



Galeana Serving Jo Daviess County ROTARY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2004 DICK LAUBHAN, EDITOR

President's column: *Galeana Rotary's on track for World Understanding Month*

Call it a lucky coincidence if you will, but I believe it's very fitting that our ski weekend for District 6420 foreign exchange students occurred during February -- Rotary International's World Understanding Month. The event -- ably hosted Feb. 5-6 at Chestnut Mountain by Phil Jackman, David Eaton, Scott Lawlor and the committee, certainly exhibited our club's long-standing commitment to international understanding and friendship. We're grateful to Phil and Terri, David, Scott and their transportation helpers for organizing and carrying out a fun-filled weekend. And, a special "thank you" to Father Bob North and Karen for providing bed and board for the students Friday through Sunday.



It was my pleasure to meet all the students, and I spent part of Saturday with the group on a beautiful, sunny day at Chestnut. I didn't see Dary Cortes on the slopes, but I'm sure she survived and had a great time. I bet we'll hear a report on the experience at our next luncheon meeting! Anyway, if you didn't have the opportunity to help out or watch the youngsters over the weekend you missed a real treat.

Also in keeping with the World Understanding theme, the Rotary Centennial Twin Club Program offers our club a chance to form a long-term relationship with a Rotary Club in another country, thus enhancing our understanding of other cultures. At its last meeting your Board of Directors discussed the Twin Club Program, and we'd appreciate hearing from any members who might have contacts with Rotarians in other parts of the world. That would give us a head start in pursuing this opportunity as part of our Centennial celebration program. Please contact me or David Eaton in case you'd like to get involved.

Don't forget -- raffle tickets for our May Auction are available from Jeff Hill and other members of the Auction Committee. It's a great chance to win \$100 or more while supporting the club's scholarship program for Jo Daviess County high school seniors.

Meanwhile, I hope to see you at our Valentine's Day Variety Show at Eagle Ridge Inn on Saturday night, July 14. It's always a wonderful show, so have a great time!

Romer Wilsek, President

'Involvement' makes for long-term memberships

A very important issue came up for discussion at our last Board meeting -- getting new members immediately "involved" in club activities in order to promote enthusiasm and long-term membership.

One suggestion is to introduce new members to Greater duties right off the bat, to help them get acquainted with other members. Another -- evaluate the skills new members might bring to the club and don't just wait for them to "volunteer." Instead, ask them to get onto a committee or perform some other service in keeping with their talents.

Rotary International also has some suggestions for new member sponsors to keep in mind, as follows:

- ✓ Introduce new members to club officers.
- ✓ Explain the club's committee structure
- ✓ Accompany the new members to a Board meeting, make-up at another club or a District conference.
- ✓ Provide information about Rotary both at the international and club level. There's plenty of literature available.
- ✓ Provide assistance with the new member's "classification" talk.
- ✓ Explain the importance of Rotary Foundation programs.
- ✓ Develop a plan to keep the new member interested and active in the club, and maintain regular contact with him or her.

Briefly, what we're talking about here is, "Don't just get 'em in and forget 'em!" Keeping close contact and working with them on club activities fosters the kind of fellowship that results in an ever-growing roster of long-term members.

Rings the bell!

At our last Board meeting Mary Kelly reported that club attendance figures zoomed to 83 percent during the month of December -- an excellent number particularly during a holiday month. A helpful note: members attending the Agriculture Roundtable were given credit.

On a less-than-happy note, though -- our three percent annual growth rate is in jeopardy, with one death and three resignations taking their toll. Most recent of the latter: Tracy Roberts and Mark Prindle have had to drop their memberships due to circumstances beyond their control. We'll miss them, but hope they'll be able to return sometime in the future.

FYI

Galeana Rotary Club, P.O. Box 52, Galena, IL 61036. Meeting every Friday at 11:45 am - The DeSoto House
2001-2002 Officers
President - Romer Wilsek
President Elect - P. Carter Newton
Past President - Dwight Bischel
Treasurer - Vicky Vondran
Secretary - B'Ann Dittmar
Newsletter - Dick Laubhan, 777-1165,
e-mail, lizndick@galenalink.com

This & That

Foundations on the move

As of December 31, Jack Morehead reports that the Galena Rotary Charitable Foundation had total assets of \$284,280.95, with a fund balance of \$270,094.18 and the 2003 interest to be paid as part of the 2004 student scholarships as \$14,186.77. Based on a potential \$40,000 Auction income in May, and the above interest income, 22 scholarships will be offered this year. In prior years the Selection Committee has been given a range of scholarships to be provided. This year a fixed number of 22 will be offered, with a plus one or minus one adjustment.

Phil also notes that due to Foundation Board membership terms expiring, three new Board members will be needed. Members interested in serving on the Board should contact Jack.

Jack also reported that as of Jan. 31, 2004 a total of \$1,600.00 had been contributed to the Rotary International Foundation by club members. The club has gained ten new Paul Harris Sustaining members.

The Rotary year (July 1-June 30) goal for this Foundation is \$9,000.00, so we're lagging a bit. But Jack noted: "Toward the end of the year things always start picking up." The ultimate goal: "Every Rotarian, Every Year -- \$100.00."

Day in the Country site set

Dorte Breckenridge has announced that the May 5 Day in the Country event will be held at the Galena Territory Owners Club.

Entertainment this year will be based on a "Karaoke" theme. Dorte is being encouraged to be a featured performer.

RYLA challenge presents opportunity

District 6420's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) retreat is slated for May 7-8-9 at Lowden State Park, Oregon, IL. High school students from communities in our District, freshman through juniors, come together in a fully sponsored event that focuses on leadership skills and personal development. The seminars incorporate both recreational and cultural activities, so that participants have a chance to grow in a variety of ways. Each year more than 9,000 young people from approximately 25 countries are sponsored by Rotary Clubs. The seminars are organized and run by Rotarians, all successful business and professional people with noteworthy records of achievement.

This year a corporate co-sponsor has offered a \$5000.00 "reward" if registration for the retreat reaches 100 or more. The money would be used for a film to promote the event. For further information contact Jack Morehead.

Twin Club idea is worth pursuing

As noted in Romer Wilsek's "President's Message," Twin Clubs are two clubs from different countries that have established strong ties and have agreed to team up to complete a special program in recognition of Rotary's

100 Year Centennial celebration. The program could be an international service project, Rotary Youth Exchange, Friendship Exchange or just exchanging information about club activities.

Program criteria: clubs must be from two different countries, preferably from different continents. A joint program must involve personal participation of Rotarians. Clubs must report their informal Twin Club relationship by Dec. 1, 2004 via the Rotary Centennial Web site at www.rotary.org/centennial/activities – or, there is a form in the Centennial Promotional Kit II which was mailed to the club earlier this year.

What about it, you Galena Rotary globe-trotters? Is there a Rotary Club in Baghdad?

Program/Assignment Notes:

Future Programs:

Feb. 13 – Galena-Stauss Hospital, Jeff Hill

Feb. 20 – "Relay for Life," Betty Clements/Jack Morehead

Feb. 27 – Highland Community College, College President Dr. Field

March 5 – Classification Talks

March 12 or 19 – "Dark Skies," Bonnie Garrity

Greeters:

Feb. 13 – David Decker, B'Ann Dittmar

Feb. 20 – Dennis Dunton, Dick Laubhan

Feb. 27 – Nancy DuPlessis, David Eaton

March 5 – Larry Eggers, Roger Eichmeier

March 12 – Dale Freres, Lynn Gaber

March 19 – Donald Gereau, Susan Gordy

March 26 – Duane Grenier, Dick Harmet



The Rotary Club of Galena honored area 10th-grade students at Eagle Ridge Inn and Resort on Jan. 16 as part of its student of the quarter program. Students honored include (from left) Ryan VenHuizen, Stockton; Allison McNett, Warren; Michelle Knuckey, Scales Mound; Lindsey Rojemann, East Dubuque; Andy Dahlby, Tri-State Christian School; Wes Randecker, Galena; Tim Kelly, Galena; and Amanda Weede, River Ridge. Randecker was unable to receive his award earlier in the year. P. Carter Newton photo