

The

O-Pinion



Owatonna, Minnesota

Meeting each Monday 12:10 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

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AREA MEETING PLACES & TIMES

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------|------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|------|----------------------|
| Austin | Mondays | Noon | Holiday Inn | Winona | Wednesdays | Noon | Westfield Golf Club |
| Janesville | Mondays | 6 PM | St. Ann's Parish | Northfield | Thursdays | Noon | Northfield Golf Club |
| Owatonna Early Edition | Tuesdays | 7 AM | Owatonna Fire Hall | Great Rochester | Thursdays | Noon | Kahler Grand Hotel |
| Rochester Risers | Tuesdays | 7 AM | Hilton Garden Inn | Waseca | Thursdays | Noon | Miller/Armstrong |
| Red Wing | Tuesdays | Noon | St. James Hotel | Albert Lea | Fridays | Noon | Ramada Inn |
| Faribault | Wednesdays | Noon | Bernie's Grill | North Mankato | Fridays | Noon | Best Western Hotel |
| Mankato | Wednesdays | Noon | Old Main Village | | | | |

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Date

Program

July 30

Business Meeting: Presentation by Outbound Student Harmon Squires

August 6

Preview: 2012 Steele County Free Fair: Jim Gleason and Todd Hale

August 13

Bryan Rossi, GSE trip to France

August 20

RFE Outbound Team Presentation...Journey to Turkey

August 27

Business Meeting: Presentation by Outbound Student Christian Russell

Sept. 3

No meeting: Labor Day

Sept. 10

District Governor Visit from Joe Kvarik

Sept. 17

Stormy Trom, Director, Steele County Food Shelf

Sept. 24

Business Meeting

Oct. 1

School Board Candidates

Oct. 8

City Council Candidates

Oct. 15

State House and Senate Candidates

October 22

Preview: United Way Campaign: Evelina Giobbe

October 29

Business meeting/presentation on Foundation Month

November 5

Alyssa Anderson, Pork Ambassador

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, August 6, 2012

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: A preview of the 2012 Steele County Free Fair with fair secretary/manager Jim Gleason and ROTARIAN Todd Hale.

BIRTHDAYS: Wes Kain, Doug Parr: Aug. 5, William Owens, Aug. 9

ROTARY NOTES

Our three In-Bound Exchange Students will be arriving soon. Livia Getzner from Austria arrives this Thursday, August 9, Minako Itamoto from Japan arrives on August 12 and Yolanda Sabater arrives from Spain on August 13.

Host families include:

Livia: Dunn-Fosters, Dave Albrechts, Kuehn-Rockmans: Counselor: Kerri Kuhn

Yolanda: Sattlers, Lykkens, Wiebkes: Counselor: Renee Lowery

Minako: Rossi, Redmans and to be announced. Counselor: Susie Hoopes

Greeters for August are Tanya Paley, Tom Effertz and Glen Meger

Invocation leader for August is Betsy Rossi

FAIR FACTS

*There are over 100 volunteer superintendents that help produce the fair. 17 board members meet monthly to organize the fair. Their pay? \$1.00 a meeting...same as in 1918.

*The Gold Star Amusements will bring 40 rides to the fair this year. This is their first year at our fair.

*Last year there were 2482 4-H exhibits at our fair. Steele County is one of the largest 4-H counties in the state.

*Estimated attendance at the 2011 fair was 306,597...the largest ever.

*Over 860 gallons of waste grease was collected during last year's fair.

*The most popular entry in the open class last year was horses with 1242 entries. Smallest was swine with 16.

*The Minnesota State Fair dairy show was at the Steele County Free Fair in 1944-'45

*Remember the steam train at the fair? It ran in the area of the current Fair Square Park in the mid-60's.

*The Muckle Museum will feature a special section on Bob Ringhofer, who passed away recently. Bob was a member of the fair board for over 50 years.

*This year there are over 80 musical acts performing at the fair.

*The 1943 fair was cancelled because of World War II. Gas shortages meant exhibits, entertainment, and the carnival couldn't get to the fair. It is the only SCFF to be canceled. Even during the polio epidemic the fair went on as scheduled. In 1874, the Steele County Free fair was held only one day because of a grasshopper invasion.

*This year's fair will feature over 312 indoor commercial booths and 226 outside stands including over 100 food stands.

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

*One of every three visitors to the fair is not from Steele County. 25% attending the fair come 26 miles or more. 10% come over 60 miles. 76% of fairgoers come for more than one day.

*The longest continuous vendor at the SCFF is Burke's Taffy...this is their 90th year.

*Everyone goes to Tom Thumb mini-donuts. Sixty years ago, donuts were 10 cents a bag. This year Tom Thumb will have three stands at the fair.

*Kottke Jewelers sponsored a watch drop from an airplane over the fairgrounds from 1967-1970. Ted Ringhofer, former Fair Board member flew his plane and Bill Kottke dropped the watch.

So anyway: I was working out in the gym when I spotted this sweet young thing I asked the on-site trainer, "What machine should I use to impress that sweet thing over there?" The trainer looked me up and down and then said, "Try the ATM in the lobby."