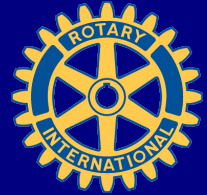


Issue 11 May
2015-2016 Rotary Year

Stephenville, Texas
Cowboy Capital of the World

Stephenville Rotary News



The 100% Club for March

Gene Atkinson
Jim Choate
Bob Collins
Bob Cranford
Debbie Hummel
Joe McFarland
Rosemary Nagle
Richard Petronis
CJ Prater
Moumin Quazi
Richard Sanders
Keith Stripling

Intl Pres: K. R. Ravindran
Dist Gov: Troy Secord
President: Debbie Hummel
Pres Elect: Jerry Lee
Vice Pres: Matt Hallgarth
Sec: Carrie Pack
Treas: Jim Choate



Happy Birthday!!

May 4 Rosemary Nagle

May 4 Kristi Adams

May 12 Ken Jones

May 8 Harry Truman

Published Monthly by the Stephenville Rotary Club, Jim Choate Editor

Club Hears from Agriculture County Director

During a recent luncheon, Rotarians had the opportunity to hear County Executive Director Rusty Rose speak about the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the provisions of the 2014 farm bill. Rusty is responsible for administering Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs in five counties including Palo Pinto, Erath, Parker, Hood, and Somerville.

The Department of Agriculture is responsible for developing and executing federal policy on farming, agriculture, forestry, and foods. On May 15, 1862, President Lincoln established the independent Department of Agriculture without Cabinet status. President Cleveland actually signed the bill into law elevating the Department of Agriculture to a Cabinet level position.

The "great depression" and the "dust bowl" highlighted the need for USDA. It was crucial to providing affected citizens with the assistance that they needed to make it through a very difficult period in American history. During the 1930's approximately half of Americans were involved in agriculture production. Today less than 2% of the workforce is involved with food production.

One third of the agriculture production in the US is sold overseas thereby alleviating our negative trade balances. USDA also plays a role in overseas aid programs by providing surplus foods to developing countries.

USDA maybe the most productive cabinet level department in the Federal government in terms of dollars spent measured against results achieved.

Dr. Nathaniel Cogley recently spoke to the Club about his seven years traveling and teaching in the northwest area of the continent of Africa. Dr. Cogley spent time in the area following his graduation from San Francisco State University, then came back to the states to earn his Doctorate from Yale University. (Cont. Pg 3)



Rusty Rose, County Executive Director, spoke to the Club about the mission of the USDA.

USDA's total budget including a great number of social welfare provisions is 4% of the total federal budget with less than 1% directed towards the Farm Service Agency.

Thanks to Rusty for a most informative presentation on the USDA and the many programs which affect our daily lives.



Dr. Nathaniel Cogley spoke to the Club about the Northwest area of the African continent.



Pictured from left to right Max Sanderford, Student of the Month Brooke Sanderford, and SHS Student Counselor, Kristi Adams.

During a recent meeting, Brooke Sanderford was honored as our Student of the Month for April. Brooke has sustained an A average in her academic efforts throughout her four years in high school. For her efforts, She is a member of the National Honor Society (NHS). NHS is an organization that recognizes outstanding scholarly achievements across the nation. She was also recognized as the Outstanding Spanish Student during her freshman year and the Outstanding dual History Student during her junior year.

She is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes where she serves as the President. She is an active member of Student Council where she serves as Reporter and the Science Club where she serves secretary.

Brooke's activities outside the classroom include being selected as this year's Homecoming Queen and Senior Class favorite girl. She is also a member of the YellowJacket varsity soccer team and she competed as a member of the UIL journalism team.

In the community Brooke is a regular volunteer with the English as a Second Language classes and at the All Star League.

After graduation in May Brooke will attend Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas where she will pursue degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders and Spanish. Brooke is the daughter of proud parents, Max and Leah Sanderford.

Remember Monday Night May 2

Leaders of Tomorrow Banquet

Recognizing Outstanding Students!

City Limits Banquet Hall

7:00 PM



Rotarian Dr. Malcolm Cross spoke to the Club about the upcoming elections and the divisiveness of the parties.

Dr. Malcolm Cross, Professor of Political Science at Tarleton recently presented a program on the two party system, the 2016 elections, and the divisiveness within and between the two parties.

According Dr. Cross the Democratic party is the oldest party tracing its heritage to Thomas Jefferson's Democratic Republican party the modern day Democratic party was founded around 1828. Early on, the Democrats viewed their party as liberal and very pro-business with limitations on the federal government similar to the present day Republicans. During FDR's new deal, the business wing of the party withered and many southern democrats and northern Catholics moved to the Republican party. Today the Democratic party's philosophy advocates a strong central government, social and economic equality along with the welfare state. It pursues a mixed economy by providing government interventions, such as social programs, support for labor unions, universal health care, equal opportunity, consumer protection, and environmental protection.

The Republican party emerged in 1854 to combat the expansion of slavery and rose to prominence by electing Abraham Lincoln. The Republican party's platform includes support for free market capitalism, a strong national defense, deregulation, restrictions on labor unions, limited federal control, and traditional family values. Once dominant in the northeast, and midwest, party support now comes from the south and the mountain west, Catholics and Evangelicals.

According to Dr. Cross, Gerrymandering is a source of much of the strife between competing parties. Gerrymandering is the redrawing of electoral district lines to favor a particular party, or demographic such as political, ethnic, racial, religious. or class groups. Gerrymandering can also be used to protect incumbents. This practice has caused considerable angst between the two parties, a misrepresentation of (Cont pg 3)

(Cont from pg 2) voter demographic and inefficiencies within the voting system.

Dr. Cross also believes that modern day communication systems, such as live television, the internet and social programs have further magnified the tension among the political parties. "Politics is a lot more angry..."

When asked about the 2016 election, Dr. Cross predicted the likely candidates will be Hillary Clinton for the Democrats and Donald Trump for the Republicans, however he said that in January he would not have picked Donald Trump to be the Republican Presidential Candidate. "Things can change..."

"If Donald Trump is elected President, there will be profound changes in party politics affecting the way we select our candidates ..." He also predicted as many as four new appointments to the Supreme Court which could change the nature of rulings from SCOTUS for many years to come.

Thanks to Dr. Cross for an interesting and thought provoking non-political program on politics.

(Cont from pg 1) Following graduation from Yale in 2013, Dr Cogley returned to the area to Grand Bassam University, Cote d'Ivoire where he taught for two years. He returned in 2015 and is now an Assistant Professor at Tarleton State University.

West Africa is home to more than 1600 groups of people all with unique ethnic traits. The predominate religion in the area is Islam. Total population for the area is 340 million who identify as citizens of one of 18 countries that make up the area.

Following World War II, nationalist movements have realigned the independent countries and the area has been the stage for some of the most brutal civil wars including the Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970), the Ivorian Civil War (2002-2007), and the Sierra Leone Civil War (1991-2002).

According to Dr. Cogley, the past five five years has seen an increase in terrorist activity in this region with total deaths from attacks approaching a 100 and no records of the number of injuries. The area is ripe for greater terrorist activity.

Thanks to Dr. Cogley for an interesting program about a part of Africa which has been largely overlooked by the rest of the World.



Scholarship winners for the Rotary Study Overseas program for the 2016 Summer School include Adriana Rivas, Maria Chavez, Eloisa Bustamante, and Ana Bustamante



The Club's elite bowling team recently participated in the Erath County Big Brothers Big Sisters bowling competition. Although this group of champions, didn't win the competition, "Team Rotary" had a great time and the Club donated \$500 to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erath County. Pictured from left to right, Moumin, Matt, Richard, and CJ. Having fun in Rotary!

Stephenville Rotary Club

Financial Report to the Board

As of April 28, 2016

First Financial Bank (Operating Acct)	\$ 5,857.37
InterBank (Scholarship Acct)	\$18,252.08
Funds on Hand	<u>\$ 570.00</u>
Total Funds	<u>\$24,679.45</u>

These amounts were reported to the April 28 Board meeting .