

The Rotary Gale

Report of the Galesburg Rotary Club meeting of July 8, 2010

TODAY'S LEADERS

Greeter:	Larry Miller
Cashier:	Tom Brown Sue Dutell
Pianist:	Joan Wenstrom
Invocation:	Lee Johnson
Song Leaders:	Rick Brown Susan Meisinger
Introductions:	Chris Ryner
Presiding:	Linus Vander Wyst



Susan and Brian Meisinger are moving to Dallas, TX. Rick Brown expressed appreciation for Susan's assistance with Travelogue and other Rotary activities. She has been a member of the club for only five years, but she has contributed a lot to our club during that time.

Rick called the original "Brownette Girl," Rick's assistant song leader, to the podium to receive a few gifts to help her adjust to life in Texas. She now has a special Texas hat, a kerchief, and a round snuff box to carry in the back pocket of her jeans.

Rick presented a bouquet for her final appearance as a member of this club. Susan did promise to make a return visit—possibly as a visiting Rotarian.

Good luck, Susan

HAPPY BUCK ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Harry Bulkeley was speaking for our new club president when he quoted Gerald Ford as he began his new administration, "Now our long nightmare is over." Should Harry be fined \$5 for that comment?
- Lee Johnson had \$3 for HB: one dollar for his daughter who was married the 26th of June; the next dollar is for the birth of their 3rd grandchild; and the last dollar is a gift.
- Carl Strauch had \$5 for completion of his presidential duties—he's leaving on a 2-week mission trip.
- Susan Meisinger handed over \$2 to celebrate the first birthday of her twin boys.
- Marv Dahlberg mentioned something about the ranking of the Chicago Cubs.
- Chuck Bednar suggested to Gene Denisar and the school board that the high school tennis courts be named in honor of Art Fish, a popular long-time teacher at the school.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Darrell Lovell serves on a committee charged with creating a 20-year master plan for the maintenance of the schools and other facilities owned by District 205. They were given a goal that stated, "By July 1, 2011, have developed and begun implementation, subject to Board approval, a 20-Year Master Facility Plan scheduling the repair, replacement, retrofit, remodeling and/or new construction of district fields and facilities designed to improve student achievement and increase property values."

The first few months were used by the committee to assess the age and condition of all facilities including functional obsolescence. Darrell projected slides analyzing their findings for every property used by the District. As anticipated, their study showed that our buildings are old enough to have serious maintenance requirements, and they were not designed to be efficient for today's educational needs. Based on these findings, the committee recommended that we raise \$110-million to be used for construction projects over the next 20 years in order to bring our buildings up to the recommended level.

The plan hinges on the passage of the County School Facility Sales Tax, which would bump up the Knox County sales tax from 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent and the Galesburg sales tax from 7.5 percent to 8.5 percent. The sales tax increase must have the support of the school districts in Knox County to get on the November ballot. If the referendum doesn't pass, the alternative would be to raise property taxes to pay for renovations.

I would like to tell the story of the loss of four U.S. Army Military Chaplains when the Nazi's torpedoed the USAT Dorchester's and it went down in the North Atlantic on February 3, 1943. This story has been often repeated; it was featured on the Hallmark television channel and has been used by many to illustrate sacrifice in military service.

The Four Chaplains, seemingly, symbolically represented the religious faiths in the USA during WW II: Father John Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; two protestant clergy, Rev. Geo Fox, a Methodist clergyman, Rev. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister; and Rabbi Alexander Goode, a Jewish clergyman.

These men had been a constant source of encouragement during their voyage, but, will be forever remembered for their selfless acts of each giving up their life jackets to some young soldier as the ship was going down. Their final scene was witnessed and well documented by survivors - as they stood at the rail, arms locked together and praying and singing... and giving strength to each other for support. One survivor stated, "It was the finest thing I have ever seen this side of heaven."

This illustrates the ultimate of military service to fellow man and fulfills the Biblical injunction of "greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his brother." This also serves as an illustration of "Service Above Self"

You may not have known..... The Rabbi, Alexander Goode, was a Rotarian. That is true "Service Above Self"

Wm. E. (Bill) Ballou, PDG D5630, Nebraska

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- July 15 Don Moffitt
- July 22 Galesburg City Manager, Dane Bragg
- July 29 Mike Davison will present a program about Oak Run.

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