



The Sower

Official Publication of
Lincoln South Rotary

Club #21799 - Chartered April 30, 1984



WEEK OF MAY 8, 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Please use the following link to find the most current message from President Jenny Cardwell:

<http://portal.clubrunner.ca/6040/>

CLUB SERVICE TEAM ON DUTY

Brad Carter
Bernie Poppe
Bob Vrana



HAPPY DOLLARS (For Polio Plus)

Brad Carter, Kay Wunderlich, Dick Morris, Bob Vrana, Bernie Poppe, Cheryl Brandenburgh, Lance Odom and Tom Cardwell.



Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Lt. Governor, Mike Foley, our speaker.

THE ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST OF THE THINGS WE THINK SAY OR DO:

- ◆ Is it the TRUTH ?
- ◆ Is it FAIR to all concerned ?
- ◆ Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS ?
- ◆ Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned ?



Notes & Announcements

- 5/15/15 Liz Koop—Education Quest Foundation
- 5/22/15 Pamela Dingman—Lancaster County Engineer
- 5/29/15 Allen Beermann—Former Secretary of State
- 6/5/15 Phil Tegeler—Current Trends in Substance Abuse in our Community

Events & Projects

- 6/6/15 Lincoln South Foundation International Dinner at the home of John Herdman
- 6/6-6/9/15 Rotary International Convention in Sao Paulo Brazil

**QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?
ARTICLES?**

**Contact Newsletter
Editor**

Judy Krasomil
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Kay Wunderlich presented the club a banner from a Rotary club in Austin Texas which she recently visited.

District Grants— the Board of Lincoln South Rotary again approved funds for a project this year. If approved, the District will match the funds 1 to 1. If anyone has suggestions or ideas for grant projects (can be a project of any amount up to \$3,000), contact Nicki Klein or Wayne Moore, who will be coordinating the District Grant process for the 2015-16 Rotary Year. In addition, for the 2014-15 Rotary Year, we are working with Southeast Community College to create a Veteran's Resource Center (we are providing computers and other room equipment) on their Lincoln campus.

Lincoln South Foundation Fundraiser—Mark your calendars for the annual Lincoln South Foundation Fundraiser. This year we will be having an international dinner at the home of John Herdman on June 6th. Each person is asked to bring a unique international dish. There will be a competition in each category of appetizer, soup & salad and main course. This fundraiser provides funds for the \$500 mini-grants.

Lincoln South Foundation Grants—Lance Odom announced that the LSR Foundation is currently accepting grant applications for a \$500 grant. Contact Lance if you know of any potential applicants or go to the website for a mini-grant application form.

New Meeting Site—Brad Carter announced that we are still actively looking for a new meeting site for our Friday meetings since the Knolls is closing in October. He has visited several potential sites so far and would welcome your ideas for potential meeting places.

Chris Dietz Reaches Next Level of Giving

Chris Dietz has reached a milestone in her giving to the Rotary International Foundation with a total of \$4,000. She will receive her recognition pin at a future meeting.

*Congratulations Chris and
Thanks for your Generosity!*

PLACES TO MAKE UP

Tuesday 7 a.m.—Sunrise Rotary at International House of Pancakes at 4501 North 27th (27th and Superior Ave.)

Tuesday Noon— Lincoln #14-Nebraska Club at 13th & M.

Wednesday Noon—Lincoln East at Valentinos at 70th & Van Dorn

PROGRAM

2014-2015 Club Goals

1. *Earn the Presidential Citation.*
2. *Attain & Maintain 55 total members.*
3. *Successfully utilize New Grant Program by submitting 1 District Grant and 1 Global Grant.*
4. *Increase \$ raised from Golf Tournament and Grocery Grab by 5% over prior year.*
5. *Increase Rotary Foundation giving to \$9,300 with 100% participation.*
6. *Continue to participate in End Polio Now giving at \$32/member level by using Happy \$ and participating in End Polio Now events.*
7. *Continue to have Club participation at District Level.*
8. *Host a Rotary Days event with other clubs in Lincoln.*
9. **HAVE FUN AS ROTARIANS IN SERVICE TOGETHER!**

May Birthdays

Craig Madson
Short Heinrichs
Jim Pattavina



We were fortunate to have Nebraska Lt. Governor Mike Foley as our speaker on Friday. Mike told the club that if you are a political junkie like him, Nebraska was a banner year in politics with a large number of offices coming up for election including, Governor, State Auditor (vacated by him when he ran for Governor), Attorney General (vacated by Jon Bruning to run for Senate), 1 US Senate seat and 1/3 of the unicameral.

He talked about the challenges facing the state that the new administration has identified. The biggest challenge is the high tax burden in Nebraska. Nebraska is 3rd behind California and New York in taxation of its citizens. This not only affects current residents but impedes our ability to attract new business to the state and to keep retirees here who are on limited incomes.

The mantra of Governor Ricketts is to "Grow Nebraska" and the first step is to ease the tax burden. This is not a quick process as tax levels have been building gradually over the years. One of the first solutions is to slow the rate of the growth of government and be more judicious with expenditures which will over time create room in the budget to decrease taxes. The major state agencies are not going away but can certainly be more efficient with their use of resources. In the last 2 years government expenses grew 6% per year and Governor Ricketts is asking to reduce that growth to 3.1% per year for the next biennial budget period.

He also talked about major challenges that they face in the Department of Corrections and Health and Human Services (HHS). They have done a national search and have hired new directors for both agen-



cies.

Scott Frakes, the new director of the Dept of Corrections is looking at sentencing reform which includes guidelines on who should be in a maximum security prison (which is the most expensive) and what are the appropriate ways to punish those who do not belong in maximum security.

HHS with a \$3.5 billion budget makes up 35-40% of the state budget. When Mike was State Auditor they found numerous problems there that need to be addressed. The child welfare system is in trouble and the foster care system is a mess. The State Auditor found that Federal \$ were not spent correctly in one of the HHS programs 3 years in a row and the State had to reimburse the Federal government each year. Courtney Phillips has been hired as the new director and they have also hired a new director to run the \$1.3 billion Medicaid program.

One of Mike's frustrations when he was State Auditor was that when they found issues in agencies they audited and presented their findings to the director of the agency, nothing was ever done to correct the problems. As State Auditor he could only report and had no enforcement powers to make sure changes were made. Governor Ricketts has hired a Chief Operating Officer for the state who will be charged with following up on all audit findings for all state agencies and making sure that the issues are resolved.

Mike closed by stating that Nebraska is well positioned to feed the world in terms of such areas as number of cattle on feed, water availability etc.

Rotary is on the Web!

Lincoln South-Meetings & Speakers

<http://portal.clubrunner.ca/6040/Speakers>

Lincoln South-Calendar of Events

<http://portal.clubrunner.ca/6040/Events/Calendar>

Rotary International— www.rotary.org

District 5650— www.rotarydistrict5650.org