

Rotary O-Pinion

ROTARY: BE THE INSPIRATION

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

RYAN GILLESPIE, President
DIANE HOLLAND, Secretary
KEITH HILLER, Past President

TROY KLECKER, President Elect
JIM BRUNNER, Treasurer

FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofOwatonna

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PROGRAMS

February 4: Al Zdrzil: “Fight Against Human Trafficking”
February 11: School District Foundation
February 18: Plans for a new high school
February 25: Abby Donahe, “Unlimited Abilities”
March 4: Nancy Williams, Trina Kasperson: Homeless students in Owatonna Public Schools
March 11: State of the City: Mayor Kuntz, Chris Busse, Troy Klecker
March 18: The story of Revel Greens: Jay Johnson
March 25: Mark Coyle, U. of M. Athletic Director
April 1: Randy Doyle, CEO, Alcorn
April 8: Update on We All Play
April 15: Mac Hamilton, Developer
April 22: Open
April 29: Chuck Driessen “History: Culligan Intl and Culligan Ultrapure”
May 6: Camp RYLA students and STRIVE graduates
May 13: National Honor Society Students
May 20: Ed Marek, St. Paul Sunrise...District Fast for Hope
May 27: Memorial Day, no meeting
June 3: Farewell from Iringo

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, Feb. 25, 2019

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: Welcome to Abby Donahe who will present an enlightening message from her personal life in living with Downs Syndrome. She is 20 years old, the daughter of Brenda Stevens and Jeff Donahe. She will be introduced by her mother.

BIRTHDAYS: Charlie Herrmann, Feb. 17, Cory Michaelson, Feb. 20

STUDENT ROTARIANS: Last day for Lauren Arthur, Molly Hawkins, Dominic Yerhot, Jordan Whalen and Lily Redman

IN-BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT: Iringo, Romania

JUST FOR ROTARIANS

A QUESTION FOR INCOMING RI PRESIDENT MARK MALONEY

Ques: When will there be a female president of ROTARY INTERNATIONAL?

Ans: "I think it will be in the next five years. The structure of ROTARY is such that to be a District Governor, you must have served as a club president. To be an international director, you must have been a district governor. And to be RI president you must have been an international director. Women have worked their way up through those ranks and we have now several past directors who are women. They are gaining experience in other positions as well, and that makes it ever more likely every year that a woman will be nominated. I am certainly conscious of promoting gender diversity in ROTARY. I've chosen a woman to chair my convention committee and nominated another to serve as a trustee of THE ROTARY FOUNDATION. Next year we will have two women on the RI Board of Directors and the following year we'll have five.

A bit of Owatonna history: Today is the anniversary date when Owatonna said "farewell" to its mobilized units of the 135th Infantry, in 1941. The unit was known as the "Red Bull Division" and its members were leaving for a year of field training at Camp Claiborne, La. A throng of close to 2,000 milled about the special train which had stopped at Union Station on Front Street to watch the soldiers depart. It was a sharp, cold February night. The Elks band played lively marches and patriotic songs. Members of the American Legion Post and the Elks Lodge led the farewell parade from the downtown Armory to the train station. The train of three baggage and three kitchen cars, ten tourist Pullmans and one standard Pullman traveled by way of Chicago, Memphis and Shreveport to the camp.

Joe Racek of Owatonna, who was a platoon sergeant vividly remembered the day when I interviewed him. "We marched them over to the train. Families were crying, the boys were crying. Guys were crawling out the windows of the train to get that last kiss from their girl friends or family members.

Iringo, our in-bound exchange student, is raising money to fund her trip out east. If you can help her earn funds by doing chores around your house or business, please let her know.

A question: Who ran Owatonna's only service station without an indoor garage? Car servicing such as oil changes took place year 'round at an outdoor pit.

Ans: Joe's National Oil was located on West Vine Street next to the Arnold Hotel. It was run by Joe Leverty, who was the father-in-law to ROTARIAN John Muellerleile. There was a small "shack" that Joe used for indoor record keeping etc. It was the place to go to learn the latest rumors around town.

Some Minnesota Facts

The state song of Minnesota is "Someday the Vikings willAw, never mind!"

*The Mall of America covers 9.5 million square feet and has enough space to hold 185,00 teenagers yapping away on cell phones.

*Downtown Minneapolis has an enclosed skyway system covering 52 blocks, allowing people to live, work, eat and sleep without ever going outside. The only downside to this is that a Norwegian occasionally turns up missing.