



Rotary Messenger

Rotary Club of Eau Claire

Editor: Jerry Reinecke

January 11, 2010

In This Issue

- City of Eau Claire Public Works Update
- Youth Rotars Honored

Guests

- Youth Rotar School Reps:
 - Jeff Pepowski (Altoona)
 - Steve Smith (Memorial)
 - Lisa Sproul (North)
- Vanda Galen – guest of Jacqe Lahn and Prospective Member
- Joe Goldsmith – guest of Jerry Reinecke and Father of Youth Rotar Jenna Goldsmith
- Kristina Skornikova (Rotary Exchange Student from Slovakia)

Leaves of Absence

- Robin Shih (10/1/2009 – 1/15/2010)
- Dan Donnellan (12/01/2009 – 1/31/2010)
- John DeRosa (10/25/2009 – 3/31/2010)
- Kris Becker (10/13/2009 – 4/13/2010)
- Ron Dulitz (11/22/2009 – 5/10/2010)

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?

City of Eau Claire Public Works Department Update by Department Director Brian Amundson

Public Works Director Brian Amundson shared some history, accomplishments and challenges of Eau Claire's infrastructure.

Over the past 30 years, the Public Works & Parks Department has been asked to provide more services with fewer employees. Since 1980, according to Amundson, the department has reduced the number of employees by over 20% to approximately 200. However, during this same period, the city's population has increased by 28% to almost 66,000 and the miles of streets, sewer lines and water mains have increased by an average 45% to approximately 340 miles each. These numbers equate to 3.02 employees per 1,000 residents, down 38% from the 4.87 employees in 1980.

Amundson went on to provide data on the amount of infrastructure that Public Works is responsible for. There are 25,500 water and sewer utility customers that use over 3.5 million gallons of water per day, 13 bridges, 10 pedestrian underpasses, 25 miles of trails, 44 traffic signals and 4 roundabouts. His department supports and operates 470 pieces of equipment, sweeps away 12,000 cubic yards of debris per year, and maintains the 270,000 square foot city hall building that was constructed in 1903.

During these times of decreasing funding and staffing, Amundson noted that the quality of our public services has improved. The condition of our streets is better, bus ridership is up significantly, water main/sewer emergencies and service calls are down, and the downtown redevelopment continues to move forward, as evidenced by the Phoenix Park area.

Amundson then described the city's snow removal plan and process that attempts to reach a happy medium between serving the community and the ever present budget constraints. Brian went on to discuss in more detail the snow removal challenges that confront the City every year. He illustrated this point by taking us through the real life weather scenario that greeted us over the Christmas holidays... a 10-16 inch snowfall forecast over a 2-3 day period, the actual snowfall starting and stopping several times, then morphing into over an inch of rain that flooded intersections, and



Brian Amundson,
Director of City of Eau Claire
Public Works Department

Our Calendar

January 18 – Mark Bradley,
immediate past President of
the Board of Regents

January 25 – Chippewa Valley
Regional Airport Update by
Airport Manager Charity
Speich

February 1 – Challenges Facing
Higher Education by
UW-Stout Chancellor
Dr. Charles W. Sorenson

February 8 – The Obesity Issue
by Dr. William J. Klish

February 15 – Club Assembly

February 22 – to be announced

March 1 – The World of
Professional Bike Racing by
Tom McCarty

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

Rotary Club of Eau Claire

P.O. Box 671

Eau Claire, WI 54702-0671

www.eauclairerotary.org

Jacqe Lahn, President

715-836-9660

lahnaprl@sbcglobal.net

Jerry Reinecke, Exec Sec & Treas

715-838-7640

jreinecke@bankmutual.com

Rotary District 6250

www.rotary6250.org

finally temperatures dropping below zero. And then in making the decisions, one has to consider the economics... the prospect of having to pay up to triple time for work performed on Christmas Day. Brain drove home the point by asking the rhetorical question, 'what would you have done'.

Questions followed.

Youth Rotars Honored January 11

The January 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: **Logan Eklund** (Regis), **Vicki Shoemaker** (North), **Christina DeLakis** (Memorial), **Cody Gaede** (Altoona), **Tyler Sonsalla** (North), and **Jenna Goldsmith** (Memorial)