

# Stephenville Rotary News



## The 100% Club for Jan

Gene Atkinson  
Lindsay Baker  
Jim Choate  
Bob Collins  
Joe McFarland  
Rosemary Nagle  
C. J. Prater  
Burton Smith  
Steve Trogdon  
Vernon Sweeney

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

## Club Hears From TxDOT Engineer

David Fowler, Engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation, provided the program during a recent luncheon meeting. David is responsible for the state roads and highways for the three county area of Erath, Hood, and Somervell Counties within the Fort Worth District. His presentation covered two topics.

His first topic was safety which is the number one goal of TxDOT. According to Fowler, of the 3,541 fatalities over the last year, over 75% could have been avoided if drivers would:

- Wear their Seat Belt
- Not Drink and Drive
- Not Drive while Distracted

He specifically emphasized distractions such as driving while talking or texting on the cell phone.

In his second topic, David mentioned the major projects within his tri-county area which include improvements to Highway 281 from the northern Erath County line to Hico. Improvements include upgrade in design, high friction overlay, and improved pavement markings. He also mentioned centerline texturing to alert the driver when their car crosses the highway centerline.

For more information on construction projects, go to: [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov).



David Fowler, Engineer with TxDOT speaks about highway projects and safety during a recent meeting.



Dr. Romeo Bachand talks about Rotary sponsorship of a diabetes clinic in Haiti. Dr. Bachand is the medical director of Ruth's Place Clinic and a Rotarian in Granbury.



Be a gift to the world

## Happy Birthday!!

Steve Fambrough Feb 22  
Curt Norman Feb 25  
Abe Lincoln Feb 12  
Geo Washington Feb 22

## Club Honors January Student of the Month

During our last noon meeting in January, the club honored Hayden Bernays as our Student of the Month. Hayden has sustained a 90% plus average in all of his academic school work. As a result he is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars.

His school activities include playing in the Yellow Jacket marching band where he has served as the trumpet section leader for the past two years. He has also been selected for the All Region Band for two years and the All State band one year. He also plays in the Jazz Band where he has been a three year member of the All Region Jazz Band.

Hayden is a dedicated member of his Church where every summer he travels to Houston to work on a Vacation Bible School for disadvantaged inner city youths.

After graduation from High School, he plans on attending the University of North Texas where he will major in music education with the ultimate goal of becoming the director of a high school band.



Pictured from left to right SHS Student Counselor Kristi Adams, Hayden, his mom Jerri, and past club president Moumin Quazi.

According to Adjutant Roger Easter, the American Legion was founded by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, the Legion grew from a group of war weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States.

Membership grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments—one each for the 50 states, with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Phillipines. The American Legion has influenced considerable legislation affecting veterans, promoting Americanism, and supporting programs for children and youth.

Founded in 1920, the Stephenville American Legion Post was named Ammon Turnbow Post 240. It was named after Ammon Turnbow, a Marine who was killed in action during the Meuse-Argonne battle, the last great battle of World War I. He was a former student at John Tarleton College.

In July 1947, the Post name was changed to Turnbow-Higgs Post 240. This was in honor of all servicemen killed in WWII and specifically for John Fielding Higgs. John graduated from Stephenville High School and Tarleton College. He was a student at the University of Texas when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. A B-17 Bomber pilot, he was killed on a mission over Germany and was buried in France. His body was later returned to Stephenville for reburial.

The Legion's first meeting place was in the King and Neblett building located at the corner of Washington and Belknap.

In the 1930's the membership voted to have their own building and ground breaking began in September 1938. The building was completed in 1940. Total cash outlay for the building was approximately \$6,500 with land and labor donated.

Easter reiterated It does not matter, where they meet or their history, the American Legion will always be about helping veterans, promoting Americanism, and supporting our youth.



Roger Easter, Adjutant for the American Legion Turnbow-Higgs Post 240, speaks to the Club about the Stephenville Post.



Lisa LaTouche, Head Librarian for the Stephenville Public Library recently presented a program at a January noon luncheon. Lisa reported that the library has approximately 35,000 materials including books, large print books, CDs, and magazines for citizens to use. It also has 3,500 DVDs available for checkout. In addition the library has a section dedicated to children.

The library occupies a 5,000 square foot building at 174 North Columbia. This location is the site of the log cabin where Major Erath lived while laying out the City of Stephenville.

Library cards are free for city residents and are \$15.00 for out of town residents. Fees are waived for teachers, students, home schoolers, and those in financial need.

According to Lisa, the library has a continuing shortfall in funding received from the city. Competing needs for other agencies within the city budget has only allowed the Library to operate at a subsistence level. By comparison the library operates on about \$225,000 while other towns comparable in size to Stephenville average about \$450 - \$500,000. Austere funding has not allowed the Library to purchase any contemporary books specifically in the adult non-fiction area.

To generate additional funding and provide added support, *Friends of the Library* was organized in 2000. *Friends* is comprised of individuals, businesses, and organizations with a mutual goal of support for the library. Money from *Friends* events help support library activities and services not covered by public funding.

Lisa concluded her program by urging all Rotarians to get involved and support the library by using its services and supporting it thru contributions and volunteering your time.

Our thanks to Lisa for all she does for the library and for bringing this program to the Club. This sounds like a project for Rotarians as a part of the literacy initiative.

Congratulations to Rotarian Bob Cranford for winning the card lottery! The jackpot for this drawing had grown to \$350. Bob had to draw the Ace of Spades from a dwindling deck of approximately 30 cards. Tickets are \$1 for a chance to win a jackpot. Two out of every three dollars members spend on the lottery goes to supporting our Leaders of Tomorrow scholarship fund. Congratulations to Bob!!!!



Lisa LaTouche, Stephenville Public Library Head emphasizing a point at a recent program she presented to the club.



Rotarian Bob Cranford shows the Ace of Spades, the winning card for all the "marbles". He won \$350 which will most likely be spent on a new hunting rifle.



**Don't Forget! We will be Posting Flags on President's Day, Monday, February 15!**

