



Rotary Club of Ann Arbor for 2006-2007

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President Elect
J. Downs Herold, Secretary
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Peter S. Wright, Director
John T. White III, Club Administrator
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Meetings: Wednesday at noon
U-M Union, 530 S. State St.

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor sponsors the [U-M Rotaract Club](#) and the Interact Clubs at [Huron](#) and [Pioneer](#) High Schools
"Harpoon" is the weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor. Contact the club to subscribe by email.
Copies of recent editions are available as .pdf files at <http://annarborrotary.org/harpoon.shtml>

The Program for Wednesday, October 11, 2006

Speaker: Mel Drumm, Executive Director, Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum

Topic: "The Past, Present and Future Vision of the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum"

You will not want to miss Mel's presentation. We will be getting a real inside view of the museum and hear about present and future activities at the museum. Mel would like to engage us in a series of Hands-On activities, including some at our tables. It should be a lot of fun for members. He might even need a few volunteers. So plan on attending a very informative talk combined with the museum's hands-on fun!

Host/Introducer: Jim Frenza

Song Leader: Don Faber

Accompanist: Maurita Holland

Also this day, we will again be selling printed directories to members for \$5 each and we are still looking for the generous person who paid way too much for his or her copy. If you think it was you, talk to the directory sellers on Wednesday.

Looking Ahead

October 18 (Wednesday) – Our speakers will be Jennifer Gratz and Paul Hillegonds. Their topic will be, "Civil Rights Showdown - Pro & Con on Proposal 2"

October 25 (Wednesday) - Ted Brader, U-M Political Science Professor and Faculty Associate, Center for Political Studies, IS will speak on, "Uses and Impacts of Emotion in Political Campaign Advertising"

Note: Details on all the luncheon programs for October are on the website at <http://annarborrotary.org/october.shtml>. Paper copies will be available at the attendance table.

October 27 (Friday) – "Nosferatu" at the Michigan Theater. This is the first Dracula movie ever made. It is a silent film but will be accompanied by a live orchestra. Lecture (optional) at 7:00. Movie at 8:00. Call 734-668-8397, ext. 23, to reserve tickets at the special Rotary price of \$15 each. Also, note that the date for "The Fantastiks" at the Power Center has been changed from November 9 to November 16.

News from the Meeting of October 4, 2006

In honor of our club's 90th birthday, President Ingrid wore a birthday hat with mock candles on it, courtesy of Gloria Kerry.

We sang "Happy Birthday" to our club's four nonagenarians: Paul McCracken, Walt Helmreich, Robben Fleming and Herb

Ellis.

Larry Henkel took a moment to praise Deanna Relyea for her fine solo appearance in Verdi's "Requiem," recently rendered in Hill Auditorium.

We welcomed our Junior Rotarians from Huron High, Lauleh Aslani, Britney Coleman and Seth Buchsbaum. We will hear from each next week.



President Ingrid



The Rotary Singers: Jim Irwin, Don Faber and Larry Henkel. Not shown: Henry Johnson

The nominating committee, composed of immediate past president Norman Herbert, Ingrid Sheldon, Beth Fitzsimmons, Patricia Garcia, Downs Herold and Ray Rabidoux, will meet the week of Oct. 9 to choose nominees for '07-08. See the article later in this newsletter for more information.

Buz Hoff has been hospitalized and we hope he returns to us soon.

We had as a special activity a Rotary singalong, with President Ingrid, Larry Henkel, Henry Johnson, Jim Irwin and Don Faber providing vocal

leadership to a musical history of Rotary. The text of their presentation can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Notes from the Program of October 4, 2006

Hal Flynn, Assistant District Governor, introduced District Governor Gerry Jackson, speaking on "Visions of Rotary." Jackson said it was a privilege to be here. "You're making a difference in the world," he said, "treasure the gift you have in Rotary." There are 535 governors around the world; Bill Boyd, Rotary International president, is from New Zealand, identified by Gerry as a "hands-on, down to earth Rotarian."



DG Gerry Jackson

Boyd's job is to give Rotary a theme for the year. This year, it's Lead the Way. "Our attitude," said Gerry, "should be I don't care what the theme is – I can make it work." Every Rotarian, he said, can lead the way. Do what makes your heart beat. Gerry said politicians generally don't lead, they tend to follow. "But Rotarians lead, we make a promise, it happens." He mentioned specifically the literacy and replacement trees projects.

The goals under "Lead the Way" include membership, public relations, Rotary family and the triad of water management, literacy and health/hunger. These last three will define what Rotary is in the future. Gerry said our club was "doing great" in this matter of membership. Our district, no. 6380, is nearly at 51 clubs total. "Numbers are important," said Gerry, "the people who depend on us need membership to be up." He mentioned the rise of some Twilight Clubs which are on the rise with younger people, who use the badly-named traffic rush hour at 5-7 p.m. to meet as a Rotary Club instead. Gerry invited Rotarians to future events such as the Rotary Foundation dinner Nov. 9 and the district conference April 27-29 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Above all, Rotarians should

have fun, saying he's done the chicken dance with a chieftain from Africa at a bar in Texas!

Rotary, he said, changes lives. "I got to meet myself" as a Rotary exchange student "hosted by people just like you. It changed my life forever."

Notes prepared by Don Faber, Harpoon editor. Fred Beutler provided the photographs.

Meeting Statistics: Our reported attendance at this day's meeting was a very respectable 143 members. We also had two guests, four visiting Rotarians, two Rotaractors and four Interactors. Two committees (Social and International Projects) and one subcommittee (PEP – Productivity Enhancement Program) met before the luncheon. A total of 27 members participated.

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: October 1 – Bill Martel; October 3 – Fred Beutler; October 4 – Chuck Rubin; October 5 – Steve Kesler and Bob Livingston; October 10 – Laura Lonergan; October 11 – Bob Moenart and October 12 – Carl Schmult.

Make-up Cards from Roving Rotarians: Neil Bidwell (Petoskey on September 6, 13 and 20); Ray Hunter (Ebensburg, PA on September 12); Nels Olson (Frankfort on September 27); Mark Ouimet (Chelsea on September 26 and Dexter on September 28); Bill Stegath (Escanaba on August 22 and Cambridge, England on September 26) and Jack Walker (Damariscotta-Newcastle on September 26).

Visiting Rotarians: Charles Ebersole (Cleveland); Neil Loney (Ypsilanti); Christine Uthoff (Ypsilanti) and Dick Rosenfeld (Jackson). Neil is our immediate past Assist District Governor and Christine is the current president of the Ypsilanti Club.



Nominating Committee Formed and Gearing Up for Action [from Norman Herbert]: One of the official duties of the Immediate Past President of our Club is to chair the Nominating Committee that selects and presents to the membership a slate of nominees for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors annually, with terms of office (one year for officers, two for directors) to begin the following July. The current president serves on the committee, ex-officio, and the chair is required to appoint at least three other members, one of whom also must be a past president.

The members of this year's Nominating Committee are Norman Herbert (Chair), Ingrid Sheldon, Beth Fitzsimmons, Patricia Garcia, Downs Herold, and Ray Rabidoux. The Nominating Committee will meet the week of October 9th to choose nominees for '07-08, whose names will be published no later than in the November 6 Harpoon and presented to the membership at the regular Club meeting on November 1 or 8, with the election to be held at the Club Assembly on December 6. Nominations also may be made from the floor, if put forth by at least two members per nominee and with the floor-nominee's consent. Between now and October 8th, if you wish to be considered for any of the officer or director positions yourself or would like to suggest other members as potential nominees, please communicate such suggestions to any member of the Nominating Committee.

Thank-you Notes: We received two letters of appreciation from grantees in our Community Allocations process. One is from Rose Martin (recently retired) of the Peace Neighborhood Center. They used their grant for two programs; Job Options for Youth and Leaders in Training. The other was from Joe Toro of the Boy Scouts. He reports that their organization helped establish two Cub Scout packs for boys that cannot afford the costs of scouting. A total of 31 boys benefited from our grant.

Belated Sports Trivia: Although the 2006 football game between U-M and MSU is now history, one old piece of history is a Rotary connection between the two teams. Clarence L. "Biggie" Munn, one of MSU's most successful football coaches at 54-9-2, was president of our club in 1945-1946.

How many Bobs does it take to form a Rotary Club? [from Dan Romanchik, Website Committee Chair]: We have recently converted our online membership directory from static web pages to an online database. This not only makes it much easier to update, but also makes it easier to analyze the data. I'm not sure how useful some of the data are but it's interesting. For example, can you name the member who has the longest tenure with our club? That honor goes to Jack Dobson, who joined in 1950. John Holland has the second longest tenure, joining in 1957. In terms of classification, it's no surprise that the largest group has some sort of university affiliation--70 members are in this classification. A distant second is law, with 17 members. Third is banking, with 16. Twelve members are in nonprofit administration with another seven in arts administration or performance management. The real estate, medicine, and education classifications all have ten members each. I also sorted the membership by first name. 24 members are named Robert, 16 John, 13 David, and 11 James. The most popular woman's name is Mary (6 members), followed by Barbara and Karen (3 each). Finally, I took a look at birthdays. The months with the most birthdays are March and May (33 each), while December has the fewest birthdays (20). Five members celebrate their birthdays on October 23; four celebrate a week later on October 30. Four members also celebrate on April 2.

Attendance Notes: Note that committee meetings and other service-related, non-social activities (such as tutoring, tree planting and food-sorting) are eligible for attendance credits. John White keeps track of them. All he needs is official documentation from the "Rotarian-in-Charge" that includes date, time, title/description/purpose and the list of participating Rotarians. Committee chairs are encouraged to ensure participation is reported, not only for the members' attendance percentages but for Club records, program planning and reports to RI. Each member is responsible to ensure that his or her

attendance is documented. The header on the familiar orange attendance sheet used on Wednesdays at lunch allows it to be used for a committee meeting or other purpose. Committee chairs can pick up a few extras from John White, Dave Williams or the setup person to use for off-site meetings and other activities. It can then be mailed to the club address or dropped off at the attendance table.

p.s. to Committee Chairs: If you want a notice of your meeting to appear in the Harpoon, contact John White. Also, you will note that we now have another big table setup in the Anderson Room to better handle the larger (10-12 or more members) committee meetings. Finally, please make sure you have a current list of members and send that to your director and to John.

Links of Interest: Below is a short list of links to various websites that will be of interest to Rotarians.



- **Rotary International:** <http://rotary.org/>. The RI home page has links to About Rotary, The Rotary Foundation, Club Locator and Member Access.

- **Zone 28:** <http://www.zones27-28.org/>. The zone level is between RI and the district. We are part of a zone with 15 districts covering the lower peninsula of Michigan, the upper parts of Indiana and Ohio and even a bit of Pennsylvania and New York.

- **District 6380:** <http://rotary6380.org/>. This is the website for our district (covering a total of 50 clubs in the counties of Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb and Kent (in Ontario). The district's monthly newsletter is also posted here. The September edition has just been posted. You can reach it directly at <http://www.clubrunner.ca/Data/6380/html/13115/District6380Sept06.pdf>. Plus, you can sign up on the site for The Rotary Foundation Gala to be held in Madison Heights on Thursday, November 9. Note: Rotaractors and Interactors are also invited to attend. Our club will be working toward some funding support and transportation arrangements.

- **Rotary Club of Ann Arbor:** <http://annarborrotary.org/>. This is our Club's own website. It contains a great deal of background material and current information.

Our History Lesson: Here is the text of the history lesson we received as part of the singalong:

The year was 1916, Woodrow Wilson was in the White House and won a second term in the November election. The Michigan Union was under construction and late in the year provided temporary barracks and mess hall for soldiers training on campus. Also in 1916, Rotary came to Ann Arbor. Dr. Theron S. Langford, a surgeon, took steps to have an Ann Arbor club after learning of Rotary from a Toledo acquaintance. The nucleus for the new organization was Langford, the Rev. Lloyd C. Douglas, pastor of the First Congregational Church and later famed author of "Magnificent Obsession," "The Robe" and five other volumes. Other members included Harlan H. Johnson, editor of the Ann Arbor Times-News; Charles Sink, secretary of the School of Music at U-M; and Shirley Smith, Secretary of the University of Michigan. These five originally met to plan the new club in April, 1916. The group had grown to 15 when the club was fully organized on July 21. Their occupations included: landlord, abstractor, attorney, business manager, efficiency engineer, insurance, motor manufacturing, farmer, banker and steel ball manufacturing.

Rotary International permitted only one person per occupation, so classifications became a problem. Other problems through the years were tardiness at meetings, maintaining required attendance level, lack of Rotary spirit for the club itself and for the ideals of Rotary, how to handle political speeches, how to limit verbosity, departure of large numbers just before the main speaker of the day, and delinquent dues (Sound familiar?)

Service to our own community and beyond has always been one of the precepts of Rotary. In our records the first mention of a service project was less than a year after the founding. Our Club spent \$125 to purchase a horse for Col. A.C. Pack, the commanding officer of the military unit on campus and sent \$123.50 to aid French war orphans. In addition to gifts of money, in the 1920s the Club acted as a political action committee (PAC) and sent serious resolutions to government and other agencies. We sent a resolution to President Warren Harding stating "full accord with all legitimate efforts by government to secure deeper respect for the prohibition laws," to the governor of Michigan to halt the wholesale destruction of Michigan forests by the Christmas tree industry, and to the District Governor to use his influence to prevent drunken and rowdy behavior at the District Conference in Flint. (We assume these raucous delegates were not from Ann Arbor).

The beginning of the 1930s saw Rotary, and everyone else, affected by the Great Depression. Farmers were especially in trouble. In an effort to help these folks, Ann Arbor Rotary held annual social events and invited local farmers and their wives. Records show that around 75 farmers and their wives would accept this invitation.

The first meeting place for the Ann Arbor Rotary Club was the Catalpa Inn, located at the corner of Ann Street and Fourth Avenue. With the ending of the war in 1918 and the departure of service men who were billeted and fed at the Michigan

Union, Rotary moved into the large facility, which had been completed just the year before. The club continued to meet at that location until it was interrupted by another war in 1942 when the Union was again appropriated for war-related activities. For 14 years the club met at the Allene Hotel which stood at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Huron, with its limited space, dark paneling and no air conditioning. The chief advantage of the Allene, aside from its availability, was that it was two blocks west of Division St. In this location it was two blocks west of the dry line that kept the University area free from serving liquor, hence the name Division Street. At the Allene it was possible to have a beer or cocktail with lunch. Wine wasn't considered a man's drink in those years. By 1956 the post World War II explosive student population leveled off and Rotary left the Allene and moved back to the Michigan Union to the recently completed wing that includes the Anderson room.

During the decade of the 1970s, an attempt was made to add variety to meetings by having catered luncheons at various sites that were the subject of the Wednesday program. These included the remodeled Michigan Stadium press box, Washtenaw Community College, Washtenaw County Service Center and Jail, the new St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Baird Carillon, the new Power Center for Performing Arts (built through the generosity of Rotarian Eugene Power), and the Lutheran Retirement Center, now known as Glacier Hills. As interesting as these excursions were, attendance was always less than when we met at the Union. In the 1980s there were two truly significant developments that changed our club and influence in the community. In 1984, John Rosemergy, Joe Payne and Frank Kennedy initiated a permanent Endowment Fund. Traditionally, half of our yearly dues that were paid in December was allocated to charities, hence tax deductible. The June portion of our dues was for Club operations (non deductible). The downside of this longstanding tradition was that our funds for charities were quite small compared to national averages in per capita Rotary giving. We gave smaller dollar amounts than many smaller Rotary clubs which developed annual fund raising projects. An endowment fund raising campaign was begun in 1985 with a goal of \$70,000 by our 70th anniversary in October, 1986. That goal was achieved!

The other development in the 1980s was the admission of women to membership. Our club first admitted women in February, 1988 (Gloria Kerry and Diane Farber). This was two years before Rotary International deleted the all-male restriction at the Stockholm International Convention in 1990. Behind this progressive posture there is an anecdote. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, the issue of women members always came up at the annual International Convention. At the 1980 Convention, the amendment was defeated by a majority of 60 percent against admission and 40 percent for admission. It was not surprising since as an international organization, women in some of these countries had low status outside the home. Before that 1980 Convention a straw vote was taken in our club and the results mirrored those of the international meeting: 60 percent against and 40 percent for the admission of women. Admitting women did make some things different in the Club. When the Rotary membership directory was published, the day and month of members' birthdays was recorded, but, for the first time in our history, the year of birth of noticeably absent. Our first female president was elected in 1993, Elaine Didier.

Over the past ten years there have been several changes. First of all Rotary has received national and international attention for its Polio Plus projects, aimed at eradicating polio around the world. And our Club has been recognized for its support of the Rotary International Foundation and literacy projects at the district and zone level. From World War II to the 1960s, membership in the Ann Arbor Rotary grew to around 200. Commensurate with the city's growth the need for another Rotary Club in Ann Arbor was apparent. With our assistance, Ann Arbor North Club was chartered on December 26, 1967, during the presidency of Jim Brinkerhoff, and the Briarwood Club which was chartered in 1990. Our membership now is over 300 with a gradual rise in the average age of members.

We now have increased committee activities; two high school Interact clubs; a Rotaract Club at the University of Michigan, and an expanded International Committee supporting many projects around the world. The Allocations committee continues our social service giving and food is collected to fill the Food Gatherers pantry. Rotary Readers has expanded to include math as well as reading, with over 40 volunteers. It includes two elementary schools, Angell and Burns Park.

We have just held our fourth annual golf outing with the proceeds supporting the replacement of trees from the devastation of the Emerald Ash Borer and scholarships supporting outstanding students from local high schools and the STRIVE program at Stone School. We are 90 years strong and leading the way!

“Lead the Way”