



# Rotary Messenger

Rotary Club of Eau Claire

Editor: Jerry Reinecke

September 21, 2009

## In This Issue

- “The Future of Rotary Is In Our Hands” by District Governor Dean Dickinson
- Donation to Eau Claire County Department of Human Services
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## Guests

- Roy Sargeant
- Sherrill Jahr
- Kristina Skornikova – Exchange Student from Slovakia

## Make-ups

- Tom McCarty – Eau Claire Morning (09/03/2009)

## Leaves of Absence

- Sherry Mohr (5/7/2009 – 11/7/2009)
- Barb Wiedenbeck (7/21/2009 – 10/21/2009)

## The 4-Way Test

Of the things, we think, say or do:

1. Is it the ‘Truth’?
2. Is it ‘Fair’ to all concerned?
3. Will it build ‘Goodwill’ and ‘Better Friendships’?
4. Will it be ‘Beneficial’ to all?

## “The Future of Rotary Is In Our Hands” presented by District Governor Dean Dickinson

*(Note: The text of District Governor Dean Dickinson’s remarks is reprinted in its entirety at the end of this newsletter beginning on page 3.)*



For the first four months of the Rotary year, our District Governor is visiting each of the 60 Rotary Clubs in our District 6250. And with a District that covers the southwestern third of the state from Chippewa Falls in the north to Prairie du Chien in the southwest to Lake Mills in the east, Dean Dickinson is putting on lots of miles.

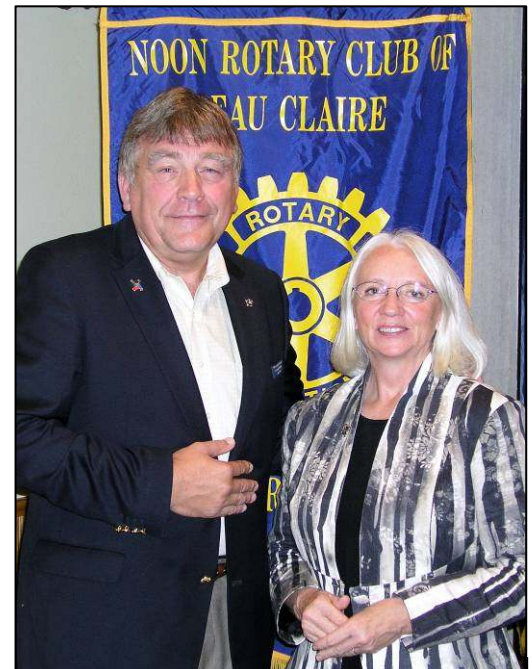
At today’s meeting we had the opportunity to meet Governor Dean and to hear his inspiring message entitled “The Future of Rotary Is In Our Hands”.

Rotary is celebrating 105 years of existence and we have the right to be proud of all the accomplishments of Rotary during these many years.

In 1945, 15 Rotarians gathered with 40 diplomats from around the world and wrote the charter for what would become the United Nations, and Rotary still has a permanent delegation assigned to the United Nations. Why Rotary? Because it is recognized that Rotary speaks from a position of moral authority unlike any other organization in the world.

In 2008, our Rotary Foundation funded its 30,000<sup>th</sup> matching grant, which has helped advance world understanding, goodwill and peace. How could we ever measure the cumulative effect this has had on the people and communities we serve.

We all know that in 1985, Rotary pledged itself to eradicate polio from the face of the earth. Today, there are just four countries that continue to be endemic, but with only 1,500 cases of polio reported in 2008. With the continued commitment of Rotarians around the world, along with the \$355 million pledged by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the financial resources are now available to complete the mission.



District Governor **Dean Dickinson** (left) and Club President **Jacqe Lahn**

## Our Calendar

September 28 – Classification Talks by Jon Fields and Bill Klish

October 5 – Volunteer Trip to Jamaica by Alyssa Halfman and Youth Rotar day

October 12 – The World of Professional Bike Racing by Tom McCarty

October 19 – Aquatic Therapy by Jim Deignan, CEO of Dove Healthcare

October 26 – Clear Vision Book Purchases for Elementary Students by Terry Sheridan

## Officers/Board of Directors for the 2009-10 Rotary Year

President – Jacqe Lahn

President-Elect – Jon Niebergall

Vice President – Sara Antonson

Secretary – Mary Knight

Exec Sec / Treas – Jerry Reinecke

Past President – Don Huebscher

Avenues of Service:

Club – Angela Hite

Community – Bob Schmidt

International – Mark Morse

Vocational – Marcia Van Beek

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DG Dean shared the remarks of a speaker at the 2008 Rotary International convention in Los Angeles. She commented that the essential question of our existence is 'why am I here', and the answer for many of us is 'to serve'. We all live in the same world-wide neighborhood. Thus we serve our neighbors in Ghana, Rwanda, Guatemala, Columbia, Peru, India, Nigeria, or wherever the human condition calls for us to serve.

John Kenny, Rotary International's President has provided us with our Rotary theme for the year "The Future Is In Your Hands". It begs the question of 'what is the future of Rotary'. The future of Rotary is not in the hands of John Kenny, or the Rotary International Board, or any other level of Rotary leadership. It is in your hands to share the great story of Rotary and how we save lives, making a difference and striving toward a safer, kinder and more peaceful world.

## Donation to Department of Human Services

As part of our Club's "Red Badge Program" a group of new members are asked to work together and identify a community need worthy of a Rotary Club donation.

The first such donation was presented by President **Jacqe Lahn** to the Eau Claire County Department of Human Services. According to **Scott Johnson**, one of this group of new members, the money will be used to provide refurbished PCs to foster families for access to the internet and other educational resources.



**Roy Sargeant** (left) and **Sherrill Jahr** (right) accepted our Club's donation to the County's Foster Care Program. They are pictured with Club member **Scott Johnson** (center)

Accepting the \$750 check on behalf of the County's Foster Care program were Department Director **Roy Sargeant** and **Sherrill Jahr**.

## Greeters and Classification Talks Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Classification Talks</u>
September 28	Tim Gunderson and Steve Smith	Jon Fields and Bill Klish
October 5	Deb Severson and Robin Shih	None
October 12	Jeff Staads and Lisa Stelter Graf	None
October 19	Sam Stagliano and John Stoneberg	None
October 26	Laura Talley and Pat Thoney	None

# THE FUTURE OF ROTARY IS IN OUR HANDS

by District Governor Dean Dickinson

delivered September 21, 2009 at the Rotary Club of Eau Claire

Rotary is celebrating over 100 years of existence and we have every right to be proud of all that has been accomplished in and through Rotary over those many years. How can we measure the influence that this club has had over the years both in terms of the Rotary Fellowship that it has provided and the great work that has been done both in community and international service. How can we even begin to understand the significant impact that Rotary has had on the state of the world since its founding in 1905. Just a few examples of the influence of Rotary over these past 105 years: In 1945, fifteen Rotarians gathered with 40 diplomats from around the world in San Francisco and wrote the charter for what would become the United Nations. Rotary International is one of the few non-governmental organizations to have a permanent delegation assigned to the United Nations. Why Rotary? Because it is recognized that Rotary speaks from a position of moral authority unlike any other organization in the world.

In 2008 our Rotary Foundation funded the 30,000<sup>th</sup> matching grant enabling Rotarians, just like you and me, to advance world understanding goodwill and peace with the drilling of water wells, building of schools, providing health care and hundreds of more service projects that improved the lives of people around the world. How could we even begin to measure the cumulative effect that has had on the people and communities that were served.

At the International Convention in Chicago in 1980, Dr. Albert B. Sabin, developer of the Oral Polio Vaccine, suggested the possibility of the eradication of the polio virus accomplished through a systematic, global immunization program. In 1985 Rotary International pledged itself to the eradication of the polio virus and in 1987, after raising \$247 million dollars to underwrite the campaign, then Rotary International President Chuck Keller announced the beginning of the campaign and pledged to the children of the world that they would one day, live in a world free of polio. Prior to his death, Dr. Sabin estimated that in the twenty years from 1985 to 2005, the effort to immunize resulted in 8 million fewer victims of polio. With a fatality rate of 10%, the effort spared 800,000 lives. In 1985, 125 countries were endemic with polio and there were 350,000 cases of polio reported. Today there are just four countries that continue to be endemic and in 2008 there were less than 1,500 cases of polio reported. We have immunized over 2 billion children and we are going to succeed in this noble, unprecedented effort to make the world a safer place for our children.

In January of this year, I attended the International Assembly, that training session for incoming District Governors, in San Diego. Bill Gates Jr. came to us and was greeted with a tremendous outpouring of affection from the 1500 Rotarians in the room...and then, to our utter astonishment he announced that in addition to the 100 million dollar grant that the Gates Foundation provided earlier, that he and Melinda were, through their foundation, extending an additional \$255 million to the polio eradication effort...through the applause, and the cheering and the tears came the realization that this pledge assured that the financial resources would be available to complete the goal of polio eradication.

Carolyn Jones, the first woman to sit on the Board of Rotary International, in addressing the Great Northland Breakfast at the International Convention in Los Angeles in 2008 offered that "the essential question of our existence is...why am I here?" Rotary answers that question for many of us...it is to serve. But who do we serve and how? A sign on a back pack of a homeless person in San Diego proclaimed to those who passed by, "we all live in the same neighborhood". So, again, who do we serve and how? We serve our neighbors, in Ghana, Rwanda, Guatemala, Columbia, Peru, India, Nigeria and wherever the human condition calls for us to serve. It is important to understand that being poor is not living in poverty. Poverty means living without the means to move beyond the present state and with little or no hope for a better future...where the

conditions of life are so overwhelming that survival commands every ounce of energy. Living in poverty is reflected in the red hair of a malnourished black child in Nigeria, a belly distended by malnutrition or intestinal parasites, of a child in India or living in a village in Bolivia where, before the Rotary Club of Chippewa Falls began a water project, one third of the children died before they reach the age of ten because of water borne disease. Living in poverty, a ten year old girl walks six miles to bring home a pail of water so polluted that she and her family will all get sick from drinking it...and yet she goes and her family will consume that water because there is no alternative and in the coming and the going she will likely be the victim of a sexual assault and subject to contracting HIV...In the twenty minutes that I spend with you today, 200 children will die from malnutrition, water borne disease or malarial infection. That is the face of poverty, so dire, so pervasive so devoid of hope.

John Kenny, Rotary International President has provided us with our Rotary theme for this year, "The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands". The most thought provoking theme in my memory. It begs the question, what is the future of Rotary? Does Rotary have a future? The Future of Rotary is not in the hands of John Kenny, or of the board of Rotary International, but in my hands and yours because we are Rotary, what we are and what we do ultimately defines what Rotary is... and with that... consider the plaintive plea of one of the incoming club presidents at our most recent PETS, Presidents Elect Training Seminar, who said, "you have shared with me a great deal of information and provided me with tools to make my year as our club president successful...but, what is Rotary? I know and understand the culture of my club, but what is Rotary?"

Do we share the compelling story of Rotary in our club meetings? Everyone in town has access to our podiums but...do we tell the story of Rotary. I am afraid that we have people who come to our clubs and in time leave and in the coming and going never hear the great story of Rotary and how we are saving lives, making a difference and striving toward a safer, kinder and more peaceful world.

Otto Schlabach, a member of the Rotary Club of La Crosse, delivered an address to my Rotary club in 1946, sixty three years ago. Consider the timelessness of his comments, especially in light of the financial upheavals that have caused so much pain and suffering in our country and around the world:

"Rotary is a philosophy of life. There are two philosophies of life that are in constant conflict with each other and in the balance hangs the fate of civilization. The first says that life is something to be exploited. It is some thing to get, to keep and to store up, to put into barns, and storehouses and bank vaults. There is no such thing as enough. The other philosophy is in direct contradiction and holds that true living is found in serving."

Do we continue in our dedication to the mission of Rotary? The mission is to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace. Do we still behold the vision? Our vision is to improve health, support education and alleviate poverty. Are we still committed to the values that have guided this organization for 105 years, Fellowship, Integrity, Service?

Again from Otto Schlabach:

"Only when the philosophy to which Rotary has dedicated it's energies becomes that of the nations will men stop thinking in terms of boundaries and borders and balance of power and armies and war and we will become a family of nations...and who is to say that Rotary may not have a part, even an important part, in bringing about that new day."

I will conclude my comments to you today with a thought offered by Michael Josephson, founder of Character Counts, entitled, "What Will Matter":

“Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end. There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days. All the things that we have collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else. It won’t matter where we came from or what side of the tracks we lived on at the end.

“So...what will matter? How will the value of our days be measured? What will matter is not what we bought but what we built, not what we got...but what we gave. What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others.

“What will matter is not your competence but your character.

“Living a life that matters doesn’t happen by accident. It’s not a matter of circumstance but of choice. Choose to live a life that matters”.

Because the future of Rotary is in our hands...