November 8, 2012

Editors: Tammy Broderick and

Char Luttrell

Meeting Thursdays

at Noon at the

Holiday Inn

Near the University of Michigan

Service Above Self

RCAAN Board

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Ronald McDonald House Dinner

Our next Ronald McDonald House dinner is Saturday, November 10. We are looking for someone to bring vegetable dishes. Servers are to be there at 4:30 – 5 p.m., for dinner at 6 p.m. Rotarians who are not serving are welcome to have dinner with us. (Brigitte Romero said she will not be able to come to this dinner, so she has deputized her husband Mario to run the show.)

B.A.B.E.S.

Char Luttrell blasted Bryan and Laura Schindel’s wedding anniversary (Nov 11). Congratulations!

50/50

Larry Crockett sold today’s winning ticket to Gail Scott.

Kelly to Speak at Lakes Rotary

Our own Kelly Mendenhall will be speaking on “Diversity in Rotary” at the Lakes Area Rotary Club. She invited us to join her.

Chore Day a Success

President-Elect Keith Krings reported on last Saturday’s Chore Day, sponsored by Neighborhood Senior Services. The event was well-organized by John Arenz and our contingent of 17 Rotarians and friends made quick work of raking and bagging the leaves at our assigned houses. Thanks to all who made the day a success!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Nov 15 The Nicaragua Project

 Cultural Exchange Center and

 Ecolodge

Nov 22 Thanksgiving – no meeting

Nov 29 Erin Mattimoe

 A2eithics.com

Veterans’ Day is Sunday

Did you vote? If you did, thank a vet!

Sign Up for Meeting Duties

Don Patterson circulated sign-up sheets for greeters for the next three months. Thanks for keeping us organized, Don!

Guests and Visiting Rotarians

Tammy Broderick introduced our guests: Brad Bowersox (Downtown Rotary), Dick Rosenfield (Jackson Rotary) and our speaker, Gregory Ewing.

Quote of the Week

Kelly won candy (not eggs!) for correctly identifying this week’s web site quote.

PROGRAM RECAP

*Kelly Mendenhall introduced our speaker, Gregory Ewing, an engineering senior at the University of Michigan. Greg has been involved with the Pantanal Partnership in Brazil since his freshman year.*

The Pantanal (literally “the swamp”) is the world’s largest flood plain, stretching across Brazil. Bolivia and Paraguay. It is home to hundreds of plant and animal species, including the world’s largest rodent. The economic drivers are the fishing and cattle industries and eco-tourism. The people who live in the Pantanal are in a political limbo; no state wants to take care of them.

The Pantanal Partnership began when a U-M student visited the region as an eco-tourist and returned with fellow students to engage the local residents to improve their surroundings while maintaining their ancestral homes.

In 2010, the partnership built a research center. In 2011, the group built a bio-digester to turn cattle waste products into methane gas. That year, the team also installed bio-sand filters at the research center, producing clean drinking water.

Last year, the group was able to expand the bio-sand filter program to other schools and to use the project to teach biology, chemistry and English. When the children saw micro-organisms under a microscope, they began to grasp the idea of particles in the water that were too small to be seen by the eye. Until then, they had had no understanding of the necessity for clean water.

The U-M students also worked on a water tower, which enabled a wi-fi connection so that Pantanal residents can access medical help.

Some students are even learning how to play the stringed instruments that a Rotary Club had provided for their school, now that they have a music teacher from the University of Michigan. Greg ended his presentation by playing a short video of Pantanal students performing “Hail to the Victors” on violin!

Songs and Invocation

Scott Nelson led us in singing “America,” ‘Hail, Hail, the Gang’s All Here,” and “Happy Days are Here Again.” Bryan offered today’s invocation, asking for relief for those suffering the after-effects of Superstorm Sandy and yesterday’s snowstorm in the Northeast.

HAPPY DOLLARS

Manish Mehta Manish’s mom is celebrating her 77th birthday. The family organized a conference call to send her happy birthday wishes.

Gail Scott is happy that the elections are finally over and happy to have won our 50/50 drawing this week.

Char Luttrell remembered her mom, who was an election worker when John F. Kennedy defeated Richard Nixon for the presidency, in the days of hand counting paper ballots. Thanks to all the dedicated election workers!

Jeff Crause offered a cycling update: Wiggins was injured when he collided with a truck and Armstrong has to pay back his Tour de France winnings.