



# Rotary Messenger

Rotary Club of Eau Claire

Editor: Jerry Reinecke

March 8, 2010

## In This Issue

- 2010 Adult Literacy Learner of the Year
- Rotary Supports Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley
- Youth Rotars Honored

## Visiting Rotarian

- Donnie Magadance – Eau Claire Morning Rotary Club; Assistant District Governor

## Guests

- Youth Rotar School Reps:
  - Jeff Pepowski (Altoona)
  - Travis Hedtke (Memorial)
  - Brian Woodie (North)
  - Bill Uelmen (Regis)
- Kristina Skornikova – Rotary Exchange Student from Slovakia

## Make-up

- Marje Bunce – Chippewa Falls Rotary Club – 3/2/2010

## Leaves of Absence

- John DeRosa (10/25/2009 – 3/31/2010)
- Jeanne Chilson (1/25/2010 – 3/31/2010)
- Kris Becker (10/13/2009 – 4/13/2010)
- Glenn Horejsi (1/13/2010 – 4/30/2010)
- Ron Dulitz (11/22/2009 – 5/10/2010)
- Peter Scobie (2/17/2010 – 5/11/2010)
- Dennis Vanden Bloomen (1/1/2010 – 5/31/2010)

## “2010 Adult Literacy Learner of the Year” Nou Thao

1986 was the year that Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley (“LVCV”) opened its doors as LVA and began training volunteers and working with adults. That was the same year that today’s speaker, **Nou Thao**, was born here in Eau Claire... shortly after her parents arrived with her five brothers and sisters from a Thai refugee camp.



**Nou Thao**  
Named 2010 Adult Learner of the Year by Wisconsin Literacy

Nou grew up in the Eau Claire Hmong Community. Her family spoke little English, but Nou learned quickly and attended public schools until age 16.

By her own admission, Nou was a bit of a rebel. At age 16, she was married in a traditional Hmong ceremony, and, at the insistence of her husband, dropped out of school. Shortly after her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, her son Issac was born.

For Nou, the next few tumultuous years included a job to help support her family, the birth of her second child, and due to abuse, separation from her husband.

Over time, Nou came to the realization that figuring out how to continue her education was a must if she were going to turn her life around and become a

more productive member of society. In 2008, Nou found her way to LVCV and its Family Literacy Program and began concentrating on school.

And today... Nou describes herself as “FIRM”. She said it feels good to be wanted, needed, and to know that so many people are 100% behind her.

Nou recognizes that things have been rough, but she made it through those difficult times and now realizes that she is capable of doing anything, no matter what... as long as she puts her mind to it.

## Rotary Supports Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley

Our Rotary Club is pleased to continue our support of Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley. On hand to accept our \$1,500 donation was LVCV Executive Director **Mary Beth Kelley-Lowe**.

These monies will be used to help make it possible for at least seven LVCV students to earn their GED (high school equivalency). The cost for GED books and testing fees is approximately \$200 per student.

- Dina St. Louis  
(1/1/2010 – 6/30/2010)

### 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?

### Our Calendar

March 15 – How the FBI  
Serves Eau Claire by Special  
Agent Dave Fitzgerald

March 17 – Board Meeting at  
Bank Mutual

March 22 – Classification  
Talks by Darin McFadden  
and Steve Driever

March 29 – County Jail  
Options by Jeff Halloin

### 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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Rotary District 6250  
[www.rotary6250.org](http://www.rotary6250.org)

Mary Beth thanked our Club for our on-going donations to LVCV noting that our support truly does make a difference. Mary Beth went on to share a number of success stories where young adults, who for a variety of reasons had struggled in the public school system, were able to earn their GED. They were then able to continue their education and eventually obtain employment.

For more information on LVCV, including the Mission Statement, Vision, and Core Values, go to [www.lvcv.org/Who%20We%20Are.htm](http://www.lvcv.org/Who%20We%20Are.htm).



**Mary Beth Kelley-Lowe** (right), Executive Director of LVCV, accepts a \$1,500 donation from Rotary Club president **Jacqe Lahn**

## Youth Rotars Honored

The March 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: **Mallory Bonstrom** (Memorial), **Nick Bohrer** (Memorial), **Mary Ostrowski** (Regis), **Nate Burian** (North), **Bethany Blount** (North), and **Avery Edson** (Altoona)