

## THE BARKER

ROTARY CLUB OF EDINA

SEPT. 25, 2013

PAGE 1

Sept. 26, 2013 Meeting Assignments

Greeters	Dave McElroy, Jean Morrison & Sam Thompson
Front Desk	Mitch Robinson
Invocation	Mike Opitz
Guest Introduction	Brad Beard
Barker	John Flynn
Program Host	Steve Veker
Thank the Speaker	Bill Carter
Program:	Jim Dolan, Founder, Chairman, President and CEO of The Dolan Company
Menu:	Pork Tenderloin or Thai Chicken Salad

**A Note From the President**

The old saying "time flies by when you are having fun" could not ring truer for me. We are at the three-month mark of the Rotary year and it seems like yesterday that it started.

At our weekly meetings, we have had a number of new member classification talks, three PPMMTs (Past President's Modified Millennium Talks) and one new member induction.

We have just completed our first of round of Fireside Chats that were well attended. Our fundraiser committee is putting the final touches on our gala, "A Night at the Sands," which will be held on Oct. 12. I urge all of you to attend, as it will be a very fun evening.

After the fundraiser, our next major event is Camp Enterprise, which starts Oct. 31. John Flynn is chairing this year, and he still is in need of some mentors. Please contact John if you would like to volunteer or find out more information. Thank you all for your support and engagement.

—Steve

In Review

Sept. 19, 2013

**By Kenneth Anderson**

President **Steve Slyce** started the meeting by commenting on Edina Rotary's busy schedule, including the Fireside Chats being held in September and the preparations for the annual Fundraiser, "**A Night at the Sands**," to be held Oct. 12 at Hotel Sofitel. **Ed Padilla** then led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Greeters for the day were **Matt Mattis**, **Jack Kennefick** and **Kaylin Martin**. The Front Desk duties were performed by **Audri Schwarz** and **Keith Benson**. Visiting guests were introduced by **Katie Bassett** and included prospective member Sue Spalding who was hosted by **Mary Hustad** and Sheila Carrington who was introduced by **Mike Kallas**.

**Josh Sprague** announced a bike ride and lunch on Sunday, Sept. 22 with the Youth Exchange Students. All those interested will meet at 2:30 p.m. at Punch Pizza in the Calhoun Village Shopping Center in Minneapolis and then ride down the Midtown Greenway to the Mississippi River and back again as a group. The ride will be eight miles round trip. After the return, there will be a late lunch at Punch Pizza.

**Paul Peterson** and our celebrity guest, Joe Schmidt, KSTP Channel 5 Sports Director, were dressed with Blues Brothers hats and garb. In high spirits, Joe sang "Come Fly with Me," ala Frank Sinatra. He joked that he sings like Sinatra, dances like Sammy Davis Jr. and has a liver like Dean Martin. They both provided a fun introduction to our upcoming fundraiser, "A Night at the Sands." Let's all sign up and go!

Mike Kallas introduced Sheila Carrington, Executive Director of Edina A Better Chance Foundation, Inc. Edina Rotary has made contributions to ABC for many years, including the most recent amount of \$1,400. The ABC goal is to increase the number of well-educated minority students and make it possible for deserving students to reach their full potential. Since 1963, National ABC has graduated 13,000 students from 23 participating high schools of which 99 percent have gone on to prestigious colleges and universities. The program relies on donations to pay all costs for students which include housing, food, transportation, etc. A large volunteer network allows them to keep costs low. The average cost to run the program in Edina with 12 students is \$175,000 per year.

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Jennifer Garske, Club Administrator

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Member **Ann Platt** (owner of Pets are Inn) introduced **Sonja Tengdin**, a new member. Sonja was raised in Oceanside, Calif., where her father was the Chief of Police. As an active Rotarian, he introduced her to Rotary and its values. She met her husband through her employer, Minneapolis-based Miller Schroeder, and he convinced her to resettle in Minnesota. Now, she is owner of Scoopy Poo, a company which helps clients remove the “land mines” in their yards left by pets. She and her husband have two children, one of whom was our outbound exchange student to Japan last year. This year, the family is hosting our inbound exchange student from Italy.

**Jim Brindley** was introduced to give his classification talk. Jim is a new member who greatly admires Rotary's Four-Way Test. He is married to Kyanne and lives in Bloomington. He is active in Edina as the General Manager of Brass Handle, the luxury hardware store in the Galleria and is active in the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI).

Steve introduced our program host, **Jerry Potter**, a member of Rotary since 1960, starting with the Minneapolis No. 9 Club, where he was President in 1975.

Jerry presented our guest speaker for the day, Thom Olson, Executive Director of FreedomWorks Reentry and Aftercare, a post prison outreach in North Minneapolis. Thom has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Political Science and a Master of Divinity from Princeton University. His professional career includes assignments with Trinity House Theatre in Michigan, Youth Counselor at St. Cloud Children's Home, and Addiction and Recovery Counselor with the IFI Program at Lino Lakes Prison. In his spare time, he lectures on criminal justice and psychology at Northwestern College.

Thom described the current status of incarceration, the issues society faces and made some comparisons with the past and Minnesota's situation compared to other states and the nation. The national incarceration population currently is 1.6 million prisoners. This level is greatly increased from the rates through the early 1970s where it was about 200 thousand. Changes in laws governing drug offenses since those years were a major contributor to the increases.

For every 100,000 population, Minnesota's rate of incarceration is 183 versus 865 for the worst state, Louisiana. For many European countries, the rates range from 74 through 103 and the U.S. rate is 716. Even Russia has a rate less than the U.S. with 568. All of our states combined spend \$51.1 billion per year on corrections. Obviously, improving recidivism would greatly benefit society, including cost of corrections.

FreedomWorks provides affordable housing during the critical days and months immediately following inmates release from prison com-

bined with a positive support structure comprised of biblical mentors, career advisors, financial coaches and sober friends. FreedomWorks creates a life-changing Christian community that helps men recover their life. Its approach is inspired by Chuck Colson, the Special Counsel to President Nixon who got caught up in the Watergate scandals and served as a felon in prison. He realized the futility of long imprisonments without adequate rehabilitation and dedicated his life to making improvements.

Upon release, an ex-offender is left with many obstacles to overcome, and often has no job, no home, very little money and few opportunities for a better life. Faced with these realities, many fall back into crime because they see no other options. People who go back to the same place, hang out with the same friends and do the same activities get the same result: more prison. Right now, the national average for recidivism (returning to prison within three years) is 65 percent.

At FreedomWorks, the graduates have a recidivism rate of less than 8 percent. And for every ex-felon they keep clean and sober, they save the state of Minnesota \$37,500.

FreedomWorks has a nine-month residential program that focuses on helping former offenders reconnect to their family, their faith, full-time employment, the recovery community and the local church. It currently has 19 residents in two houses, the main one being at 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Penn Avenue North in Minneapolis.

Minnesota releases 42,000 prisoners each year and rehabilitation funding is often being cut, which means there is a great unmet need in our communities. Prisoners develop a mindset framed by only 60 decisions per day where outside of prison 3000 decisions are faced by them. FreedomWorks is helping its graduates to make that transition well, based upon its recidivism rate. In 2012, 100 percent of all FreedomWorks residential participants found full-time employment through its employer network of business leaders who are willing to hire ex-offenders.

Thom noted that FreedomWorks is always looking for people to add to its team of Biblical Mentors, Career Advisors, Financial Coaches and Sober Friends.

**Rick Carlson** thanked our speaker and informed him that Edina Rotary is making a contribution in his name to its program of eliminating polio from the earth.

Steve thanked our speakers and the many participants and adjourned the meeting.

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## Edina Rotary Foundation Fundraiser & Gala

Oct. 12, 2013

Hotel Sofitel Bloomington

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# A NIGHT AT THE *Sands*

## Edina Rotary Foundation Fundraiser & Gala

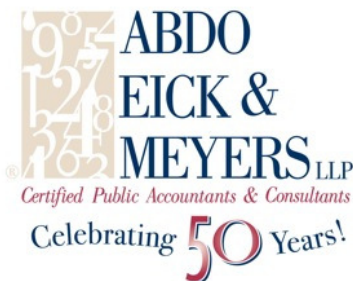
Oct. 12, 2013

Hotel Sofitel Bloomington

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