

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, Benedictine Care Facility

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: Maureen Schlobohm and Nancy Ness, co-directors of Community Pathways

April 5: Open

April 12: Owatonna Park and Recreation: We All Play Report

April 19: Rick Heidick: Fast for Hope

April 26: Open

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, March 1, 2021

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: Welcome to Amanda Starks, Director of Rachael's Light in Owatonna who will speak to the club via Zoom.

BIRTHDAYS: Ryan Gillespie, March 2

MARCH STUDENT ROTARIANS: Welcome to Abbigail Moran, Alix Bettin, Ashton Jensen, Lauren Borgerding, Nolan Burmeister

NOTES FOR ROTARIANS

Many ROTARIANS ask, "People will say that we've been certified polio-free, so why do we need more money?" The answer is, as long as the poliovirus survives anywhere, it remains only a plane ride away. Routine immunization rates in Nigeria aren't high enough to guarantee that if wild poliovirus is imported back into the country, more children won't be paralyzed. The country still needs to hold regular National Immunization Days, even if not at the pace they were held before certification. The current slogan is "Keep Polio at Zero".

You can play a part in keeping Africa free of wild polio, and in wiping out wild polio in the last two endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Each contribution to the PolioPlus Fund gets us closer to our goal of \$50 million per year to end polio. With every dollar matched two to one by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, your donation goes even further to help reach children in every part of the world. Make contributions at endpolio.org/donate.

A LOOK AHEAD IN OHS

A number of smaller school districts around the state have resumed in-classroom learning for upper grades. ROTARIAN Jeff Elstad, Superintendent of Public Schools in Owatonna, told me "It isn't like turning on a switch for us to in-house classes at the high school. There are lots of preparations that will have to be made...everything from nutrition at breakfast and lunch to bus routes to class scheduling to preparations for classrooms to allow for proper distancing. This will all take time, but I can tell you that I can guarantee that we will have all our secondary students back in school every day beginning with the fourth quarter."

Elstad went on to say, "I think it's important that our senior class will be together for the last quarter of the school year. This is their final year of high school and they deserve to be together to wind up the year together."

A PUSH FOR NEW MEMBERS

Membership Director Matthew Hughes has comprised a letter that any member can send out to someone to invite them to attend a meeting. Reach out to Matthew and ask for a copy of the letter to send to a prospective member.

AROUND TOWN

Cancellation of scheduled events this spring and summer are still being announced. "Smokin' in Steele" barbecue competition has been canceled. The annual Farm and Power Show scheduled for this spring has been canceled. Plans are pushing ahead for the Steele County Free Fair. Contracts have been sent out to all vendors. Fair dates are August 17-22.

BACK TO PARALLEL PARKING ON CEDAR AVE

Reconstruction of the blocks of Cedar Ave. from Broadway north to Rose Street will begin this June. One of the changes you will see is the return to parallel parking on Cedar. This will allow widening of the street and will be safer for motorists to blend in with traffic.

Look at it this way: The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs and have fun finding them!

HAVE A GREAT ROTARY WEEK!