

The Rotary Gale

Report of the Galesburg Rotary Club meeting of May 6, 2010

TODAY'S LEADERS

Greeter:	Tom England
Cashier:	Tom Brown Sue Dutell
Pianist:	Joan Wenstrom
Invocation:	Fr. Deus
Introductions:	Steve Hawkinson
Presiding:	Linus VanderWyst

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- May 13 We will meet at Knox College to hear a report on this year's Senior Honors Program.
- May 20 Sam-O will tell us about her home in Thailand and about her year in Galesburg.
- May 27 The top ten Galesburg High School graduating seniors will be our guests.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

- Lance Aten's guest was Rotarian Donna Brand from San Antonio, TX. She represents Investment Centers of America. Donna's club has about 600 members.
- Doug Gibb introduced Sam-O and her host sister, Jacy Pieper.
- Chuck Schultz visited from Sunrise.

HAPPY BUCK ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tom England claims he has enough credit in his HB account to express his appreciation of the fact that Larry Miller was able to be here following a medical emergency.
- Dick promised Ruth Pecsai a trip to Las Vegas for her birthday. What he didn't tell her was that her family was going to be there, too.
- Lee Farrar has received a final report on a Rotary grant.
- Howard Tolley is pleased to be at Rotary on his 87th birthday. He's just trying to catch up with Bob Shafer.
- Barry Swanson offered \$5 in remembrance of his father-in-law, Homer Zumwalt.
- Harold Watters expressed appreciation to Nina Morlang for making two trips to Monmouth to pick up Sam-O from a RYE event.
- Denise Conway is embarking on a 30-hour fast with a group of junior and senior high school students from their church. The fasting is part of a fund-raiser for food relief at their church.
- Marv Dahlberg had some explaining to do when he told Nancy that he bought a boat on eBay and that it had to be picked up in Las Vegas.
- Chuck Farrar encouraged members to read his recent email about the club's new website now under development. Members are invited to enter a photo and personal information in a section that will eventually replace the printed roster.

Tom Foley is faced with the very difficult task of getting a new photograph for every member of the club for the new handbook. You may use a picture already in your possession, but Tom will need an email copy to use in printing the new book and for use on our new website now under construction. Please plan to take a few minutes to have your picture taken before or after one of the May meetings. Tom will be present at Knox next week.

TODAY'S PROGRAM



Lee Johnson has known Prof. Sue Hulett for 20 of the 30 years that she has been in Galesburg, as she has been active in the congregation at Bethel Baptist Church where Lee is the senior pastor. Hulett holds the distinguished chair of Richard P. and Sophia D. Henke Distinguished Professor of Political Science.

Prof. Hulett's topic today was "American Foreign Policy in the Age of Obama." Like a good professor, she began her discussion with a question. Is Obama an idealist, and if so, is it a problem? In this case she defined an idealist as one who believes that peace is the natural order of things. On the other hand, there are realists who believe that conflict is the natural order of the world. Politically, liberals have the notion of the nations of the world evolving toward nations living peacefully together as a group of democracies with fundamentally common interests. Such leaders tend to move away from the zero-sum game and seek an era of win-win. The present administration has pressed all of the reset buttons, and they plan to engage all parties to potential conflict, find their common interests, and seek solutions to all problems.

On the other hand, realists see that the world is full of diverging interests and that we are dealing with people who have strong nationalistic tendencies. There are other differences, too; for example, the Chinese view of capitalism is entirely different from the American view, and they are very nationalistic. Russia, too, is far from being a capitalist country and they are becoming quite nationalistic.

President Obama has worked hard to seek solutions to world and regional problems, but he has had no effect. Prof. Hulett expressed the hope that the administration will realize the realist principles and understand how clashing interests condition the options.

Why I am a Rotarian...

Our Dental Mission team was four and we traveled by dugout canoe on the Kruta River. We worked in two different villages from sunup to sundown. The line of patients never finished. Our working conditions were terrible. All of us were tired all the time but at the same time it was very satisfying, as what we were doing was certainly needed. When we returned to Puerto Limpura, a town of only perhaps 1500 and a dirt runway for our military C-47, I spent some time with the resident physician who while meeting with me was doing his required duty to his country. He was frankly not very interested in our work. Then I asked him while making polite conversation, "Do you have any Polio in Honduras"? "NO," he said, "we had a program called Polio Plus and now no more Polio -- It's wonderful."

I said, "I know Polio Plus because I am a Rotarian." This stranger of a few minutes ago, put his arm around me and with tears said, "Gracias mi Hermano." (Thank you my Brother.) This was one small, but profound moment for the Doctor and I. Yes, I now have a brother in Honduras because Rotary cares.

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