

Galena Serving Jo Daviess County ROTARY NEWS



JUNE 2004 DICK LAUBHAN, EDITOR

President's column: *Galena Rotary makes many positive contributions*

As my term as president draws to a close, I can look back at the past year with pride for all of the positive contributions our



club has made to the communities of Jo Daviess County.

For our county's many deserving youths, we've helped out through our scholarship, student recognition, foreign student exchange and RYLA programs. Our Excellence in Education program highlighted the annual selection of the county's "Teachers of the

Year," which resulted in positive publicity and good will among area residents. Again this year our Seniors Day in the Country was a big hit among the county's senior citizens. Over all, our fund-raisers, like the Annual Auction, Big Ticket and Variety Show programs contributed in excess of \$50,000 for worthwhile community organizations and projects. Each of us as Rotarians can be proud of lending a hand in supporting our various communities.

But, perhaps the highlight of the year was

our partnership with the City of Galena and the Grand Excursion Committee through our Rotary International Centennial project, which provided funding for benches, trash receptacles and interpretive historical signage along the now-nearly completed Pathway on the Levee.

At the District level, our club received recognition through awards for our newsletter and club Web site, while our fearless and dedicated Capt. Jack Morehead received a well-deserved Rotary International Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. Jack has collected several thousand dollars from club members in support of the Foundation and its programs, and will always welcome further support from club members.

Personally, I've had the support of a talented, dedicated and hard-working Board of Directors, which is the real key to ensuring the club has a successful, profitable year. My heartfelt thanks to all of you super Board members!

As we move into a new Rotary year, I urge each member to be as supportive of incoming President Carter Newton as you've been to me. As the club "Celebrates Rotary ... with a Passion," we can look forward to 2005 as a year of celebrating Rotary's 100th year, continuing support from Rotary International, and the good fellowship that this special year is bound to inspire.

All in all, this past year "wasn't bad ... not bad at all." Thank you all for your help!

Romer Wilsek, President

Upcoming Rotary Club of Galena meetings

June 25 - Annual Dinner Meeting, Eagle Ridge Inn. No noon meeting.

July 2 - Classifications, M. J. Thorne & Dan Ripley

July 9 - Club Assembly, Carter Newton

July 16 - 30: Open

New member *Julie Bruser joins club*

Julie Bruser, Executive Director of the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, Elizabeth, is our club's newest member. Julie lives in the Galena Territory with husband Tom Saccommo, who is district sales representative for McCloud Pest Control, headquartered in Hoffman Estates, IL. Tom's territory extends from Rockford, IL to Des Moines, IA.

Julie and Tom settled in the Territory about seven-and-a-half years ago, having lived in the Chicago suburb of Arlington Heights for many years. Julie is an "alumnus" (25 years) of World Book Encyclopaedia (as is Dick Harmet), where she was Director of Corporate Communications. She earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Northwestern University, studying at the school's downtown campus for a number of years.

Before moving to Galena, Julie was for two years Director of Communications for The Pampered Chef, a direct seller of kitchen tools based in Addison, IL. Once here, she worked for a time in the office of the Galena Cellars Winery, and also worked as a part-time consultant for the Conservation Foundation for several years prior to taking on her present job. During that time she handled the organization's newsletter and membership development program.

Julie has stated that she'd like to use her writing and layout skills for Rotary by assisting in public relations and the production of our monthly newsletter - very welcome help, say Dick Laubhan and Carter Newton! Please join us in welcoming Julie to the club.



New member Julie Bruser is an experienced "communicator," and will be helping us with public relations and our monthly newsletter.

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



The Rotary Club of Galena honored a group of area high school sophomores as part of its Student of the Quarter program. The students include (from left) Ariel Bohnsack, Warren High School; Greichen Townsend, Galena High School; Kattie Wurster, Stockton High School; Ben Freese, Warren; Becky Foley, Scales Mound High School; Niles Furlong, Galena; Josh Diederich, River Ridge High School; Brian Myers, Stockton; Haley Schilt, East Dubuque High School; Sam Scheer, Tri-State Christian School. Townsend, Wurster and Freese were selected as student of the quarter for the third quarter, but were unable to attend the program held in March. P. Carter Newton photo

Relay for Life effort a resounding success!

The Galena Rotary Club's initial participation in the Jo Daviess County "Relay for Life" cancer research fundraiser on June 4 was a "real winner," reports Rotarian Dave Decker, who spearheaded the organization of a Rotary Relay Team.

The team raised a total of \$1,854 according to Dave, \$1,165 from team solicitations and \$660 in cash and pledges from "passing the hat" at a May Rotary luncheon session. At its May 7 meeting, the Board of Directors approved payment of a \$100 Relay entrant's fee.

"The Relay for Life is a wonderful, solemn and uplifting event that brings harmony and hope to all who attend and participate," Dave stated. "Team Rotary ended up having

13 walking participants, and I'm proud to tell you that we were one of the few teams that had walkers all through the night."

Besides Dave and Marjean Decker and family, Susan and Chris Gordy marched, along with Dave's jeweler, Blaise Vrotsos and family and Blaise's former wife, Shari. A number of Galena Rotarians also walked as members of other local teams.

"We have some great plans in the works for next year," Dave reports. "This year, our 'all-night' crew headquartered in an off-site vehicle - but next year we hope to have an on-site Civil War-type tent, complete with a fire pit and cots for sleeping. We're working on it."

This & That:

Just a reminder - we need many volunteers during the next week-a-half, for last-minute

work in connection with our participation in the Grand Excursion celebration. If you do e-mail, you've received a message from Nancy Du Plessis detailing the kinds of help needed. If not, and you'd like to be of assistance, call Jack Morehead - 858-9412 - or see him at our June 25 Annual Dinner Meeting. We need a couple dozen volunteers, and a few in reserve would be great!

Your Board of Directors urges you to consider adopting our newly announced "automated" method of paying yearly dues and contributions to Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellowship and Every Rotarian Every Year programs. Just sign an origination form and give Vicky Vondran a voided check, and your dues payment and contributions will be deducted from your checking account quarterly. This will reduce our billing costs, in both time and postage, and be convenient for you, also.



The Galena Rotary Club honored their teachers of the year at their luncheon last Friday. The teachers are from left, Mary Wendel (East Dubuque), Karen Montgomery (Scales Mound), Brenda Gates (Warren), "Teacher of the Year," Donna Wilmarth (Galena), Lillian Catron (Tri-State Christian School), Linda Dillon (Stockton). Photo courtesy of The Galena Gazette