



O-Pinion

Owatonna, Minnesota

ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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

KEITH HILLER: President

RYAN GILLESPIE, President Elect

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FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofOwatonna

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Matt Ketelsen

Scott Limberg

Dave Allard

November 27: Gaylene Steckelberg: Co-Director: LTO production: Snapshots: Moments, Memories and Music

December 4: Farewell from Jeff, In-Bound Exchange Student

December 11: Bremer Foundation

December 18: Christmas Music by “Credit Report”:...Rotarians Dave Williams and Ryan Gillespie

December 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS...no meeting

January 1: HAPPY NEW YEAR!...no meeting

January 8: Tim Penny: The political climate in Washington

January 15: Roger Wareheim: Owatonna Brew House

January 22: Darci Stanford: Owatonna Brain Training Center

January 29: Jeff Elstad, Supt. of Public Schools

February 5: Tim Truelson, Owatonna Park and Rec...”We All Play”

February 12: Mayor Tom Kuntz, Kris Busse: State of the City

February 19: Bob Randall: “Modern Workforce”

February 26: Pastor Todd Buegler

March 5: Sue Schroeder, Public Schools Social Worker

March 12: Open

March 19: Open

March 26: Open

April 2: Open

April 9: Open

April 16: Open

April 23: Open

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, December 18, 2017

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: We will enjoy the music of Christmas compliments of ROTARIANS Dave Williams and Ryan Gillespie. Their duo is known as "Credit Report". Enjoy! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

BIRTHDAYS: Matt Ketelsen, Dec. 22, Jenine Koziolk, Dec. 26.

STUDENT ROTARIANS: Last day for Bretton Ruitter, Bryce Knutson, Scott Kingland and Sheldon Jensen

IN-BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENTS: Jeff, South Africa and Nado, Indonesia

ROTARY NOTES

There will be no meetings for the next two weeks. Next meeting will be on January 8.

Will you be alone on Christmas Day? You are invited to join fellow community members for the Community Christmas Dinner being served on Christmas Day at the VFW Club. Ham and turkey and all the trimmings will be served. If you wish to donate a ham, please make it a bone-in ham and not a spiral ham. Turkeys are not needed. Serving will begin at 11:30 a.m. Take-out orders (maximum of three) can be ordered at 451-1001. Volunteers for meal deliveries and in-house duties are needed.

In August ROTARY signed a one-year partnership agreement with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. ROTARY Clubs can partner with IAPB member agencies to provide access to eye-care and blindness prevention services such as eye exams, cataract screenings and treatment, and diabetic eye exams and follow-up services. IAPB's mission is to eliminate the main causes of avoidable blindness and visual impairment by bringing together governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the private sector to facilitate the planning, development and implementation of sustainable eye care programs.

A long-time gift exchange took place many years ago at ROTARY meetings in Owatonna. Members were asked to bring a gift (funny or non-funny) to the meeting. Then the gifts were exchanged around the tables until the music stopped. Members were then asked to open the gift they had in their hands. The event brought about lots of laughs and holiday gaiety.

Who hasn't sung "White Christmas" during the holiday season? The song was written by Irving Berlin for the movie "Holiday Inn". Bing Crosby first recorded the song in 1942. This was the first Christmas that American G.I.'s would spend away from home. The song offered them a vision of cozy, domestic serenity.

The song has been sung by over 150 different performers, who run the musical gamut from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to Alvin and the Chipmunks. Big Crosby's version alone was deemed an all-time top single by the Guinness Book of World Records, which cited sales of more than 30 million copies. The Crosby recording was briefly unseated from first place by Elton John's tribute to Princess Diana, "Candle in the Wind" but has since regained its status.

By the end of his life, Bing Crosby had come to appreciate "that wonderful song and all it's done for me" as he wrote to Irving Berlin.

A couple decided to hold a holiday dinner party. The invitations went out saying, "bring your children along." The husband said, "All throughout dinner, my wife's best friend's four-year-old daughter stared at me as I sat opposite her. The girl could hardly eat her food for staring. I checked my shirt for spots, felt my face for food and patted my hair in place, but nothing stopped her from staring at me. Finally I asked her, 'Why are you staring at me'?" Everyone at the table had noticed her behavior, and the table went quiet waiting for her response. The little girl said, "I'm just waiting to see how you drink like a fish."