

The Rotary Gale

Report of the Galesburg Rotary Club meeting of May 27, 2010

TODAY'S LEADERS

Greeter:	Barry Swanson
Cashier:	Tom Brown Sue Dutell
Pianist:	Joan Wenstrom
Invocation:	Mike Clark
Song Leader:	Steve Cramer
Introductions:	Louise Wolf
Presiding:	Carl Strauch

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- June 3 Sue Dutell will speak about the Galesburg Fishing Derby.
- June 10 Tom England: Awards program
- June 17 Bill Brady and Jason Plummer, Republican candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor for the State of Illinois (Pending)
- June 24 Steve Cermak: USDA Crop Development
- July 1 Induction of new officers

VISITORS AND GUESTS

- Howard Tolley had three guests, his wife Marge, and Dick and Betty Yemm.
- Margo Davila introduced her guest, Katie Long, her niece and a high school honor student from Avon.
- Carl Strauch's guests today were Mike Steffen and his daughter, former RYE, Jackie.
- Visiting Rotarians included Susan Thompson, Sunrise, Harry Grossman, Sedona, AZ, and Jeff Applegate, Kewanee.
- Doug Gibb introduced Sam-O and her American little sister, Jenna Pieper.
- Other guests present were families of the GHS graduates being recognized today. Included in that group were: Tom and Monica Meredith, Valerie Meredith, Robert and Evelyn Meredith, Julie Nelson, Dawn Buelt, Doris Kowalski, Scott and Shuyen Shipplett, Greta Peters, Rick and Jamie Yemm, Sahri Sidi-Haj, Lorenzo Pugh, and Roxanna Sullivan.

HAPPY BUCK ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tom England had a good/bad announcement; sadly he missed the last two meetings, but that was also good, because he didn't have to serve as the club's whipping boy.
- Tom's absence was stated as the reason that Harry Bulkeley contributed a HB.
- Steve Jones announced the opening of a multi-media WWII display that will be available for public viewing at Knox College through commencement.
- Harry Grossman's friend's father died; you might recognize the father's name....Art Linkletter.
- Margo Davila announced that her guest has been accepted at the Air Force Academy.
- President Carl tried to call Dick Lindstrom out of order for speaking out about the results of three recent Iowa/Purdue baseball games.
- President Carl offered \$5 with the comment, "Five more weeks and I'm done."

It had been an exhilarating and exhausting Rotary year as District Governor. My husband Kirk and I were relaxing on the lanai, sharing another Hawaiian sunset, when out of the blue, he said, "You know, honey, statistics indicate I'll be gone before you. I used to worry. You think we're out of money when you're out of checks. You can't even set the VCR." We laughed. But there were tears in his eyes. "I used to worry," he said. "But I now know that you will never be alone. You always will have your Ohana of Rotarians, to care and be there for you."

In Hawaii, we call family Ohana. Rotary is like family. It is warmth in the cold, strength at weak moments, ethics in shady times. It is giving and forgiving. We do together, those things we cannot do alone. I may have joined Rotary for other reasons, but this glorious, worldwide Ohana...my home away from home...is why I remain.

Aloha,

Linda Coble, Rotary Club of Honolulu

TODAY'S PROGRAM

The top ten graduates from Galesburg High School introduced themselves at Rotary today and answered questions from Rotarians. Their answers revealed their appreciation for influential teachers who helped form their lives. One participant noted a kindergarten teacher had a long-lasting impact on his education. While each was able to name one person, most added comments about the many people who helped shape their lives. It was also noted that activities such as musical groups, language clubs, sports teams, and other activities were important in helping motivate students to keep up their attendance and grades. Activities also served to help students form social bonds. When students are accepted in a group they feel the need to perform in a responsible and mature way.

These top students are concerned about students who lose interest and drop out of school before graduating from high school. They noted that apathy sometimes starts to develop in the early years of a child's education, and apathy results in poor attendance and poor academic performance. Our guests appreciate that our educational system offers many second chances, and they are pleased that some are redirected through these efforts. These students expressed the hope that we find more ways to help kids to stay in school.



Jackie Steffen is pictured above with her father, Mike. She graduated from high school two years ago, but she didn't appear at Rotary as one of the GHS top ten graduates. That's because she graduated from the Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora, IL, the nation's only three year residential public high school for students talented in the fields of science and mathematics.

Jackie was our 2008-9 RYE outbound student. She spent the year in Peru. She was here last July to tell us about that experience. Today she agreed to comment on her first year of college at Stetson University in DeLand, FL, where she is currently in pre-med.

Jackie stated that her RYE experience had a huge impact on her college career. "It opened doors everywhere with opportunities exploding in my face, and they just kept opening." She thinks it's because the exchange student has to take care of herself and become very independent. Speaking to the Rotarians she said, "I want to thank you again and again for making me who I am."

Speaking to the students she challenged them to become a role model. "You have the power and authority to influence other students."

Share Rotary with a friend

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