

THE BARKER

ROTARY CLUB OF EDINA

SEPT. 11, 2013

PAGE 1

Sept. 12, 2013 Meeting Assignments

Greeters	Kris Maser, Ann Goebel & Susan Johnson
Front Desk	Marty Kupper
Invocation	Dan Hallberg
Guest Introduction	Jon Barnett
Barker	Patti Ellingson-Solheim
Program Host	Skip Thomas
Thank the Speaker	Frank Cardarelle
Program: Rotary World Peace Fellow Amanda Ottman, "Do You Want to Change the World? Experiences of a Rotary World Peace Fellow"	
Menu: Meatloaf or Salmon Beet Salad	

In Review

Sept. 5, 2013

By Doug Johnson

It was a perfect day as we ushered in our first September 2013 Rotary meeting. The greeters were **John MacLennan**, **Jim Brindley** and **Michael Eckhart**. **Audri Schwarz** and **Tom Ries** handled the responsibilities at the front desk.

President Steve Slyce noted some history including this day in 1997 when our club celebrated its 40th anniversary. He was asked to also share the story of **Heather Hansen** locking her keys in her car prior to the meeting, but in the moment lost his notes. Former President **Scott MacDonald** withdrew his generous offer of \$10 to share Heather's compelling story with the group.

Gerry Norton provided a touching and personal invocation that shared the challenges of his last couple of weeks. His father was rushed to the E.R. with a blocked artery, limited blood flow, and his one kidney failing. That was a low point. Today, post surgery and miraculous medical treatment, his father has all but totally recovered. Enjoy each day.

Charlie Barer led the guest introductions which included Ashley Gustafson, **Kris Maser's** future daughter-in-law.

Mike Optiz said he was using his "soft sell" approach to inform members to get in their \$150 checks for the raffle tickets. This struck fear into many in attendance and several rushed forward with checks in hand. Mike added that should the rest of the checks not come in, the slackers would face the wrath of **Marty Kupper**. This brought immediate silence and additional fear to the room.

General reminders included bringing your wine and/or spirits for the "wine wall" to the regular meeting in the next week or two. **Jon Barnett** started to complain, but he was reminded that we were not talking about building a "whine wall."

The younger **Kaylin Martin** and the older **Bob Solheim** encouraged participation in the upcoming Fireside Chats (check out the website for details). The contrasting pair are living examples of the fact that these chats span the generations. Their fireside slide show was highlighted by a real live flaming conclusion.

Susan Johnson followed the flaming fireside presentation with her way-above-adequate classification talk. She has been a member since last spring. She works in Edina at Fidelity Bank as a lender to small companies and now has added mortgage warehouse funding to her many tasks. In her 24 years there, she has come to greatly appreciate the entrepreneurial spirit of this area and has formed many good and lasting relationships. She and her husband, Doug, of 25 years are parents to twins, Brandon (University of Arizona) and Ben (University of Minnesota). Her community contributions are many and include the Plymouth Community Fund, Women's Venture, and the Ridgedale Y. As a Rotarian, she helped plan the recent women's-only event and is planning another one in November. She also is working on the silent auction sub-committee for the upcoming fundraiser and Camp Enterprise. All agree that we are blessed by her joining our club.

Todd Bolig, Assistant Governor for Rotary District 5950, introduced **Diann Kirby**, our current Governor.

Diann focused on this year's Rotary theme: Engage Rotary...Change Lives. She noted that we all need to stay and get "engaged" and shared five overall points.

1. Increase membership: 91 percent of Rotarians consider it a good value and 96 percent want to stay in Rotary for the foreseeable future. Her goal is 5 percent by '15, which translates into increasing membership from 2,907 to 3,129 by 2015.
2. Future Vision: Our own **Sandy Schley** is heading up this area. Specifics include creating bigger and more sustainable projects. Part of the bigger, etc., is the Honduras Water Project for clean water and sanitation. Edina has already contributed \$15,000 toward the District's goal of \$56,000. This amount in turn will be partnered with World Vision. Once it is all put together, there will be more than \$800,000 in funds to change lives. She also gave a nod to the absent **Tim Murphy**, upcoming District Governor in two years, for his many efforts in such projects.
3. Rotary Foundation: Simply put, she has set a goal of \$1 million for

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Jennifer Garske, Club Administrator

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this year. Edina contributed \$65,000 last year and is hoping to contribute \$70,000 toward this ambitious goal. Over 48 percent of District Rotarians do not contribute to this fund, so just capturing part of this could go a long way toward fulfilling this goal. By the way, if you have a spare million dollars, please give her a call.

4. Eradicate Polio: This is still a major focus. Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan are still on the list, but now Somalia and Kenya have appeared again. We must stay committed to this effort until it is finished. We are "this close."

5. Celebrate Our Success: The 2014 District Conference will be held at the Raddison Blue at the Mall of America on May 2. She invited all to attend.

She concluded her presentation with the familiar quote, "A Rotarian is an ordinary person doing extraordinary things!"

Wooy Byun thanked Diann and acknowledged her Iowan roots and intelligence in starting at the University of Wisconsin but finishing at the University of Minnesota.

Edina Rotary works with Water Missions International to bring safe water to rural Malawi

When Past President Tim Murphy and then District Governor Sandy Schley were approached by long-time friend and philanthropist Foster Friess to take part in a large-scale water project with Water Missions International, they didn't know that clubs in their district would be providing sustainable safe water to more than 25,000 people.

In rural Malawi, dirty drinking water contaminated with harmful diseases is the only source of water. Drinking unsafe water means days spent at the local clinic, money spent on medicine instead of food, and school days lost as children walk miles to fetch water that makes them sick. Contaminated water hinders progress, halts education, and perpetuates the poverty cycle.

This reality has been forever changed for 16 communities in Central Malawi. Between 2011 and 2012, all Rotary clubs of District 5950 with the Edina Rotary Club as the international sponsor, Bwaila-Llongwe Rotary Club as host club, and Rotary International through a Rotary Matching Grant carried out a \$466,700 project that will now provide safe water for generations.

Such a large-scale project called for customized safe water solutions for 16 communities complete with comprehensive WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) promotion and micro-enterprise training to ensure project sustainability. As the implementing partner, Water Missions International used their engineering expertise and experience working in Malawi to

lead the project assessment, design, implementation, and community training.

"Rotary International strives for strong relationships between Rotary partners, both host clubs and international sponsors," said Murphy. "Water Missions International was a pivotal link to foster that relationship through the course of this project."

A Rotary Matching Grant helped fund this initiative along with additional funding from Water Missions International. Every dollar given by Rotarians at the club level was multiplied into five dollars for this project. According to Murphy, this exponential giving provided great incentive for Rotarians to give to the Rotary Foundation in general and to this project, as they realized a great return on their investment.

"Our district already had a strong focus in Africa, but we had not yet worked in Malawi. This project presented the large-scale impact we wanted to achieve," said Murphy. "The Friess family had visited Malawi and seen the desperate need for safe water first-hand. We were confident in the project's success when learning of Water Missions International's extensive experience working inside Malawi."

The entire project was completed over the course of two years, and since its start these communities have seen true transformation take place.

Before the project, the community of Chisanja had only one water source. Women and children collected water while livestock used the well as a watering hole, furthering contamination. If you asked community members what life is like now, they would tell you safe water has transformed Chisanja. Attendance has increased at the local primary school as students no longer miss due to water-related illnesses or walking long distances to fetch water. "It's such a welcomed development in the village," one woman explained. "We cherish the water system as if it was our baby."

Reflecting on the project, Murphy stated, "Beyond the goal of humanitarian aid, Water Missions International played a significant role of fostering good will between Rotary clubs across the world from one another. This was undoubtedly due to their experience working on the ground in Malawi – and was integral to the success of this enormous project."

Together the clubs of District 5950 in Minnesota, Bwaila-Llongwe Rotary Club and Water Missions International transformed the lives of more than 25,000 people in Malawi through multiple Rotary International objectives. No longer will people in these communities struggle daily because of unsafe drinking water, but now can embrace a future of possibility secured by safe water. Thanks to Rotary connections from around the world, these communities have access to one of the most basic human rights championed by Rotary International: sustainable access to clean, safe water.

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A NIGHT AT THE *Sands*

Edina Rotary Foundation Fundraiser & Gala

Oct. 12, 2013

Hotel Sofitel Bloomington

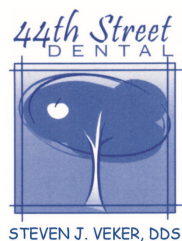
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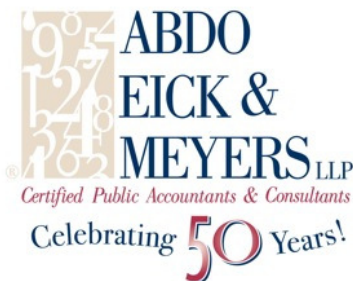
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