

Rotary O-Pinion

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Meeting each Monday 12:00 p.m. – Owatonna Country Club

Four way test: 1) Is it the truth? 2) Is it fair to all concerned?
3) Will it build good will and better friendships? 4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

OFFICERS

Glen Meger President

DIANE HOLLAND Secretary

JOHN CONNOR Past President

STEVE ARNOLD Treasurer

FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofOwatonna

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Connor

Todd Hale

Mathew Hughes

Jeff Hall

Dave Effertz

Loren Olson

Diane Holland

Jim Brunner

Ryan Gillespie

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ROTARY IS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES THAT INCLUDE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES SO THAT MEMBERS WILL ENGAGE IN SERVICE ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

PROGRAMS

July 19: Amy Caron, Director, Steele County Public Health “The COVID Story in Steele County” July 26: Dr.

Jason Wray-Raabolle: Mayo Health System, Owatonna

August 2: Engage Owatonna... Todd Buegler, Jeff Elstad

August 9: Scott Kozelka: Preview of Steele County Free Fair

August 16: Josh Carlson, Director, Oak Hills Academy

August 23: Mac Hamilton, Downtown Projects

August 30: Little Theatre of Owatonna: Mike Jensen

September 6: No meeting... Labor Day

September 13: Tim Penny, former Congressman and Pres. of Southern Minn. Initiative Fund

September 20: United Way Kickoff: Annette Duncan

September 27: Karen Pehrson, Chamber of Commerce Tourism Director

October 4: Steele County Works Program: Brad Meier and Anisha Zak, Coordinator

October 11: Jeff Elstad, Supt. of Public Schools

October 18: Larry Kriesel, coach, OHS Fishing Team

October 25: Open

OWATONNA ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, August 16 2021

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: Welcome to Josh Carlson, Director of Oak Hills Academy in Owatonna.

BIRTHDAYS: Doug Ruth, Aug. 17, Ann Miller, Aug. 19, Todd Buegler, Aug. 20, Jim Wendorff, Aug. 21

NOTES FOR ROTARIANS

If you see a fellow ROTARIAN and are visiting with him/her, remind them we have not seen them at any recent meetings and we hope they will join us on Mondays.

From RI President Shekhar Mehta: "An engaged ROTARIAN is an asset forever. Remember that engaging our current members and keeping them in our clubs is just as important as bringing in newcomers. Each of you is a ROTARY brand ambassador, and all of the wonderful work done by ROTARIANS around the world needs to be shared outside the ROTARY community. Use social media to tell your friends, colleagues, and relatives the stories of **Service Above Self.**"

This is fair week. Here are some facts about the Steele County Free Fair that you may not know:

*There are over 100 volunteer superintendents that help produce the fair. Seventeen board members meet monthly year 'round to plan the fair. Their pay? One dollar per meeting...same as in 1918.

*Remember the little steam train at the fair? It ran in the area of the current Fair Square Park in the 50's and 60's. On a quiet fair night, one could hear the steam whistle all over town.

*Over 90 musical acts will entertain fairgoers this year.

*The 1943 fair was cancelled because of WW II. Gas shortages meant exhibits, entertainment and the carnival couldn't get to the fair. In 1874 the fair was reduced to one day due to the influx of grasshoppers.

*In 1906 the fair was held in downtown Owatonna and the big thrill was the "Slide of Life" which sent fairgoers from the courthouse grounds to Central Park.

*Burke's Taffy is the longest continuous vendor at the fair. This is their 99th year at the fair.

*Kottke Jewelers sponsored a watch drop at the fair. The watch was dropped from an airplane flying low over the fairgrounds. The event was canceled when one year the watch ended up on the roof of the beer garden and fairgoers were climbing to the roof any way they could. The beer garden was then located north of the Four Seasons about where the current auto museum is now located.

*If you are interested in a shuttle to the fair, note that the Owatonna Bus Co. will offer free rides to the fairgrounds beginning at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday through Friday. They will load next to Central Park. Trinity Lutheran Church will also offer a shuttle to the fair beginning at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday through Friday. You can park your car in the church lot and ride to the fairgrounds.

*Did you know? The Minnesota State Fair was held in Owatonna in 1883 and 1884. The original poster advertising the state fair is located in the Muckle Museum.

*Butter making competition was one of the biggest attractions at the fair from 1923 until the department closed in 1969. Over 30 Steele County butter makers competed in the annual contest.

*Airplane rides were offered to fairgoers in 1924. The planes used the racetrack as a runway.

Remember, when you are at the fair take time to stop by the fair office and purchase a membership in the Steele County Ag Society. Memberships are just \$5.00 and show your support of this great fair.

So anyway:

*Because of COVID, for the first time since 1945 the National Spelling Bee is cancel.....cancel.....cansel....it's been called off!

*Don't wear headphones while vacuuming. I just finished the whole house and realized the vacuum wasn't plugged in.