



THE BARKER

ROTARY CLUB OF EDINA

April 17, 2014 Meeting Assignments

Greeters	Sonja Tengdin, Skip Thomas, & Sue Spalding
Front Desk	John Neve
Invocation	Michael Stanzak
Guest Introduction	John Flynn
Barker	Joel Jennings
Program Host	Keith Benson
Thank the Speaker	Sutton McGraw

Program: Greg Krauska of ShelterBox, "Beyond the Box: Delivering Shelter, Warmth, and Dignity"

Menu: Edina Rotary Big Buffet featuring a picnic theme—salads, grilled chicken, and burgers

Upcoming Events and Schedule

April 17	Committee sign-up for Edina Rotary Fundraiser Gala "Rendez-vous in Paris," Edina Country Club, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.
April 22	Leadership ethics seminar with Edina High School students at Church of St. Patrick, Edina, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
April 22	Fireside Chat hosted by Tom Ries, 7 to 9 p.m.
April 24	Vocational Ethics Day, Edina Country Club, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.
April 24	Fireside Chat hosted by Gordy Lewis, 7 to 9 p.m.
April 29	Fireside Chat hosted by Audri Schwarz, 7 to 9 p.m.
May 1	Fireside Chat hosted by Paul Mooty, 7 to 9 p.m.
May 2	District 5950 Annual Conference, Radisson Blu Hotel

Blue is for special Rotary Club of Edina events.

Purple is for District 5950 events.

Orange is for Rotary International events.

In Review

April 8, 2014

By Melinda Inman

This was our joint meeting with the Edina Morningside Rotary Club held at noon at the Edina Country Club. Club member **Barbara Born** handled the front desk. Edina Morningside Rotary President Mary Brindle opened the meeting and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. **President-Elect Jeff Ohe** led the members in a robust recitation of the Four-Way Test.

The following announcements were shared.

- The Edina Morningside Rotary Foundation Spring Plant Sale in partnership with Wagner Nursery and Greenhouses is now open. Contact Talley Flora at talley@redseat.com for more information or to place an order.
- Camp Enterprise Chair Tom Gump reminded members to volunteer for Camp E this fall. The committee is revising the Camp's logo and also reviewing "real" scenarios to use for the 2014 program.
- Edina Morningside Rotary member Shelia Carrington promoted the Club's May 9 Gala, "ABC...It's All About the Scholars," at Interlachen Country Club. For tickets contact Lori Anderson at 612-723-7050 or Sheila Carrington at 952-848-3101.

Edina Morningside Rotary new members Jeff McKeown and Julie Madison were inducted into membership.

Edina Mayor Jim Hovland, introduced the guest presenter, Katie Clark Sieben, Department of Employment and Economic Development commissioner. Clark Sieben is a resident of Edina and she was excited to be able to address both Edina Rotary clubs.

Clark Sieben opened her presentation with some outstanding positive remarks beginning with the fact that Minnesota's economy keeps getting better and better—for the first time in our state's history, total employment in December was over 2.8 million. January marked the sixth consecutive month of job gains in Minnesota, and our unemployment rate is steady at 4.8 percent—well below the national unemployment rate of 6.6 percent. Over the year job growth was over 52,000—

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Jennifer Garske, Club Administrator

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a 1.9 percent growth rate—faster than the U.S. growth of 1.8 percent. As a result of the growth, Minnesota officially regained 190,400 jobs since the low point of the recession and is now 31,400 jobs above the state's pre-recessionary peak.

Other upward indicators include record high job vacancy numbers—just last week, DEED (Department of Employment and Economic Development) announced the highest job vacancy numbers in Minnesota in nine years with 60,400 vacancies in the fourth quarter of 2013. We also have the fifth fastest GDP growth in the country, and the 146 expansion projects that were announced in 2013 that will create 7,700 jobs statewide.

The speaker highlighted a couple key projects: the Mall of America expansion and the new Vikings stadium. The first phase of the Mall of America expansion—a project that (when completed in the next 10 to 15 years) will leverage \$1.5 billion in private investment and will create thousands of new jobs in construction, retail, tourism and hospitality. The Mall of America's expansion will also attract an estimated 20 million additional visitors every year—tourists that will contribute to our economy, and see all that Minnesota has to offer.

The new Vikings stadium is also set to attract millions of new and returning eyes on Minnesota. Set to open in 2016, the construction of a new stadium will support approximately 13,000 jobs, including 7,500 construction and trades workers who will be employed during the three-year building process. This new stadium is the largest public works project in our state's history, and is not only going to add jobs to our workforce, but it also has the potential to attract a Super Bowl—another key event that will put Minnesota on the map, and attract new investment and tourism dollars into our economy.

Though we have many exciting projects ahead, and a number of positive economic indicators to celebrate, now is not the time to let up on the accelerator. DEED is always asking the question: How can we be making Minnesota a better place for businesses to thrive?

The last legislative session was about re-filling our economic development “toolbox” that included creating a new pay-for-performance program called the Minnesota Job Creation Fund. This program officially launched this past January and already has 15 applications submitted—more than half of them are from Greater Minnesota.

While the Minnesota Job Creation Fund is meant to incentivize companies to grow on the back end—or after they have created

jobs and invested here—the Minnesota Investment Fund is a program that companies can utilize up-front for capital needs while relocating or expanding their business. The Minnesota Investment Fund provides grants to help add new workers and retain high-quality jobs on a statewide basis. Since 2011, the Minnesota Investment Fund has awarded \$15.9 million to 35 projects, creating nearly 3,000 jobs and leveraging a half billion dollars in private investment in the state. During this time, the Minnesota Investment Fund leveraged \$31 dollars in private investment for every \$1 of public investment.

DEED also works to foster innovation among small businesses. One example is DEED's Angel Tax Credit—a program totaling \$12 million in credits for small, high-tech companies. To date, the Angel Tax Credit Program has attracted \$236 million in private investments for small and emerging companies, particularly software, medical device and biotechnology firms. In theory, the Angel Tax Program should be available year-round, but due to extreme demand, the credits ran out the first week of March this year. Recognizing the need for the Angel Tax Credit program, Gov. Mark Dayton not only included it in his supplemental budget proposal—he suggested an increase in funding to \$15 million, which companies would be able to access at the start of 2015. Tools like the Angel Tax Credit program, Minnesota Investment Fund and the Job Creation Fund help us retain and attract companies in Minnesota and help grow our economy.

This legislative session is a little different. While there are many priorities this session, the governor has put three on the top of his list: (1) the “Unsession,” (2) bonding, and (3) increasing Minnesota's minimum wage.

1. “Unsession”

As you've most likely heard or read about, the “Unsession” is a term that Gov. Dayton uses to describe what he refers to as common-sense proposals to deliver better government to Minnesotans. This is a reform initiative that will seek to eliminate redundant laws, rules and regulations. The Unsession includes the state's first-ever Plain Language policy—an initiative that directs all state agencies (including DEED) to use clear and concise language in all external communications to Minnesotans, making government easier to understand.

Dense forms, documents and websites full of complicated jargon and “government speak” waste Minnesotans' time. The governor's Plain Language initiative calls on all of us in state government to reduce acronyms and complicated language which make government impossible to understand. By using better explanations, we seek to provide better user experiences that result in better customer service.

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Other priorities in the Unsession include streamlining environmental permitting, eliminating unneeded laws, and simplifying tax filings, improving the rulemaking process and speeding up disaster relief efforts—all of which are a part of the governor's 1,000 ideas to simplify how we interact with our customers.

2. Bonding

In addition to the Unsession priorities, Gov. Dayton has proposed a jobs bill that will create more than 27,000 good jobs for Minnesotans. This jobs bill will invest in our state's critical infrastructure needs, such as regional business centers, colleges and universities, airports, and housing. These important investments will support job creation, while helping ensure Minnesota is positioned for an even brighter future. The governor's bonding proposal invests in downtown areas and regional centers statewide—projects that will create jobs, attract additional private investment, and support economic development in communities across Minnesota.

The jobs bill is also focused on making critical higher-education investments. He has recommended that \$233 million go to major investments in higher-education infrastructure improvements that will help ensure Minnesota students have access to world-class labs, classrooms, and training for the jobs of the future.

The governor's proposal also makes important improvements in roads and bridges statewide. Investing in strong, reliable transportation infrastructure is a critical part of building an economic environment where businesses can thrive. And finally, the governor's proposal recommends other ready-to-go investments that will create jobs and add value to our communities and economy, such as affordable-housing initiatives, economic-development programs, and other new investments that will help us build a better Minnesota.

3. Raising the state's minimum wage

The third main priority this legislative session for the governor is raising the state's minimum wage. And we received good news on that front on Monday when DFL leaders announced that they had reached an agreement to raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour and index it to inflation. This measure will improve the lives of working families all across Minnesota. Our economy is doing well, and we have the building blocks in place to help businesses grow, but not ALL Minnesotans are feeling the impact because wages have not kept up with the rate of inflation.

Raising the minimum wage will put hundreds of millions of dollars in the pockets of minimum wage workers, which will result in an

increase in consumer spending and will boost Minnesota's growing economy. Additionally, raising the minimum wage will lift Minnesotans out of poverty. Right now, a single parent in Minnesota with two children working full-time on the minimum wage earns an annual salary of \$12,792. That is nearly \$7,000 below the poverty line.

We need to continue to invest in our greatest asset—our workers. Gov. Dayton has been very supportive of an increase of the state's minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour. This move will improve the income of some 357,000 working Minnesotans of all backgrounds that are represented in all industries in Minnesota: from the food industry to construction, education to manufacturing.

With all of what we have in Minnesota—from our highly educated workforce to our unmatched quality of life—we've had to make sacrifices (like increasing taxes) to help our state be the best it can be. Thankfully, as Minnesota's economy improved over the last few years, the state's \$6 billion deficit turned into a \$1.2 billion surplus.

This new funding allowed lawmakers to extend additional tax relief to Minnesotans this year. During the session, the governor signed into law \$508 million in tax relief for middle-class families. These tax cuts also impact businesses in a big way. Specifically, B2B taxes that would have impacted Minnesota businesses starting last week have been repealed, including the warehousing and storage service tax and the telecommunications equipment tax. These new provisions and tax cuts will help Minnesota move forward and continue to build on our legacy.

Armed with economic development tools and a clear direction forward in this year's Unsession priorities, DEED is ready to go to work to continue increasing our economic competitiveness for the long-term.

Edina Rotarian **Scott Neal** thanked Sieben Clark for her enlightening presentation and presented her with a donation in her name to the PolioPlus Program.

President Steve Slyce gave closing comments and adjourned the meeting.

Like Rotary on Facebook!

Go to the **Rotary Club of Edina Facebook page** (www.facebook.com/EdinaRotary) and give it a "Like"! Keep up with Club events by following the Club's Facebook page.

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Cash donations needed April 17 for District Conference Service Project

The Rotary District Conference is a few weeks away (on May 2), and our Club has been invited to participate in a District-wide Service Project to support VEAP as part of the conference at the Radisson Blu Hotel at the Mall of America.



Every summer thousands of kids face food insecurity every day without the support of school-provided breakfast and lunch. The food shelf is their resource to have nutritious food on their table and banish hunger for children in our neighborhoods. To fill the food gap, VEAP is extending their summer youth food program from 10 to 12 weeks and expanding their service from 600, hoping to feed nearly 1,000 children through the program.

Rotary will assist by filling the food shelves with a breakfast and lunch food collection and assembly project held during the conference, called Rotary at the Rotunda! See the information on the District website for more on this important event, www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/Home.aspx?did=5950.

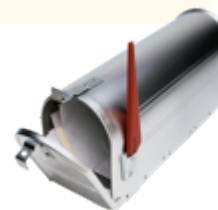
Our Club has been asked to provide 150 jars of peanut butter for the service project. Because they require a specific size and type of container, **we have decided to ask our members for cash donations at this week's meeting (April 17)**. Each jar costs about \$4, and our goal is to collect enough to fully fund the project.

Please consider supporting this worthy project and help Rotary make an impact in our community to change lives. Contact President Steve Slyce if you have questions.

Volunteer opportunities at the Edina Art Fair June 6-8

The organizers of the Edina Art Fair are looking for Rotarians to volunteer in a variety of capacities during this year's event, set for Friday, June 6, to Sunday, June 8, at 50th and France in Edina. They are looking for volunteers to host an information booth, help with set-up or take-down, help at the kid zone, with the art auction, or other jobs at the fair. All volunteers receive a T-shirt and meal ticket. Please contact Julie Freniere-Gibson at director@50thandfrance.com to volunteer or for more info.

Rotary Club of Edina mailbox



On behalf of our staff and all those we serve, I extend my sincere thanks to the Community Service Committee (local grants) and the Rotary Club of Edina members for your recent grant of \$2,500 to purchase laptops for Cornerstone's school-based PAVE violence prevention program.

Your support will ensure that we are able to maintain relevant services with youth in our shared community—and we are grateful.

PAVE is widely recognized for its engaging curriculum and effective work with young people. Through education and support, we assist students in addressing some of the most challenging issues they face today—particularly cyber-bullying. We are proud of the reputation we have earned and continue to seek community support in order to be able to adequately respond to increasing demand for service.

We are so pleased to be a continued partner with the Rotary Club of Edina. Despite the demonstrated effectiveness of prevention dollars, securing on-going funding for violence prevention services remains challenging. Still, Cornerstone remains deeply committed to and invested in the programs we provide to children and youth. Thank you for making that investment with us. It matters.

Sincerely,
Ann Harrington
Grant Writer
Cornerstone

Thank you so very much for acknowledging Gary [Snyder] with flowers at his service. It was also wonderful to see so many of our Edina Rotary friends. He loved your Club. I think the Thanksgiving dinner delivery program was one of his favorite events. We were blessed to be a part of your great group.

"Here's to Gary and to each of you! Your outpouring of support, love, and friendship during this time has been so wonderful. How ever do we begin to say thank you for all the many ways you have reached out to our family and lifted us up?"

Gary had a big hug and a bigger heart. He touched everyone he ever met and always wanted to leave you with a smile, a laugh, a joke! Remember him this way and then share his warmth with others. Gary truly knew how to love and live."

Johnelle Snyder

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