

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, May 5, 2014

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: We will be recognizing the STRIVE participants and their mentors from Owatonna High School.

BIRTHDAYS: Syd Briggs, May 11

STUDENT ROTARIANS FOR MAY: Welcome to Ty Sullivan, Cristian Ramirez, Bobbi Livengood and Maureen Gleason

IN-BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENTS: Tlotlo Lestedi, South Africa, Thor Thanormthin, Thailand, Adish Hirve, India

ROTARY NOTES

Our club will be conducting the annual shredding event on May 17 in conjunction with the spring recycling event sponsored by Retrofit. Hours will be from 9:00-1:00, which have been extended to coincide with the hours of the recycling by Retrofit. That means we will need a few more volunteers to work either the full four hours or in two hour shifts. Please let ROTARIAN Earl Anderson know if you can work that morning. Collect your own materials to be shredded and bring them out that day. There will be a free will donation, which goes to the STRIVE program.

The Owatonna Elks Lodge invites ROTARIANS to a revival of the Youth Sports Event which will be held on Monday, May 12 beginning with Hors d'oeuvres and Happy Hour at 6:00 Tickets are \$35.00 and are available at the Elks Lodge and at Kottke Jewelers. Guest speaker will be Dean Blais, former head coach at the University of North Dakota and now is head hockey coach for the University of Nebraska-Omaha and head coach for the U.S. men's national junior ice hockey team.

ROTARIAN Jen Dunn Foster is in need of nine host homes for next year's in-bound exchange students. If interested, or if you know someone who is, please let Jen know. Host families do not have to be ROTARY members. We will have students coming from Japan, Brazil and France.

Some local ROTARY history

Through the years ROTARY has become involved in many community projects, but perhaps one of the most remembered is the Christmas program which was held each year for the children at the State School. It included reindeer and Santa Claus who all came to Owatonna via the Rock Island Line.

Did you know: Our welcome song (#1 in the songbook) is an original composition of former Owatonna High School orchestra director Arnold Krueger. He composed the song in memory of his late father, Arnold M. Krueger, a member of the ROTARY Club of Aberdeen S.D. The tune is used primarily to greet visiting ROTARIANS and guests.

An interesting fact

Interesting! Humor can arise from all manner of human experiences, but how soon is too soon to crack a joke after a tragedy? To explore that question, researchers asked people to respond to typical jokes before, during and after Hurricane Sandy. They found that perceived humor was lowest about two weeks after the storm made landfall but rose after that, peaking at about five weeks.

So anyway: Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says, "Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?" Slim says, "I feel just like a newborn baby." "Really? Like a newborn baby!? Yep..no hair, no teeth and I think I just wet my pants."