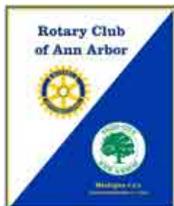


Harpoon for the Meeting of March 7, 2007

Note to email subscribers: If this newsletter does not display properly or you wish to print a copy, the .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) version is available on the Club website at <http://annarborrotary.org/harpoon.shtml>. Past copies are also available on-line.



Rotary Club of Ann Arbor for 2006-2007

Ingrid B. Sheldon, President
Alphonse R. Burdi, VP and President Elect
J. Downs Herold, Secretary
John G. Ackenhusen, Club Treasurer
David J. Keosaian, Endowment Treasurer
Norman G. Herbert, Past President
David B. Williams, Sergeant at Arms

Nishta Bhatia, Director
Louis M. Callaway, Jr., Director
Barbara J. Debrodt, Director
Ian T. Glassford, Director
Debra Polich, Director
Peter S. Wright, Director
John T. White III, Club Administrator
Donald J. Faber, Harpoon Editor

P.O. Box 131217
Ann Arbor MI 48113-1217
www.annarborrotary.org
a2rotary@comcast.net
(734) 662-1734

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, March 7, 2007

Note: This program replaces the one originally scheduled for this date!

Speakers: William Miller, Superintendent for the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) and Sian Owen-Cruise, Program Manager for the Washtenaw Success By 6 initiative

Topic: "Why Washtenaw Success By 6?"

Bill will address the question of why the "Washtenaw Success By 6" initiative is needed and Sian will talk about the pending partnership between Rotary and Washtenaw Success By 6. This is the newest and third community project that will be the beneficiary of the Rotary Club's fund raising program, "Planting for the Future". The decision to partner with Washtenaw Success By 6 is influenced by the Club's long standing objective to assist youth and support literacy.

Host/Introducer: Norman Herbert

Song Leader: Shelley MacMillan

Accompanist: Joan Knoertzer

Looking Ahead

March is Literacy Month on the Rotary International Calendar

March 12-18 – World Rotaract Week

March 14 (Wednesday noon) – Membership Development Committee co-chairs Agnes Reading and Tim Marshall will host the induction of thirteen new members

March 21 (Wednesday noon) – Patricia Donnellan, Outgoing Ambassadorial Scholar from our District, will speak on her experiences on a year in Norway

March 24 (Saturday evening) – The Canadian Brass at Hill Auditorium

Note: Details on the luncheon programs for March are on-line at <http://annarborrotary.org/march.shtml>.

News from the Meeting of February 28, 2007

The Group Study Exchange, which is hosting five people from Thailand near the end of April, still needs drivers. See Spaulding Clark if you can fill this need. Details are in the past two Harpoons, The Thais speak English, so you needn't fear being tied down by a language barrier.

Reserve March 24 for your special Rotary night with the Canadian Brass, arranged for you by our ever-active social committee. The Saturday concert is at 8:00pm. Details on ticketing will be coming soon.

The computer woes President Ingrid related are ones to which we can all relate. Our President's choices were a technology class or a bottle of Valium.

We welcomed as a guest Gus Stager, former longtime U-M swimming coach who won five national titles and was at the helm here for 26 years, succeeding Matt Mann.

Notes from the Program of February 21, 2007

Sam Offen introduced Bob Bowman, U-M swimming coach, on the topic "Carrying on the Great Michigan Swimming Tradition – and More." Now in his third year as men's swimming coach, Bob was named 2006 Coach of the Year at the USA Swimming Foundation's Golden Goggles awards. Bob coached Michael Phelps, who won five gold medals at the most recent Olympic Games.



Bob Bowman

Bob said his program here has three facets: The Varsity program, Club Wolverine and Club Wolverine community outreach. As for the varsity, "expectations are high," while acknowledging chasing Minnesota. "We had a good recruiting class," he said. Bob was most proud of the community outreach program. "We want to make Ann Arbor a national center of excellence in our sport," he said. The outreach program is the result of a merger of three swim clubs. "We now have 350 swimmers from age four to the top-ranked adults," Bob said, adding "we want this to be the finest youth program in the country." Bowman is readying his forces for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Responding to questions, Bob said there were so few African-American athletes in the sport "because developmental opportunities aren't the same. But you'll see things change," citing the example of one black swimmer who we'll be hearing from soon. What about air pollution in Beijing? It won't affect our swimmers indoors, but it may on the outdoor swimmers. Bowman said he was confident the Chinese "will take care of the problem." It's the morning swims (for TV exposure back home) and the food that we're most worried about in Beijing, Bowman said.

The News and Notes were prepared by Don Faber, Harpoon Editor. Fred Beutler provided the photo.

Note: You can keep up with what's going on with Men's Swimming and Diving at: http://mgoblue.com/section_display.cfm?section_id=195&top=2&level=2

Meeting Statistics: Our reported attendance at this day's meeting was 114 members. We also had one visiting Rotarian (Lloyd Bastian of Clinton, a beloved former member of our club) and four guests. Two committees (Community Project 2007 and Rotaract) met before lunch. A total of 23 members participated. Also, two Rotarians reported a total of nine recent off-site meetings with Rotaractors. Coincidental with the start of Rotary's World Literacy Month, 14 Rotarians and five spouses documented a total of 87 tutoring sessions at Burns Park and Angell schools during the months of December and January.

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: March 4 - Judy McGovern; March 5 – Maurita Holland and Mathwon Howard; March 7 – David Milling; March 8 – Ray Rabidou; March 9 – John Hieftje and Lou Young; March 10 – Victor Stoeffler.

Make-up Cards from Roving Rotarians: Ingrid Sheldon (Ypsilanti on February 19). Also, Chuck Olson was recently in Izamal, Yucatan. Unfortunately, his schedule there didn't allow him to attend any meetings among the three local clubs. Nevertheless, he brought back the photo at left. He reports that this sign is outside one club's own building.



February Attendance Report to the District: We reported an average attendance of 44% for our four meetings. We started the month with 304 members (not counting our three honoraries) and finished with 303 after the resignation of Greg Cook. Note: Pieter Thomassen's resignation this month was formally acknowledged by the board but had been reported to RI earlier.

Rotarians in the News: Although Bob Hatcher's name was in the Ann Arbor News of Saturday, March 3, it was actually his daughter, Jessamyn, who was featured. She is engaged to be married later this month. Best wishes to her and congratulations to Bob and Sherry.

Rotarian Magazine for March: March is Literacy Month in the Rotary Calendar. President Bill Boyd's message explains that literacy pays big returns on small investments while Wilf Wilkinson, next year's president, includes it in his list for next year. Wilf also sees the need for RI to improve its positive image, promote its achievements, remain relevant and attractive to younger prospective members and expand projects addressing water, health, hunger and literacy worldwide. Another thing on his mind is importance of consistent ethical standards. Details are in a full interview with him.

District 6380 Newsletter for February: The complete newsletter does not yet have a link on the District website but is available directly at: <http://www.clubrunner.ca/Data/6380/NewsBulletin/780/District6380February2007.pdf>.

Pasted in below is the especially inspirational cover message from District Governor Gerry Jackson. It is entitled, "Rotary with a Passion."

Do you ever get tired of Rotary? I'll admit I do. The go, go, go; the worry of correctly managing your district dues money and spending it to the benefit of all our clubs and Rotarians; the day-to-day management of operations; the dealing with the little and, admittedly, sometimes big squabbles that come up in any people organization; etc. Then I sit back and remember the true value of Rotary to me ... satisfying the passion of life. Yes, to me Rotary is a passion, or more correctly, a true opportunity to find your passion.

Over the years I have been very fortunate to find several passions in Rotary. All very personally rewarding because it answers the age-old question of "why am I here?" Through my gift of time ... I have been fortunate to work with young people through youth exchange, RYLA and Interact, striving to improve their opportunities in life. I have personally helped put deep tube wells into Bangladesh with more than 4,000 people having a worry-free (and arsenic-free) water source for the rest of their lives. Each and every year I so look forward to my own club's annual Christmas basket program – it has brought the true meaning and excitement of Christmas back to me. I take personal pride, yes - personal pride, in our Rotary Foundation because with each financial gift I know I am a big part of those many humanitarian projects displayed in our magazine and I am a big part of our Foundation's educational programs – I am actively part of world peace through understanding. And although I don't see it nearly as personally rewarding as my other Rotary passions, I've been able to contribute to our organization's leadership.

Can your passions change in Rotary? Certainly. In fact, perhaps throughout your Rotary "career," one should assert to change passions and thereby expanding your horizons, refreshing your life outlook, and growing your inner self. Why not try taking on an exchange student; perhaps take the lead in your club to bring in the Group Study Exchange team; go on one of the many humanitarian aid trips to another country, or any of the many, many aspects of Rotary you have not yet served. Each step of the way Rotary can only become more valuable to your life and you become more invaluable to the rest of the world.

You do not have to feel guilty that your passion is not the same as that of another Rotarian. We all have different passions so that all the works of Rotary get done. Find your Rotary passion and then be proud and deeply satisfied with the many marvels of Rotary that all our combined passions accomplish.

If Rotary for you has been in the doldrums of late, or if you start to question the value of Rotary in your life, perhaps you haven't yet found your passion in Rotary or perhaps it's time to try for a new passion. Perhaps you are not yet reaping the true values of your membership. With passion, Rotary is a most valuable experience.

Links of Interest: Below is a 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. Registration information for the Annual Convention in Salt Lake City from June 17-29 is also on-line at: <http://rotary.org/events/conventions/2007/index.html>.
- **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. District 6380 covers a total of 50 clubs in the counties of Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland,

Macomb in Michigan and Kent in Ontario. The district's monthly newsletter, as well as individual articles of district-wide interest, are also posted here. The latest postings include the blog address for our GSE Team to Thailand, 2007 RYLA Registration Forms, the January District Newsletter and on-line registration for the District Conference which will be held in East Lansing from April 27-29.

- **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 such as the Club brochure, the current Annual Report, New Member Nomination Form, Committee Descriptions, synopses of upcoming programs and an archive of current and past Harpoons. Our club also sponsors the following Rotaract and Interact Clubs:
- **U-M Rotaract Club:** <http://www.umich.edu/~rotaract/>
- **Huron High Interact Club:** <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/huron.interact/home> (Note: this URL is for the current site. Past Harpoons have contained a link to an out-of-date one. Please check it out and update any bookmarks.)
- **Pioneer High Interact Club:** <http://www.pioneerinteract.blogspot.com/>

“Lead the Way”