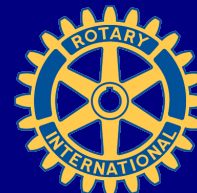


Issue No 2 Aug
2015-2016 Rotary year

Stephenville, Texas
Cowboy Capital of the World

Stephenville Rotary News



The 100% Club for July

Gene Atkinson
Jim Choate
Bob Collins
Bob Cranford
Matt Hallgarth
Debbie Hummel
Joe McFarland
Moumin Quazi
Richard Sanders
Burton Smith
Vernon Sweeney

Published Monthly by the Stephenville Rotary Club, Jim Choate, Editor

New Officers Sworn In For 2015-2016 Rotary Year



District Governor Troy Secord (right) presides over the Installation of Stephenville Rotary Club Officers for 2015-2016. From left to right: Carrie Pack—Secretary, Richard Sanders—Foundation Chair, Jim Choate—Treasurer, Matt Hallgarth — Vice President, Jerry Lee —President-Elect, and Debbie Hummel — President.

Intl Pres: K. R. Ravindran
Dist Gov: Troy Secord
President: Debbie Hummel
Pres Elect: Jerry Lee
Sec: Joe McFarland
Treas: Jim Choate



As is the custom, the Stephenville and Dublin Rotary Clubs held a joint installation ceremony in the Rotary Building in Dublin. District Governor Troy Secord was the honored guest and presided over the swearing in ceremony. During the ceremony, several Stephenville Rotarians were honored for their contributions during the year.

For his work with the Rotary Foundation and in obtaining a grant to provide bottled water for our local firemen, Richard Sanders was named the Rotarian of the Year. Richard has been a member of the Stephenville Club for about three years now and has made an real impact with his work with the Foundation.

Numerous Presidential Citations for meritorious service were presented to other members including Gene Atkinson, Joe McFarland, Jim Choate, Rosemary Nagle, Jerry Lee, and Debbie Hummel.



Outgoing President Moumin Quazi putting together a few final thoughts on his year as President.

The ceremony was a celebration of Rotary and the good works that Rotarians have performed for over a century now. Many thanks to the Dublin Club for hosting the event. Great food! Great fellowship!

Happy Birthday!!

Vernon Sweeney	Aug 27
Dave Dickerson	Aug 31
Barack Obama	Aug 4
Bill Clinton	Aug 19
Lyndon Johnson	Aug 27



Defense Attorney Shay Isham speaks to the Club about his job in defending Eddie Ray Routh, the killer of Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield.

During a recent noon luncheon, Shay Isham, Stephenville resident and lead attorney for Eddie Ray Routh, talked about his experience defending the accused killer of Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield. The case drew national attention, because of Kyle's heroic actions during four tours of duty in Iraq. His autobiography, *American Sniper* was playing at movie theaters across the country during the trial.

In his talk, Isham made it clear that it was not his choice to take the job defending Routh. Even though he immediately started receiving hate mail and harassing E-mails, he could not refuse to take this case since District Judge Cashion had ordered it. His job as an attorney was to present a vigorous defense and see that the accused received a fair trial.

According to Isham, the facts were not in dispute. The accused did in fact kill both Chad Littlefield and Chris Kyle by shooting them at the Rough Creek Firing Range. Then he left the scene fleeing to his home in Lancaster. The only defense available was that Eddie Ray was so mentally ill that he did not know right from wrong. According to several expert witnesses Eddie Ray suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and paranoia partially induced by drug and alcohol use. Even the victims recognized that Eddie Ray was mentally ill when on the way to the range Kyle texted to Littlefield that "this dude is straight-up nuts." The prosecuting attorneys argued that Eddie Ray was not so insane that he did not know right from wrong as evidenced by his fleeing the scene.

The accused fled the scene in Kyle's pickup truck and returned to his home in Lancaster. He even called his sister and told her about the shooting and that he was sorry for his actions. Eddie Ray was apprehended after a high speed chase along a highway in the DFW metroplex.

Isham praised Judge Cashion for "not seeking the death penalty" for Eddie Ray. Seeking life without parole greatly reduces the chance for appeal and in the long run is less expensive than the death penalty. According to Isham the case does not contain disputed facts for which defense attorneys could base an appeal. The jury took about three hours of deliberation to render a guilty verdict. According to Isham justice was served.



Rotarian Joe McFarland receives a President's Citation for Exceptional Service as Club Secretary.



Rotarian Richard Sanders receives the Outstanding Rotarian of the Year and Paul Harris Award from Outgoing President Quazi.

Dublin Head Coach Bob Cervetto Speaks to the Club

Head Football Coach and Athletic Director at Dublin High School Bob Cervetto spoke at our July 16 noon luncheon. Although he coached in Stephenville prior to his appointment as Athletic Director at Dublin, his talk centered around his experience in Dublin.

He talked about building the Lions football program from a record of 1-9 in 2011 to a 7-5 record in 2014. According to Coach Cervetto, building a winning athletic program requires three basic elements:

Establishing a work ethic

Changing the culture

Establishing a sense of worth

Coach Cervetto relayed a story of how he had to go knocking on doors to recruit kids to play football during his first year at Dublin. Getting kids to volunteer to work hard is not an easy task. Changing the culture from *accepting mediocrity* to one of *expecting excellence* requires work by the coaching staff and the kids. Hard work is a major ingredient to changing the culture and establishing a sense of worth.

Coach Cervetto closed by talking about the importance of hope and enthusiasm. "Watching our kids succeed in athletic events builds hope and enthusiasm in the entire community. According to Coach Cervetto, "I have been blest to work with kids and **it is all about kids**". Thanks to Coach Cervetto for a great program!



Head Coach and Athletic Director at Dublin High School Bob Cervetto answers questions at a recent Rotary luncheon.

Erath County Veteran's Advocacy Officer Tammy Barker spoke to the Club on our last July luncheon. Tammy's message to the veterans in Erath County is to come to her office and at least register for the services offered by the VA. According to Tammy there are 2,200 veterans in Erath County and approximately 500 have registered for the available services. "In a time when Congress is looking to cut expenses, they look to cut under used services. Use your Advocacy Office or lose it." Veterans contact Tammy at erathvet@co.erath.tx.us.



Kim Afeman, Project Graduation Chair, spoke to the Club about plans for the 2016 Project Graduation program.

Kim Afeman, Director for Project Graduation, spoke to the Club about the plans now underway for the 2015 -2016 Stephenville program. According to Afeman, the program is an organized adult supervised alcohol and drug free activity as a part of a post graduation party. Events often last thru the night and are held in high school gyms or community centers. It is offered as an alternative to student run events which sometime involve alcohol, drugs, and driving. Students are checked for alcohol or illicit drugs before entry and are carefully monitored.

Project Graduation started in Maine in 1980 and by 1983 the success of the program resulted in no alcohol related highway deaths during the period May 15 to June 20. Even though there were 86 schools participating by 1983.

According to Afeman, Stephenville has held a project graduation since 1990. Currently the participation rate is 75-80% of the graduating seniors. According to Afeman, the program is working and if one student accidental death from drinking or drugs is prevented, it is worth the effort.

Great program for Rotary involvement!!