

THE OPENER



Breakfast Rotary—Jefferson City, MO

www.jeffcityrotary.org

March 2003

Every Wednesday 7:00 a.m. Capitol Plaza Hotel 415 W. McCarty St. Jefferson City, MO

ROB'S RHETORIC

(WORDS FROM OUR ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT)



Congratulations! We raised \$3,635.00 for the Senior Nutrition Center and the Samaritan Center at our annual chicken dinner. Our leading ticket sellers were Nancy Gratz, Jo Moore, Ron Mudd and Bob Asahl. The Board has made contributions toward their Paul Harris Fellowships to honor their efforts. In the coming weeks, we plan to have representatives from our two beneficiaries join us at our weekly meeting to receive their respective donations.

Tony Shanley is in the process of rounding up a few volunteers for the fund-raising brunch that the Senior Nutrition Center is hosting on March 15, 2003. We need 7 or 8 volunteers to spend from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. helping clean up the Center after the brunch. Please let Tony know if you can help us with this new project on behalf of the Senior Nutrition Center.

David Luther's family has agreed to host Claudia during her final third of her year with us. In addition, we have been contacted about hosting an exchange student next year (currently a Brazilian boy and a Japanese girl are looking for a sponsoring club), so I am trying to get a "read" on who might be willing to serve as host families in our club next year. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the foreign exchange program or hosting an exchange student (more importantly, let me

now if you have an interest in doing so—PLEASE!!

Our club is sponsoring local JCHS sophomore Shelly Stewart's participation in RYLA (Rotary Youth Leading America) this June at William Jewell College in Liberty. In addition, the Board has agreed to sponsor Cathy Weiss in her desire to participate in the Rotary Cultural Exchange Program in a Spanish speaking country for six months. Cathy is currently a medical student at MU and is the daughter of local physician Jim Weiss. If anyone has any questions regarding either of these fine programs, please let me know.

I have had a couple inquiries regarding our inclement weather policy, so I will use this space to remind everyone that David Luther is our volunteer coordinator in case the club's President determines that a meeting should be canceled due to the weather. David has agreed to contact the local media if that decision must be made early on a Wednesday morning. Accordingly, if you have any question regarding whether our weekly meeting will occur, we will try our best to notify the local radio stations and television stations early enough to allow you to crawl back under the covers.

The District 6080 Conference will be held here in Jefferson City at the Capital Plaza Hotel on May 1-3, 2003. A golf tournament, a trivia night and the annual receptions and banquets will highlight this year's event in the Capital City. If you register and pay before March 31, 2003, you can save \$30.00 on the registration fees, so do not delay. District Governor Duane Benton assures me this event will be well worth the admission price—I hope to see you there!

Chicken Dinner Ticket Sellers

Nancy Gratz collected the most money for the Chicken Dinner (\$477), and the Club paid Rotary International \$250 toward a Paul Harris recognition in her name. **Jo Moore** was a close second at \$465. **Ron Mudd** (\$174) and **Bob Asahl** (\$160) were third and fourth place winners. The second through fourth place winners are each awarded \$50 credit toward Paul Harris recognition from the Club.

Rotary Programs for Young People

Since the 1920s, Rotary International has developed a number of programs designed to extend the reach of Rotary service and offer young people an opportunity to serve and promote international goodwill. Rotary youth exchanges began taking place informally in 1929 and became an official RI program in 1974. Since then, 7,000 high school students from around the world have traveled abroad each year under the auspices of the Youth Exchange program, staying with Rotarian volunteer host families. Exchanges can occur between any two countries in which Rotary clubs are active.

In the 1960s, Rotary launched two programs designed to help young people become more service-oriented. Interact began in 1962 as an international organization of service and social clubs for high school students that promotes international understanding and peace. Founded in 1968, Rotaract is a Rotary-club-sponsored service and leadership organization for men and women ages 18 to 30 that emphasizes the importance of individual responsibility as the basis for personal success and community involvement. In 1971, RI established the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program, which sponsors camps and seminars to help promising young leaders between the ages of 18 and 30 further develop their leadership skills.

Rotary Today and Tomorrow

In 1985, Rotary made a historic commitment to immunize all of the world's children against polio. Working in partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and national governments, Rotary is the largest private-sector contributor in the global polio eradication campaign. Through its PolioPlus program, Rotary raised more than US\$240 million and will have contributed half a billion dollars to the cause by 2005, the target date for certification of polio eradication and Rotary's centennial year. Rotarians have mobilized hundreds of thousands of **PolioPlus** volunteers to promote and carry out national immunization days in polio-endemic countries, resulting in the immunization of nearly two

March Programs

March 5th - Bob Jones,
Univ. of Mo Student-Athletes
(Introduced by Don Alberti)

March 12th - Pat Daly
G. M., Mid-Missouri Mavericks
(Introduced by Don Alberti)

March 19th - Jim Lowery
TBA

March 26th - Cathy Weiss
Medical student-future Rotary Scholar
(Introduced by Cathy Martin)

billion children worldwide.

Throughout the late 20th Century, Rotary International's service program has adapted to the times. Rotary began to address the pressing global issues of environmental degradation with the formation of the Preserve Planet Earth program in 1990. Other programs were formed to address illiteracy, drug abuse, and the needs of both an aging population and the increasing number of children at risk.

Reflecting society in 1905, the organization had been limited to male members and remained so officially until 1989, when the Council on Legislation, Rotary's parliament, voted to eliminate the male-only provision. Today, there are approximately 90,000 women Rotarians worldwide, many of them serving in leadership roles.

Rotary experienced a growth spurt in the early 1990s when it expanded into former Soviet bloc countries following the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union. Beginning in 1989, clubs in Central and Eastern Europe that had been disbanded for more than 50 years were re-established, and the first Russian Rotary club was chartered in 1990.

Nearly 100 years after Paul Harris and his colleagues chartered the club that would become Rotary International, Rotarians continue to take pride in their history. In honor of the club that first gathered in Room 711, Rotarians have preserved the room in an extensive re-creation of the office as it existed in 1905. For several years, the club maintained the room as a shrine for visiting Rotarians. In 1989, when the Unity Building was scheduled to be demolished, Rotary's 711 Club carefully dismantled the office, salvaging the original interior, including doors and radiators. In 1993, the Board of Directors of Rotary International set aside a permanent home for the restored Room 711 on the 16th floor of RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois.