

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?

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PROGRAMS

January 7: Maddy Lykken: “New Generation Exchange”
January 14: Dani Heine, Chief Diversity Officer, Riverland College
January 21: Owatonna Clinic: “Future of Health Care”
January 28: Mac Hamilton, Developer
February 4: Al Zdrzil: “Fight Against Human Trafficking”
February 11: School District Foundation
February 18: Plans for a new high school
February 25: Abby Donahue, “Unlimited Abilities”
March 4: Nancy Williams, Trina Kasperson: Homeless students in Owatonna Public Schools
March 11: Open
March 18: Open
March 25: Mark Coyle, U. of M. Athletic Director
April 1: Open
April 8: Open
April 15: Open
April 22: Open
April 29: Open
May 6: Camp RYLA students and STRIVE graduates
May 15: National Honor Society Students
May 20: Open

May 27: Open

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, January 7, 2019

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: Welcome to Maddy Lyken who will speak about a new ROTARY program called "New Generation Exchange."

BIRTHDAYS: Betsy Rossi, January 1, Pat Greenwood, January 3, Earl Anderson, Erin Felten, Jan. 8

JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: Welcome to Emma Maher, Victoria Dietz, Dawson Ringhofer, Regan Ihlenfeld and David Keller

IN-BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT: Iringo, Romania

NOTES FOR ROTARIANS

ROTARIAN Brad Meier, president of the Chamber of Commerce news notes:

*The hotel project in downtown Owatonna is alive and well. This month will be a big month as the developers finalize plans.

*You will soon see a medical related business going into the former Gentle Dental location next to Little Caesars

*The 5th floor of the new apartments on Vine Street is being constructed making this building the tallest in downtown Owatonna.

*The annual dinner of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce will be held at the Country Club on January 18. The theme is "Celebrate the Connection: Highway 14".

Here are some final numbers of the Toys for Tots of Steele County during the past holiday:

511 families, 1226 children. 2022 \$10.00 plus toys collected, 488 books collected. 80 new bicycles and helmets were given as gifts. On Thanksgiving night, Toys for Tots purchased more than \$11,000 in toys.

What are Americans scared of? Plenty: 42% are afraid of being a victim of a random mass shooting, up from 16% in 2015. 57% of teens worry about gunfire erupting at their schools. Washington gives many cause for concern: 74% are fearful of corrupt government officials and 30% worry President Trump is being framed for crimes by the FBI and Justice Department. 64% fear that another world war will erupt in the next 40 years. We're also divided on which is scarier: sharks or President Trump. 43% say sharks and 42% Trump.

It must be true, I saw it in the tabloids: a 26-foot-tall statue of Marilyn Monroe is causing outrage in Stamford, Conn. because the starlet's rump points directly at a nearby church. The statue, part of a summer art display, depicts a famous movie scene in which Monroe's white dress is lifted by a blast of air. "It's disrespectful," said a member of the First Congregational Church. "Everyone's under there looking up her skirt."

Paul Harris put it this way: "Each ROTARIAN is the connecting link between the idealism of ROTARY and his/her trade or profession." It was true when he said it and should be equally true now. We only spend an hour or two a week at our ROTARY meetings, but most of us spend most of our waking time at work. Through ROTARY, those hours are also an opportunity for service, and a chance to *Be the Inspiration* to those we work with and the communities we serve'.

Getting a Gun: Yesterday, I got my permit to carry a concealed weapon. So, today I went over to the local gun shop to get a 9mm handgun for home/personal protection. When I was ready to pay for the pistol and ammo, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me." Making a mental note to complain to the government about gun control wackos running amok, I did just as she instructed. When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card reader! As a senior citizen, I do not get flustered often, but this time it took me awhile to get my pants back on. I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

They need to make their instructions to seniors a little more clear! I still don't think I looked that bad! I just need to wear underwear more often!