



# Galena Serving Jo Daviess County ROTARY NEWS

**JANUARY 2004 DICK LAUBHAN, EDITOR**

## President's column: *County should be aware of Rotary*

January is Rotary Awareness Month, and I believe we all can agree that our club has been creating a real presence in the minds of Jo Daviess County residents, with current projects and our promotion of upcoming events.



Most recently, our Community Roundtable event, held Jan. 14 in cooperation with the Galena Gazette and the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau, attracted upwards of 140 participants – not just farm folk, but townspeople eager to learn more about the vital part that agriculture plays in our county. Other imaginative, worthwhile projects include our annual Rotary Club Auction; Seniors Day in the Country; our Variety Show; Student of the Quarter and Year Award; Teacher of the Year and our Foreign Student Exchange Program.

The success of all these Rotary projects reflects the hard work and dedication of our club's committees and individual Rotarians, in identifying and meeting the needs of our Jo Daviess County communities. Great work, Rotarians! But there's no "resting on past laurels!" Our action-oriented services and projects need the full-time involvement and support of all of

our club members.

The great strength of our club lies in its active members and their willingness to "lend a hand" throughout the county. As you may know, we recently lost three active members – Mike Scholz was transferred and Gerry Achilly has found that the Arizona sunshine is keeping him away from Galena more and more of the time. We're also very sad to report that long-time member Herb Melnick died on Monday, Jan. 19 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

We wish Mike and Gerry well, and thank them for their enthusiastic years of good service. Their loss is a reminder of our continuing need to recruit new members. I urge all Rotarians to double their efforts in recruiting new members in order to maintain the strength of our club and to meet the Rotary International annual goal of three percent growth. We have a bit of work to do, since our current membership has dropped to 84.

Finally, reflecting on attendance at our regular luncheon meetings, our average attendance continues to be quite good, with December averaging 77 percent of the membership. That figure is excellent, especially considering the holiday period! We need to keep in mind that Rotary International requires that members attend 60 percent of meetings. Don't forget that meetings of an hour or more in length for Rotary committee meetings or related work count for attendance.

Thanks for your help, and keep up the good work

*Romer Wilsek, President*

### **Liability insurance proposal received**

At our Jan. 9 board meeting Marc McCoy reported on what he termed a "very comprehensive" liability insurance policy for Galena Rotary's officers and directors. Hartford Insurance Company is the insurer, and the yearly premium will be \$1080.00.

"This policy is about the best I've ever seen," Marc stated. Board members reacted favorably, and the policy probably will be adopted at the next board meeting.

GALENA CELEBRATES



## GRAND EXCURSION 2004™ Pathway signage nearing completion

Informational signs for our Galena River Pathway Project are nearing completion, "and they are really going to look terrific," Duane Grenier reports. There'll be a total of eight signs, each with a 20-year guarantee according to Duane. There'll be four signs used at a time, with subject matter being alternated.

Daryl Watson, Director of the Galena Historical Society, tells us that the signs will cover such Galena lore as:

- ✓ Galena's Railroads
- ✓ Prominent Steamboats
- ✓ Galena's Floods
- ✓ Panorama of the Galena Skyline
- ✓ Galena in 1856, a river view from a Lithograph by Edwin Whitefield
- ✓ Building of the Galena River Levee

Subject matter for two other signs is yet to be determined.

## Member Recruitment: *It is everyone's job*

"Bringing the many benefits of Rotary Club membership to the attention of prospective new members is the responsibility of every member," reminds Membership Chair Dan Ripley. Dan notes: "Our club is an active blend of new entrepreneurs and business executives, CEOs, company presidents, and retired individuals – both male and female – who have fun and enjoy the fellowship of our weekly luncheon meetings, but it doesn't end there by any means.

"The overriding purpose of our club and its members," Dan continues, "is to improve the quality of life not only in our Jo Daviess County communities, but all over the world through our cooperation with national and world-wide programs sponsored by Rotary International."

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### **FYI**

Galena 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

## Member recruitment

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Dan urges Rotary members to extend the fellowship of Rotary among friends or business acquaintances whom they feel might be qualified as prospective members. "Our club's Membership Directory is a fine tool to use in explaining the many vocations and classifications represented by our current members," says Dan. "Bring these folks to one of our luncheons, and provide them with some of our materials explaining the mission of Rotary International. If you need more information about membership requirements and responsibilities, contact me or Marc McCoy," Dan concludes.

## This and That —

Jack Morehead reports that the club has received a generous gift from Jon and Janet Checker, directed to the Galena Rotary Scholarship Foundation. Thanks very much, Jon and Janet. Jack also states that he's recently received an additional \$1200 for the Rotary International Foundation. For our next newsletter, Jack will provide an update on both the Scholarship Foundation and Rotary International Foundation. Keep those contributions coming!

Romer Wilsek reports that the dedication of Rotary International's World War II Memorial will be held the weekend of Feb. 28-29 in

Washington, D.C. Tickets are available, and members interested should contact Romer for details.

Dwight Bischel reports that all dictionaries for our county-wide elementary school program have been passed out. There were a few left over — just enough for Dwight to present autographed copies to our board members at the Jan. 9 board meeting. Dwight is also looking into the possibility of providing dictionaries for pupils participating in home schooling programs.

There'll be a district exchange student skiing event held Feb. 6-7-8 at Chestnut Mountain, and volunteers are needed for transportation chaperones, etc. For information contact Dave Eaton, 777-8600.



## An education in agriculture

*Galena Rotary Club members showed strong support of this year's Jo Daviess County Roundtable on agriculture. Rotarians attending (clockwise from top) Jeff Hill, Don Campbell, Grant Westenfelder and Randy Downing. A diverse group of 140 people attended the Roundtable. The roundtable was sponsored by Galena Rotary in cooperation with The Galena Gazette and the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau.*

