

The Rotary Gale

Report of the Galesburg Rotary Club meeting of July 15, 2010

TODAY'S LEADERS

Greeter:	Margo Davila
Cashier:	Tom Brown Sue Dutell
Pianist:	Joan Wenstrom
Invocation:	Fr. Deus
Song Leader:	Steve Cramer
Introductions:	Tom Maloney
Presiding:	Linus Vander Wyst



CLASSIFICATION TALK

Dick Dickson became a fan of the Detroit Tigers when his mother took him to a game in 1934, and he has enjoyed baseball ever since. Following high school, he spent some time in the Army and then moved on to graduate from Dartmouth College and their Amos Tuck School of Business. He married shortly after college and returned home to enter the banking business during Detroit's boom years. He came to Galesburg in 1983 to accept a position at First National Bank and Trust, retiring from there in 1990.

Dick is the father of 3 boys and a girl. All are located far from Galesburg: Detroit, New Jersey, Charlotte, NC, and Los Angeles. Dick has been a member of Rotary in Detroit, Canton, OH, and Galesburg, and his association with Rotary has been a great experience with many pleasant associations. It was through Rotary that he met Ruth Pecsí, and they now attend Rotary meetings and lots of ball games together.



Harold Pappmeier, a member of this club from 1950-2002, died in Florida on Tuesday, July 13, 2010. Bob Lindstrom reported Harold's death and noted his long service to our club. Bob commented that Harold may hold the attendance record for our club, not only for the length of time that he was a Rotarian, but also for the fact that he regularly attended every Rotary meeting of the Galesburg, Abingdon, and Monmouth clubs. He was an exemplary member and a loyal worker when assigned a task.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Don Moffitt has served 9 terms (18 years) as our representative in the Illinois State Legislature. Over the years he has appeared many times as our program to give us an update on the work of the legislature.

The spring session of the legislature was adjourned on May 27 to be at the call of the speaker. Don assumed that they would be called back, as they had not yet completed work on a budget. It now appears that the speaker has no intention of completing a legitimate budget. What was passed, over Don's negative vote, was spending authorization giving the governor unprecedented authorization to decide how the money will be spent. The constitution says that the legislature is supposed to do that. This is a cop-out that deprives the people of their representation. The spending authorization is based on trying to borrow more money, implementing fund transfers, and delaying payments even more. This will add to the already large deficit, and it ignores the \$6-billion backlog of unpaid bills.

The State of Illinois is in the worst financial condition we have ever seen. Blagojevich passed six \$1-billion deficits in a row in spite of the fact that the state constitution says, "Appropriations for the fiscal year shall not exceed the funds estimated to be available during that year." The balanced budget requirement has been ignored and challenged, and we find ourselves with a huge financial problem.

Don believes the State should have budget reform, a two-year increase in revenue with matching spending cuts, managed Medicare, eliminate senior free rides (Chicago area perk), submit to a forensic audit, and institute the recall of public officials. In addition Don recommends that we pass a fair map amendment to assure fair reapportionment of our representation. He thinks term limits for leadership positions, not membership, would be very helpful, and he wants to see the budget on display for at least a week.



"Shall we ever understand that the other fellow's necessities should have precedence over our luxuries, our absurdities? If so, then we shall attain the estate of the brotherhood of man."

Paul P. Harris, *The Rotarian*, February 1917, on the occasion of Rotary's 12th Anniversary

FUTURE PROGRAMS

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

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