



# The Sower

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Lincoln South Rotary

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WEEK OF OCTOBER 29, 2010

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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What strikes me about recent elections is the lack of civility between the members of the Republican and Democratic parties. It is a "give no quarter" attitude that apparently makes some candidates or office holders believe they will appear more strident in their convictions. They are often unwilling to change or even discuss change and... they typically attempt to "ride into office" on the "consistent sound bite of a message" that the other guy or gal was completely and unreservedly bad and he or she can do much better. They also like to denigrate elected officials by calling them "politicians" (as if being a politician is pejorative). I find this quite ironic since we often pride ourselves as being the democracy the rest of the world looks up to. Lest we have forgotten our whole system of governance is based on electing people to represent us.

What this cynical approach to democracy does is make people lose faith in government. They forget that our government is us. I am reminded of the truism that for every complex problem there is a simple solution and it is usually wrong. People need to learn to discuss complex issues in detail, be willing to admit errors of logic or a lack of all the facts and then look for areas of agreement rather than dismissing the other person as inconsequential or stupid. People also need to better inform themselves so they can make reasoned thoughtful decisions. Finally the public needs to hold elected officials to the same higher standard of conduct and reasoning.

Democracy is the best system of governance but it can still have a pretty poor result if people don't bother to inform themselves or participate actively and thoughtfully in their own governance. We complain about politicians pandering to people's prejudices and baser instincts but they do so because it works. It will only not work if we have an informed, active citizenry. To that I would add a bit of compassion. One important function of Rotary is holding members to high standards of personal conduct that people in our communities can look up to and emulate

Tom Cardwell

### HAPPY DOLLARS (For Emergency Relief)

Frosty Kritchfield, Scott Delisi, Roger Vicroy, Dick Wampler, Phil Maddern, Cathy Schultz and Jim Pattavina.



### CLUB SERVICE TEAM ON DUTY

Nicki Klein  
Jim Pattavina  
Joe Roberts



11/5/10 Dan Wherry, District Annual Giving Chair.  
"The Rotary Foundation."

11/12/10 2010 Group Study in Brazil— Pam  
Thompson Leader "GSE Team Experi-  
ence".

11/19/10 Brandon Davis, Ambassadorial Scholar  
"Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Experi-  
ence"

11/26/10 NO MEETING— Happy Thanksgiving.

### [Events & Projects](#)

NOV Foundation Month

12/11/10 Red Cross Appreciation Games, Men's  
game 1pm— Women's game 7 pm.

### PLACES TO MAKE UP

**Tuesday morning**—Sunrise Rotary at Inter-  
national House of Pancakes at 4501 North  
27th (27th and Superior Ave.) at 7:00 AM

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

**Wednesday 11:45 a.m.**—Lincoln East at  
Valentinos at 70<sup>th</sup> & Van Dorn

### Visiting Rotarians and Guests

*Rotarians*—Alan Hersch, Frosty Kritchfield, Lloyd  
Johnson, Greg Nielaus and Larry Byrnes from Club  
#14

*Guests*—Becky Ferrill and Dan Mechtenberg,  
guests of Mary Simmons.

## Notes & Announcements

**Nut Sales**—Dave Hilsabeck announced that the nuts will be arriv-  
ing next Friday so the sales can begin.

**Red Cross Appreciation Basketball Games**—The dates have  
been determined for the designated basketball games for Red Cross  
collections. Men's game; Saturday 12/11/10 at 1:00 pm against TCU  
Women's game; Saturday 12/11/10 at 7:00 pm against Northern Colo-  
rado. Sign up sheets will be available at future meetings.

**Wine Tasting**—Ardel Harger announce that the Foundation netted  
\$1,200 on the wine tasting held last Saturday night. Thanks to all  
who participated. *Pictures start on page 4*

### Lincoln South Rotary Clubrunner Links:

Meeting & speaker information:

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/CPrg/Home/speakers.asp?cid=6040>

Calendar of Events:

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/CPrg/Home/events.asp?cid=6040>

**Thanksgiving Cards for BobVrana:** The message below is  
from DeEtta Vrana:

*I just got an email from Bob and he was indicating how much  
he looks forward to mail. Excuse me for being a bit assertive  
but I am promoting a Thanksgiving Shower Card for Bob. If  
you are so inclined to do so, please send Thanksgiving Greet-  
ings to Bob at:*

*LTC Dale Vrana  
67th BFSB  
COB Adder  
APO, AEO9331*

*It takes about 7-10 days for him to get his mail.*

*Thank You for considering this request.*

*DeEtta*



### Rotary is on the Web!

Rotary International— [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)  
District 5650—[www.rotarydistrict5650.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5650.org)  
Lincoln South Rotary—

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/CPrg/Home/homeS.asp?cid=6040>

**PROGRAM**

**2010-2011 Club Goals**

1. *Club Strength– Leave the club better than when I took office.*
2. *Club Growth– Attain and maintain membership of 55.*
3. *Support Polio Eradication.*
4. *Support critical project in one of 3 areas; Health & Hunger, Water or Literacy.*
5. *Maintain 100% sustaining membership in the Rotary Foundation.*
6. *Achieve the Presidential Citation*
7. **HAVE FUN!**

Friday was our second annual business networking day at Lincoln South. Black Hills Energy graciously agreed to host the club and provided delicious food for the meeting. Thanks to Lincoln South members Mary Simmons and Jane Krenke who organized another successful event.

Larry Byrnes who is the Operations manager at Black Hills Energy was our speaker for the day and spoke to the club about the company. The Black Hills footprint includes natural gas production, coal mines, oil production, energy marketing, natural gas utilities and electric utilities. Black Hills has 197,000 customers in 106 communities in the state. There are 475 employees domiciled in Nebraska and Lincoln and Omaha both house some of the corporate functions of the company.

Program services in the Lincoln area include local distribution services, appliance tech services and automated meter reading. There are 4 regions in Nebraska, North-Columbus and Norfolk, Omaha metro, Lincoln and South-Beatrice. The Lincoln region covers Lancaster, Cass and Otoe counties where 64 employees cover 13 communities with 97,000 customers.



Some of the major projects in recent years in the Lincoln region include automated meter reading in 12 communities and steel and copper service line replacement totaling 1,000 service lines/year in the last 5 years. The lines are replaced with a polyethylene plastic line which is smaller than the steel & copper lines and fits inside the lines. This avoids having to dig up the original line and disrupt proper-

ties.

One new project that is very exciting is the implementation of the SCADA system which is an automated data acquisition system that records pressures around the city and provides real time data 24/7. The system is currently available in limited areas throughout the city.

Some of the future plans include expanding the automated meter reading system to commercial customers, implementing GE Smallworld Office Suites which is a GIS mapping system, and expanding SCADA throughout Lincoln.

Larry closed by stating sharing the vision and mission of Black Hills Energy :

Vision– Be the Energy Partner of Choice.  
Mission-Improving Life with Energy.

**QUESTIONS?  
COMMENTS?  
ARTICLES?**

**Contact Newsletter  
Editor**

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### CHRIS DIETZ GRADUATES FROM RLI

Chris Dietz Graduated from Rotary Leadership Institute on October 23, 2010. There were 10 graduates from clubs around the District. Rotary Leadership Institute is an educational experience open to all Rotarians. Lincoln South Rotary Club has made a commitment to our members and will pay the registration fee for anyone wishing to participate. To graduate, you must attend 3 different sessions - on Saturdays. The days are full of activities and networking that are guaranteed to enhance your Rotary experience. The next RLI session is March 19, 2011. If you are interested in starting through the program, please contact Tom Cardwell or Nicki Klein.



Other Lincoln South Rotary Club Members to graduate from RLI include Carl Zeutzius, Sandy Taylor, Pat Grewe and Tom Cardwell.

*Congratulations, Chris!*

### WINE TASTING PICTURES



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