



Rotary Messenger

Rotary Club of Eau Claire

Editor: Jerry Reinecke

November 2, 2009

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Visiting Rotarian:

- MaryAnn Lippert – Marshfield Sunrise Club

Guests

- Youth Rotar School Reps:
 - Jeff Pepowski (Altoona)
 - Barb Cizek (Memorial)
 - Justine Hildebrandt (North)
- Kristina Skornikova

Leaves of Absence

- Sherry Mohr (5/7/2009 – 11/7/2009)
- Robin Shih (10/1/2009 – 12/31/2009)
- Steve Smith (10/1/2009 – 12/31/2009)
- John DeRosa (10/25/2009 – 1/9/2010)
- Jon Fields (11/1/2009 – 3/31/2010)
- Kris Becker (10/13/2009 – 4/13/2010)

Western Wisconsin Bankruptcy Court by Randi Osberg, Trustee for the Department of Justice

(Thanks to Dave Anderson for providing this Program Summary)

Randi L. Osberg, a shareholder in the Ruder Ware Law Firm, Eau Claire, spoke to our Rotary Club on Monday, November 2. Randi was appointed many years ago to be one of two Trustees for the Federal Bankruptcy Court. His jurisdiction is most of northwest Wisconsin, going as far east as Wausau and north to Superior.

As Trustee, Osberg's principle role is to protect the unsecured creditors and as such, he examines each bankrupt at the initial hearing. These hearings are held at the Federal Courthouse in Eau Claire, Superior, and occasionally other places. He attempts to find out if there are other assets not listed in the bankruptcy schedules or if any of those assets have potential value that could be distributed to unsecured creditors who may not otherwise receive any distributions.

Osberg is entitled to review the schedules filed by the bankrupt, together with their income tax returns. In addition, each bankrupt must testify under oath and Osberg is allotted about 6 minutes per bankrupt to examine them. In the event he discovers something, more procedures are available.

Osberg's primary source of income from bankruptcy cases, as Trustee, is a commission that can be earned from any assets that are recovered from a bankrupt and distributed to claimants. If there are insufficient claims against a particular bankrupt and assets are found, those assets are returned to the Debtor.

Another duty as Trustee involves determining whether any payments by a debtor within 90 days of the filing of a bankruptcy was a "preference". In other words, a debtor cannot prefer one creditor to another and if that has happened within the allotted time periods, the Trustee is entitled to get those monies back from whoever received payment and distribute the monies according to other claims. Obviously, creditors who have to pay money back to the Trustee are unhappy, because they are often then left in an unsecured position as well, but the Bankruptcy law does want to provide fairness to all.



Randi Osberg, Trustee for the Department of Justice

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?

Our Calendar

November 9 – Vocational
Service Offsite Meeting at
the Children's Museum.
(Meeting starts at 11:30)

November 16 – Club Assembly

November 17 – Board Meeting
at Bank Mutual

November 23 – Poinsettia,
Chocolates and Coffee
Pickup at Sweetwaters

November 30 – The Rotary
Foundation, by Bill
Hilgedick, Club Foundation
Chairperson

December 7 – Tele-
communications Update by
Scott VanderSanden,
President of AT&T
Wisconsin Justice;
Youth Rotars Honored

December 14 – Christmas
Luncheon at Eau Claire
Golf & Country Club
(Luncheon starts at 11:30)

December 21 – No Meeting –
Merry Christmas

December 28 – No Meeting –
Happy New Year

Osberg answered numerous questions from club members concerning the types of bankruptcy, some of the procedures and some of the ramifications.

Youth Rotars Honored November 2

The November Youth Rotars, as selected by their respective schools on the basis of academics and school/community activities, are pictured below. We congratulate them and wish them well.



From left: **Kyle Severson** (North), **Andrea Koxlien** (Memorial), **Tyler Hinnendael** (Altoona), **Jimmy Zhou** (Regis), **Matthew Gilbertson** (North), and **Brenda McCarty** (Memorial)

Poinsettia, Chocolates and Coffee Fund-Raiser

The fund-raiser is marching toward the product delivery phase. Most members have turned in their orders and monies, and are looking forward to picking up their chocolates, poinsettias and coffee at Sweetwater's on Monday, November 23.

If there are still orders or monies to be turned in, or if there are questions, please contact **Susan McLeod** at 834-7871 (s.mcleod@cvmuseum.com) or **Sammie Bostrom** at 833-8400 (sammie.bostrom.j7em@statefarm.com).

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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

Contact Us

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Greeters and Classification Talks Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Classification Talks</u>
November 9	None – Vocational Service Trip to Children’s Museum	None
November 16	Janine Wildenberg and Luke Wren	None
November 23	Sam Stagliano and Dave Anderson	None
November 30	Sara Antonson and Dan Baltramonas	None
December 7	Jack Bartingale and Sammie Bostrom	None
December 14	None – Christmas Luncheon at ECGCC	None
December 21	None – No Meeting	None
December 28	None – No Meeting	None