

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

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: Roger Warehime, Manager, Owatonna Public Utilities

April 12: Owatonna Parks and Recreation: We All Play Report and check presentation

April 19: Rick Heidick: Fast for Hope

April 26: Jenna Tuma, New Owatonna Parks and Recreation Director

May 3: Open

May 10: OHS National Honor Society

My 17: Open

May 24: Open

May 31: Memorial Day...no meeting

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, March 29, 2021

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: We will hear from Maureen Schlobohm and Nancy Ness, co-directors of Community Pathways in Owatonna.

BIRTHDAYS: None

STUDENT ROTARIANS: Last day for Alix Bettin, Ashton Jensen, Lauren Borgerding and Nolan Burmeister

NOTES FOR ROTARIANS

THE GREATEST AND THE WORST

A story by Asher Schroeder, ROTARY Club of Maquoketa, Iowa: "I was 18 when I was drafted. I turned 19 in Europe. I landed in Normandy a week after the D-Day invasion. In November, 1944, I was with a group of soldiers that was surrounded by Germans. I had been wounded and was lying in a foxhole. I was moved out by German soldiers and taken to a collection point for wounded. I was taken to Duren, where shrapnel was removed from my foot. Then I was moved to Siegburg, across the Rhine. I was lucky: The day after I left Duren, U.S. planes mass bombed the city and flattened it.

The conditions seemed to deteriorate more and more with each camp. In the last three camps, our accommodations were straw on the floor. When I was liberated, I had on the clothing I was wearing when I was captured five months earlier. My weight had dropped from 210 pounds to 128 pounds. At 6-foot-4 I was a bag of bones!

I returned to the states in May of 1945. They gave us a free phone call home. My mother came on the line. After we visited for a few minutes I asked her how come Dad didn't answer the phone. She said he died on the day you were liberated. So, what was the greatest day of my life turned to the most terrible of my life."

AROUND TOWN

The Chamber of Commerce has announced that "Downtown Thursdays" will return this summer...a monthly summer evening of fun, friends, music, food and shopping in downtown Owatonna. Event dates are June 3, July 1 and August 5.

There was one outdoor service station in Owatonna. Joe Leverty operated Joe's National Oil which was located on Vine Street just east of the Arnold Hotel. The station had two gas pumps and an outdoor pit that Joe used to change oil and do other auto maintenance. He used the outdoor pit 12 months a year! Joe was the father of Kathy Muellerleile, wife of ROTARIAN and song leader Dr. John Muellerleile. The first time I met Kathy and her sister was at the service station when they came to "hang out" after school.

ROTARY HAS RISEN TO SO MANY CHALLENGES. WE'VE ANSWERED CONFLICT WITH PEACE AND POVERTY WITH EDUCATION. WE'VE RESPONDED TO A LACK OF BASIC HEALTH CARE WITH PROJECTS LARGE AND SMALL, FROM EQUIPPING CLINICS IN TINY VILLAGES TO ERADICATING POLIO ACROSS THE GLOBE!

How long has it been since you've checked your headlights, tail lights and brake lights on your car? The newer models give you a warning on your dash when a bulb is burned out but older cars don't have that luxury. I am often surprised at the number of cars that have a headlight burned out and obviously in most cases the driver is not aware of it. Don't be fooled though with some new cars when the headlight goes out when the turn signal turns on.

So anyway: My wife and I were discussing aspects of our future so when it was my turn, I asked her, "What will you do if I die before you do"? After some thought, she said that she'd probably look for a house-sharing situation with three other single or widowed women who might be younger than herself. Then she asked me, "What will you do if I die first?" I replied, "Probably the same thing." THAT'S WHEN THE FIGHT STARTED.