



Galena ROTARY NEWS

Serving Jo Daviess County Dick Laubhan, Editor November 2005

President's Message



Ed Schmit

On Thanksgiving Day, 2005 we had much to be thankful for. As we look around we can see many problems, but we also see much beauty. We live in the greatest nation on earth, in one of the most beautiful areas in the country, surrounded by our friends – and, we are members of one of the finest organizations in the world – ROTARY! Carter Newton and Bob Wehrle will soon be enroute to Combarbala, Chile to assist in the dedication of the Twin

Club project, of which we all should be proud. A number of our members contributed a great deal of time and effort. Recently the steps at the new riverfront pathway were dedicated, and we are looking forward to the new statue of Julia Dent for Grant Park. Galena Rotarians – BE PROUD.
Ed Schmit, President

Second Friday of Each Month Set For Board

Using his discretionary power to set board meeting dates – granted by the board earlier this year – Pres. Ed Schmit has decided to settle on the second Friday of every month. Switching from the first Friday to the second Friday, or vice versa, has not seemed to improve chances for a quorum for voting purposes. “Having a regular date should help board members plan their schedules,” Ed stated.

Are You All Set for Our Ho! Ho! Christmas Party?



Saturday, Dec. 10 is the date, and the Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa is the site for our annual Christmas Party. There'll be a cocktail hour starting at 6 p.m., and Eagle Ridge has graciously offered reduced rates on regular bar drinks, beer and pop. Dinner is set for 7 p.m., and you'll be treated to chef-carved prime rib or stuffed pork loin. Salad, potatoes, a vegetable dish and delicious dessert will top off the menu.

And don't forget, we'll have our yearly "White Elephant" gift exchange, so – time to rummage through your garage or attic for a surprise item to tickle members' funny bones.

We'll all be looking forward to seeing you there!

It's a Snap to Maintain 60 Percent Attendance at Rotary!

Just a reminder: To maintain your status as an active Galena Rotary Club member you need to attend 60 percent of our weekly meetings – or make up for enough meetings missed to bring you up to 60 percent.

The board recognizes that noon meetings on one of the busiest days of the week – Friday -- can be a problem. But the good news is that "make-ups" are a breeze. No. 1, of course -- attending another city's Rotary Club meeting is a nice way to meet new folks and keep tabs on what other clubs are doing. But you don't have to leave town to keep your attendance record up to snuff:

1. Show up at our once-a-month De Soto House board meeting (the second Friday of every month), even if you are too busy to stay for the luncheon program. We record your visit, and you are automatically covered for a missed luncheon meeting.
2. Do an hour's worth of work for the committee on which you serve, or another committee. Only 41-1/2 minutes? – we won't quibble!

Be sure to tell Rich Austin about out-of-town visits or committee work. He'll keep track of your make-ups and you'll be home free! If you are now delinquent, you'll soon be receiving a letter reminding you of your obligation. We need your active participation!

'Catching Up' on New Member Vignettes

It's our policy to provide photos and informative items about new members when they come aboard, but we got a little behind this summer. The culprits: vacations and some missed meetings. But we're catching up!

Karen Kumbera

joined the club last summer, sponsored by Vicky Vondran.



Karen is a multi-talented type who is owner of the Log Cabin Guest House on Chetlain Lane, and also is the proprietor Karen's Neat Stuff, a retail shop on Galena's Main Street. But that's not all – she designed and built the Victorian Pines (now Ramada Inn), including interiors and landscaping; and, she is a licensed realtor who managed a Galena real estate office for a time before going independent.

A Chicago native, Karen came to Galena about 33 years ago from Antioch, IL. She has been in the retail business here for 25 years and lodging business for the past 10 years. Always active in community affairs, Karen has been a regular contributor to our annual auction since it began 20 or so years ago. She hopes to help us out in fundraising and in programs associated with the county's elderly. Karen has four children, six grandchildren and a

great grandchild who's due to arrive in February. You can contact her at: 815/777-4777.

Sandra M. (Sandy) Aurit came aboard officially last July, co-sponsored by former Rotarian Ron Allen and Marc McCoy. Sandy took over where Ron Allen left off, as General Manager of the Best Western Quiet House in Galena. Ron was transferred to Mequon, WI.

Sandy has deep roots in our area, having grown up in New Diggings, WI. She returned to us after spending five years as a legal assistant to an attorney in Ottawa, IL – the location of Illinois' famed Starved Rock State Park. "I miss hiking through all the Starved Rock trails," Sandy says. We'll get her acquainted with the local hiking picture.

Sandy says that she has had an "on-off" relationship with Best Western for many years, with her and her former husband handling a number of management positions starting back in 1987 in Prairie Du Chien, WI. The couple also had a deli-bakery-gift shop business in Pickerel (like the fish), WI, for a time.



Sandy lives at the Quiet House, and can be reached at: 815/777-2577; e-mail – samaurit@hotmail.com. She's going to help us out on the Community Services Committee.

William H. (Bill) Ortman, a recently retired dentist, came to the Galena area last summer and thanks to sponsor Dan Mennenoh has become our newest member. Bill grew up in the Quad-Cities (Moline), where his dad was a long-time Rotarian. He is a graduate of Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL and St. Louis University School of Dentistry.



Before starting his practice in Morrison, IL in 1970, Bill spent six years in the U.S. Navy, including a year with the marines in Vietnam. In Morrison, he immediately joined Rotary, and during his 35 years of service was president, secretary and is a Paul Harris Fellow. He also served on the board and as president of the Morrison Chamber of Commerce and was active in Morrison community affairs and with dental organizations. Bill and his wife, Phyllis, who live in the Galena Territory, have three children and six grandchildren. He is going to work with us in the area of Community Services. Contact him at: 815/777-4908; e-mail, billphyllis5664@sbcglobal.net.

Upcoming Programs

Nov. 25 – Classification Talks
Dec. 2 – Membership Program, Dan Ripley & Duane Grenier
Dec. 9 – Sister Catherine Dunn, President of Clarke College, Dubuque
Dec. 16 – Combarbala Restroom Grand Opening, Carter Newton & Bob Wehrle
Dec. 23 – Annual Christmas Message, the Rev. John Burkhart

Greeter Assignments

Nov. 25 – Santy Mendez/Dan Mennenoh
Dec. 2 – Dan Mitchell/Carter Newton
Dec. 9 – Father Bob North/Bill Norton
Dec. 23 – Don Porter/Bob Price
Dec. 30 – Dan Ripley/Brian Schoenrock

Finemasters

Nov. 25 – Dick Woodruff
Dec. 2 – Rich Mattas
Dec. 9 – Carter Newton
Dec. 16 – Karen Kumbera
Dec. 23 – Vince Toepfer
Dec. 30 – TBA

Trivia

Nov. 25 – Skip Schwerdtfeger
Dec. 2 – Mary Kelly-Train
Dec. 9 – Barb Sloan
Dec. 16 – Sean Loberg
Dec. 23 – Dick Harmet
Dec. 30 – Rich Mattas

FYI

Galena Rotary Club, P.O. Box 52, Galena, IL 61036. Meets every Friday at 11:45 a.m. - DeSoto House Hotel

2004-2005 Officers

President - Ed Schmit
President Elect - Duane Grenier
Past President - P. Carter Newton
Treasurer - Vicky Vondran
Secretary - Dick Laubhan

Newsletter

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