurable for you. He’s a fine young man, worth getting to know.

Hey! Already we have a promise from Anderson-Weber Motors in Dubuque that they’ll contribute a car for our Rotary Roars for Youth Auction April 19 at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa. If you are in the market for a new Toyota, Scion, Lincoln or Mercury give Scott Lawlor a holler at scott@galenacellars.com for details.

Upcoming Programs

Feb. 23 – “Palestine Perspective” – Quentin Ryder
March 2 - Fusion Energy, Rich Mattas
March 9 – Open
March 16 – Student of the Quarter, Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa

Greeters

Feb. 23 – Don Gereau/Dick Harmet
March 2 – Chuck Henle/Roger Higgs
March 9 – Jeff Hill/Joel Holland
March 16 – Phil Jackman
March 23 -- Josh Jasper/Jim Kellar
March 30 – Mary Kelly-Train/Karen Kumbera

Fines

Feb. 23 – Randy Downing
March 2 – Kelen Kilgore
March 9 – Phil Jackman
March 16 – Romer Wilsek
March 30 – Ed Schmit

Trivia Assignments

Feb. 23 – Rob Wehrle
March 2 – Ed Schmit
March 9 – Randy Downing
March 26 – Howard Kerr
March 23 – Rich Mattas
March 30 – Don Porter

FYI

Galena Rotary Club, P.O. Box 52,
Galena, IL 61036.

Meets every Friday at 11:45 a.m. -
DeSoto House Hotel

2006-2007 Officers

President - Duane Grenier
President Elect - Robert Wehrle
Past President - Ed Schmit
Treasurer - Vicky Vondran
Secretary - Dick Laubhan

Newsletter

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