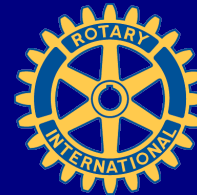


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Stephenville, Texas  
Cowboy Capital of the World

# Stephenville Rotary News



## The 100% Club for Jan

Gene Atkinson

T Lindsay Baker

Bob Collins

Bob Cranford

Jerry Lee

Joe McFarland

Rosemary Nagle

Richard Sanders

Burton Smith

Intl Pres: Gary C. K. Huang

Dist Governor: Larry Petrash

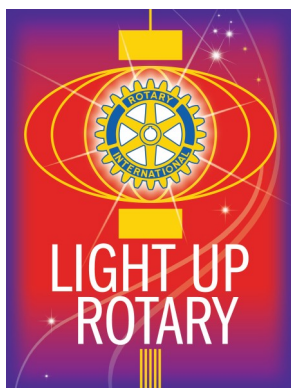
President: Moumin Quazi

Pres Elect: Deborah Hummel

Vice Pres : Jerry Lee

Sec : Joe McFarland

Treas: Jim Choate



## Happy Birthday!!

Steve Fambrough Feb 22

Curt Norman Feb 25

Ronald Reagan Feb 6

Abe Lincoln Feb 12

Geo Washington Feb 22

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## Club Hears From Water Conservation District

If you have lived in Texas for any time, you have heard about drought and the need to conserve water. The Club recently heard a program from Joe Cooper, General Manager of the Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (MTGCD) concerning water and the need to conserve our available natural water.

There are 98 groundwater conservation districts in Texas. The first district was created in the Texas Panhandle in 1951. MTGCD was created by the voters Erath and Comanche counties when they voted to approve and fund the District by levying a 1 3/4 cent tax per \$100 of property value in 2002. In 2009, Bosque and Coryell Counties were added to the District.

The mission of the MTGCD is to conserve, preserve, and protect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources for the citizens of the District.

According to Cooper, Texas is gaining population at 2.1% per annum, second in nation, and second in the nation with 25.7 million citizens (as of July, 2011). With this increase, demand for quantity and quality of water will increase. He also predicts that there will be more rationing and the cost of water will increase.

Initiatives such as rationing, recycling, and rainfall harvesting will become more prevalent as demands on water increase.

This sounds like an area where Rotary could play a role. For more information, go to: [www.middletrinitygcd.org](http://www.middletrinitygcd.org).

Trent Tidwell, First Financial Bank, presented a program to the Club about the latest scams used by potential swindlers and con artists. Although anyone could be the victim of a fraud, victims



MTGCD General Manager Joe Cooper speaks to the Club about water conservation.



Trent Tidwell, First Financial Bank presented a program on financial exploitation.

are usually chosen from the less sophisticated older or less observant younger population. (cont. p2)

(Cont. from pg 1) According to Tidwell, technology including the internet has made it easier for the potential con artist to collect information about victim's personal and financial circumstances. With sophisticated scanners and printers negotiable documents can be counterfeited. Even credit and debit cards can be copied.

During his presentation, Tidwell recommended that any personal and financial documents should be shredded. Extra credit and debit cards should also be destroyed. Computer passwords and individual ID numbers should be kept in a safe or other secure location. Finally, before you give any personal or financial information over the phone, you should make sure that you know who you are talking to. This means that you should initiate the call.

In closing, Tidwell reiterated that First Financial Bank would not initiate any call asking that you give personal or financial data to them.

Good advice to all Rotarians. Thanks for a good Program.



**Rotarian Betty Bengo Serunjoji, Founder and President of Malaika Orphanage Children Foundation spoke at a recent noon luncheon.**

During a recent noon luncheon, Rotarian Betty Serunjoji spoke to the Club about the Malaika orphanage her foundation helps to support in Kampala, Uganda. According to Betty, the orphanage now houses 210 orphans from the surrounding area. These orphans have been abandoned by parents who are too poor to provide shelter, food, and education for them. Many of the children are infected with HIV and may not live to adulthood.

The orphanage is located in Uganda which lies near the center of the African continent. Kenya lies to the east and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west. Uganda is one of the poorest countries on the poorest continent.

The mission of Malaika Orphanage is to develop, support, and educate underserved populations by providing them with the tools that contribute to their health and well being and to help them thrive and lead health lives.

Betty is the first to admit that there are more orphans than the orphanage can handle. "We're not perfect, but we want to do the right thing."

Thanks Betty for a good program that points out human needs. Rotarians around the world should rally to this cause.



**Pictures of some of the orphans at Malaika in Kampala, Uganda.**



**Our First Flag Posting For 2015 is Coming !  
Presidents' Day, Monday, February 16!**





## Club Continues to Support our Firemen

The Club continues to support our local firemen. In addition to the \$2,500 District Grant to supply water to our local firemen, club members continue to donate bottled water to be used during fire fighting deployments. This water will be used to keep the firemen hydrated during strenuous fire fighting.

Congratulations to Rotarian Richard Sanders who lead the initiative to apply for the grant. Double kudos to Rotarian Rosemary Nagle for leading the collection and delivery of donated water to the area fire stations. And a big **Thank You!** to all club members who donated water. Another example of Rotarians doing the good work of Rotary.



Rotarians Gene Atkinson (right) and Rosemary Nagle deliver water to Stephenville Firestation 2.

## Valentine's Day -2015

The origins of Valentine's Day go back to the time of the Roman Empire. Two Catholic priests, Valentine of Rome and Valentine of Terni, were leaders who stood up for their religious beliefs and were subsequently persecuted and martyred by Roman officials. The exact date of their executions is questionable, but early records indicated their deaths were in February, although some 200 years apart.

February 14 is celebrated as St. Valentine's Day in various Christian Churches including the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran, and the Catholic Church. However in the 1964 revision of the Roman Catholic Calendar, the Feast Day of St. Valentine's was removed from the General Roman Calendar.

There is no evidence of a link between St Valentine's Day and any romantic connotations until Geoffrey Chaucer's poetry about Valentines in the 14th century. The first recorded association of Valentine's Day and romantic love was in *Parliament of Foules* (1382) when he wrote: "For this was on St. Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate."

John Donne, English Poet and Cleric in the Church of England used the marriage of birds as a starting point for his poem celebrating the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter of James I of England on Valentine's Day.

In the US, the first mass-manufactured valentines were produced and sold around 1847 by Esther Howland of Massachusetts. This 19th century Valentine's Day trade was a harbinger of further commercialized holidays to follow. In the last half of the 20th century, the practice of exchanging cards was extended to all kinds of gifts, including flowers, chocolates, and jewelry.

The US Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately 190 million valentines are sent each year in the US. Half are given to family other than a wife or husband usually to children. The average spending for Valentine's Day has increased every year from \$108 a person in 2010 to \$131 in 2013.

The rise of Internet popularity is creating new traditions. Millions of people, every year, use digital means of creating and sending Valentine's Day greeting messages such e-cards, love coupons or printable greeting cards.

With the exception of a few countries, Valentine's Day is celebrated in most countries around the world. Rotarians everywhere should join in this celebration. Isn't our motto of *Service above Self* a manifestation of love?



**Happy Valentine's Day!**  
**Celebrate Life and Love!**