

Rotary O-Pinion

ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES

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?

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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

January 4: Holly Jorgenson: Let's Smile Executive Director

January 11: David Ulrich: 21st Century Mining

January 18: Dr. Brian Bunkers, Owatonna Mayo Clinic

January 25: Jeff Elstad, Supt. of Public Schools

Feb. 1: Troy Klecker: City Development Director: "A look at 2021"

Feb. 8: Kory Kath, OHS Principal

Feb. 15: Jessica Metcalf: Shelterbox program of which Rotary is involved.

Feb. 22: Lisa Kern, Director, KODA

March. 1: Amanda Starks, Director: Rachel's Light

March 8: Dr, Nuga, Pres, Riverland and Barb Embacher, V.P. Academic Affairs

March 15: Mayor Tom Kuntz/Kris Busse: State of the City

March 22: Keith Hiller, Owatonna Police Chief

March 29 Open

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, February 1, 2021

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: ROTARIAN Troy Klecker, City Development Director. "A look at 2021"

BIRTHDAYS: Michelle Krell, Jan. 30, Steve Olsen, Feb. 1, Laura Resler, Feb. 6

FEBRUARY STUDENT ROTARIANS: Welcome to Elise Egbert, Jenna Spatenka, Sam Buegler and Zachary Liebl

NOTES FOR ROTARIANS

From RI President Holger Knaack: "ROTARY prefers action to words. This is ROTARY at its best. We have lasted 116 years because of our strong ethics, our passion for Service Above Self, and our unique approach to problem-solving. One of our greatest strengths is how we reach across our communities and across national, ethnic, religious, and political divisions to unite people of all backgrounds and to help others. This month, let's celebrate our history and the many ways that *ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES* to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace, our ultimate mission."

GROUNDHOG DAY

Tomorrow, February 2 is Groundhog Day, which traditionally marks the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

Sunshine on Candlemas (February 2) was said to indicate the return of winter. Similarly, "when the wind's in the east on Candlemas Day, there it will stick until the end of May.

According to legend, if a ground hog sees its shadow on this day there will be six more weeks of winter; if it doesn't, then spring is just around the corner.

STARTING ONIONS

Start onions from seed now. They'll be ready for setting out in April. Onions from seed are generally firmer and longer-lasting than those from sets.

ROTARIAN TOM KUNTZ APPOINTED TO LEGISLATIVE SALARY COUNCIL

ROTARIAN Mayor Tom Kuntz has recently been appointed by Gov. Tim Walz to serve on the Legislative salary Council for a four-year term. The Council prescribes the salaries for Minnesota Legislators through a report that must be submitted by March 31 of each odd-numbered year.

WIDE MEDIAN

As you travel north on I-35 have you ever wondered about that wide median that is located along the interstate north of Faribault? The property includes lots of large trees, which is unusual for a median. I was told that at one time the highway department planned to build a rest stop in that area, but construction never took place. Highway officials finally determined that traffic slowing down from the inside lane of the freeway to enter the rest stop presented a traffic hazard. The slowdown would contribute to lots of rear-end collisions. The property was left in its original state.

So anyway: There I was sitting at the bar staring at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker steps up next to me, grabs my drink and gulps it down in one swig. "Well, whatcha gonna do about it?" he says, menacingly, as I burst into tears. "Come on man," the biker says. "I didn't think you'd CRY. I can't stand to see a man crying." "This is the worst day of my life," I say. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my wife in bed with the gardener and then my dog bit me. So, I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all. I buy a drink, I drop a capsule in and sit here watching the poison dissolve; then you, you, you jack-ass, show up and drink the whole thing! But, enough about me. How's your day going?"