

# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

## WAHPETON ROTARY CLUB

WAHPETON, N.D., DISTRICT 5580

AUGUST 4, 2006

MEETINGS ARE EVERY TUESDAY AT 12:00 NOON AT PRANTE'S



### Rotary Family Fun Night

Gather the family and cheer on the nearby hometown team...the FM RedHawks...at a game at Newman Field. Renelle Bertsch is our event coordinator; sign up at the next meeting. Always a fun time!

### *District Governor's Visit*

On August 8, District 5580 District Governor David Vose and his wife Bobbi will visit the Wahpeton Rotary Club at our regularly scheduled meeting at Prante's Restaurant. All Rotarians and their spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is another "Family of Rotary" event. Come and hear what's new from our new District Governor Vose!

(FYI - if you miss this meeting, District Governor Vose will be at the Breckenridge Rotary meeting on Thursday, August 10, at The Northern Grille.)

### *New Members?*

Has anyone asked you about Rotary projects? Or asked you what your jazzy Rotary pin is for? Maybe this person would like an invitation to Rotary, to see and hear more about Rotary. Extend an invitation! We love to meet new people (and Rotarians are usually pretty good at it) and it could help us find prospective members.

### *Upcoming events*

August 8 - District Governor David Vose & wife Bobbi

August 15 -

August 22 - Perry & Karen Engstrom on medical mission trip to Sengida, Tanzania, Africa

August 29 -

September 4 - Labor Day

September - work on the double-decker bus resumes.

### *Rotary Quiz:*

Take the quiz to see how well you can do. Answers will be published at another time.

1. What is the name of our new Wahpeton Rotary President's spouse?
2. Who is the current district governor officer elect (2008-09)?
3. What is Rotaract?
4. What are President Nancy's goals for the coming year?

## *Bus Project*

The double-decker bus restoration is well underway. We'll update the work schedule in September. Meanwhile – thanks to all who have already worked so hard on this project! Let's "git 'r done" together. If you have not checked it out already, plan to stop by. From novice to professional, you have skills that can be put to good use to finish this big project. Anytime you spend working on the bus can be used as credit for a missed meeting, so please remember to sign the attendance sheet.

## *Rotarian of the Year Award*

Votes have been taken and there are three Rotarians up for this award (drum roll please). Congratulations to these three for making it to the "final round": Carmen Plummer, Robert "Tully" Chambers, and Kim Althoff. The winner will be announced soon!

## *And now, here's something you'll really like...*

This is meant to be your newsletter, Wahpeton Rotarians. So, what else would you like to see here? Give me as much news & info as possible and I'll do my best to share it with everyone. Call me at home 642 4149, or work 642 2442 or e-mail me at [pame@702com.net](mailto:pame@702com.net).

## *Web Sites:*

Here are some handy websites that offer information on Rotary.

- [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) *Rotary International*
- [www.wahpetonrotary.org](http://www.wahpetonrotary.org) *Wahpeton Rotary*
- [www.clubrunner.ca/5580](http://www.clubrunner.ca/5580) *District 5580*
- [www.campryla.org](http://www.campryla.org) *5580 Camp RYLA*
- [www.winnipegrotary.org/muna/index.html](http://www.winnipegrotary.org/muna/index.html) *MUNA Assembly in Winnipeg*

About our International Convention: a bird's eye view from Marilyn Chambers, who took notes of the proceedings and her experiences and shares them here: June 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> – Copenhagen, Denmark - **Opening Ceremony:**

This is the first convention to ever be held in 2 countries. There are 134 pre-registered countries with the common bond of Service Above Self. These are the opening remarks from Carl Wilhelm Stenhammar, RI President.

One of the goals set forth last year by President Stenhammar was to open talks with China and Cuba with the objective to be opening up Rotary in these two countries. He reported his success of this goal as follows:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> ever Russian Rotary club is in Moscow and the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Russian District will function starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.
  - As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be two provisional clubs in China; one in Beijing, the other in Shanghai that will be chartered.
  - Kosovo has made a request to open clubs there.
  - Vietnam has asked for an extension; there is not a club there at this time, but this has opened the way to charter Vietnam.
  - Laos wants to be welcomed; they are open for extension.
- “This is setting a pattern of how to get Rotary to expand in the future.”

*Marilyn's notes continued:*

At the opening of the convention, the Rotary bell was struck. When struck, a light flashed quickly to correspond with the clanging of the bell. The explanation is that the bell comes from the Rochester, NY club, named the Rochester Deaf Rotary. Although Rotary frowns on such names, it was approved by RI to call the club that name. It is the 1<sup>st</sup> club with the use of sign language.

“We need to change Rotary to Rotarians, not Rotarians to Rotary,” another of President Stenhammar’s philosophies. Some of the other goals that Carl wanted to accomplish during his year, was to stress the importance of membership, because membership has been, is, and always will be very important. Also he wants a 50-50 split between men and women of club membership. It is also important to bring a younger generation into Rotary. To do so, it is necessary to make ourselves interesting. A comparison was made between cross country skiers and snowboarders. The older generation are the cross country skiers; slow, steady path to the end results. It is the younger generations that are the snowboarders; fast, risk takers, willing to push the envelope. The cross country skiers need to do a little snowboarding, and the snowboarders need to learn cross country skiing.

Rotary International needs to continue to co-op with other organizations, examples would be the UN, and UNICEF. But RI needs to be careful as to the intentions of these organizations. RI cannot afford to liaison itself with organizations that do not follow the ethical standards set by Rotary International.

**General Session June 12<sup>th</sup>**

This morning the program focused on literacy. After the tsunami of 2004, Rotary International went into Sri Lanka to help rebuilt schools that were totally destroyed by the storm. It was decided that the schools would be built bigger and better than what previously existed. In all, 25 new schools were built containing computer labs, medical facilities, and administrative offices, making the schools self contained. Pictures were shown of the students now attending these schools, and each had back packs with the Rotary Wheel on them.

Monday’s session now has 32,588 Rotarians present representing 3,662 clubs.

The featured speaker this day is Sister Ethel Normoyle. Sister was born in Ireland and is a nurse by profession. In 1988, she went to South Africa to promote vital programs on poverty, community health, and education. These were the days of Apartheid. If a student was not registered, that child could not attend school. On learning this, Sister Ethel found a tree where she taught reading and writing. The tree was school for four hours a day. The rest of her time was spent setting up a clinic where she attended to wounds and administered medications. Eventually a make shift school was built but the holes allowed the rain to come in, and the wind howled through the holes. Sister Ethel passionately believes that literacy improves self esteem, enabling people to understand their circumstances, which leads to change.

Sister Ethel works in a community called Missionvale. The conditions were quite poor and unsanitary. It was not uncommon for a husband to leave his family behind in search of work. The wife can’t write, so she cannot communicate with her absent husband. Even if she can write, can he? This leads to the husband never returning to his family.

Outdoor toilets are common place as well as potables. The temperature averages between 28-32 degrees celsius, or 83-90 degrees fahrenheit. It does not rain. The flies are unbearable, as well as the stench. Sanitation does not exist here. Women and children are raped and abused. The women and children have to walk miles in the heat in order to fetch water to cook and wash. Usually it is the children that are sent out early in the morning, which makes them late for school. If late, they get punished, so they drop out.

*Marilyn's notes continued: (Sister Ethel speaking about Missionvale)*

It is not unusual to see 500 people in queue waiting for soup powder. This is a logical step for it feeds people who now can search for employment and give them a sense of hope. Rotary International supplies the soup powder for a price. So that the soup is not a handout, the recipient must bring recyclables in exchange for the powder. This cleans up the garbage that would otherwise litter the village. Plus, selling the recyclables provides money to pay for the bread that is included with the powder.

The major concerns are: extreme poverty, lack of sanitation, interracial violence, HIV, and tuberculosis. HIV can take up to 10 years to manifest itself. But because of the poor nutrition and standards of living here, HIV can start showing up within months, not years.

“Illiteracy leads to poverty, reinforcing that there is no way out. It is not hopeless.” There are school programs for adult such as gardening, arts and crafts. Rotary put a fence around the Missionvale complex to protect the inhabitants. Also Rotary International distributes toys at Christmastime. The joy that the children experience is heartwarming.

Sister Ethel's closing statement is as follows: “If each takes a piece of the whole, poverty can be broken”.

Thanks to Marilyn for sharing her observations. More of her experiences will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

**Quiz answers:**

1. Wahpeton Rotary President Nancy's husband is named Francis. Give him a warm Rotary welcome!
2. District Governor elect for 2008-09 is Wahpeton Rotary Club member Robert “Tully” Chambers.
3. Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Rotaract clubs are usually community-based or university-based and are sponsored by a local Rotary club making them true "partners in service" and key members of the Rotary family.

Editor's Note – Wahpeton Rotary is promoting opportunities for *service above self* by sponsoring a Rotaract Club at the ND State College of Science. Keep in touch with your Rotary Club for more info!

4. President Nancy - please provide the answer for the next newsletter!

**And one more thing! Are you ready for some football?!**

If you don't have your football books yet, see Dan Zink soon. This is one of our best fundraisers. We do this so we can provide the *service above self* that Wahpeton Rotarians are known for! Go, team, go!