

Upcoming Programs

February 25: Ed Waltman—State Budget Impact on K-12

March 4: Club Assembly: How to improve the Rotary Experience

March 11: Richard Davenport and Robert Hoffman—State budget impact on higher education

March 18: Bill Anderson—Environment

March 25: Shannon Robinson and Jim Santori—Greater Mankato Events, new online calendar

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say, or do . . .

First—Is it the Truth?

Second—Is it Fair to all concerned?

Third—Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?

Fourth—Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

Rotary Websites

www.mankatorotary.org
District: www.rotary5960.org
International: www.rotary.org



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Mankato Rotary Club
Board Meeting US Bank
7:30 a.m. Feb. 26

District 5960 Conference
April 17-19 in River Falls

Look for more information about upcoming events on our website and the district website



Wednesday, February 25, 2009

ROTARY CLUB OF MANKATO

Chartered January 11, 1935

P.O. Box 63 Mankato, MN 56002
Wednesdays, 12:10 p.m.
Meetings at Old Main Village

Rotary Year 2008-2009

CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

Gordon Gibbs - President
Luke Robinson - President Elect
Wes Taylor - Secretary
Roger Kontak - Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Bob Weiss - Past President
Kenny Klooster - Membership
Larissa Mrozek - Public Image
Don Putzier - Website
Mark Piepho - Community and Club Service
Jonathon Zierdt - Literacy
Don Friend - International Service
Dave Sunderman & Doug Johnson - Rotary Foundation
Jim Santori - Programs
John Murphy - Area 3 Assistant District Governor

MANKATO ROTARY CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Old Main Village
Mankato, MN

WELCOME: President **Gordon Gibbs** opened the meeting with a greeting at 12:20 PM. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. **Oscar Anderson** gave the invocation and **Gordon** led members in reciting the Four-Way test.

VISITING ROTARIANS: There were no visiting Rotarians during this meeting.

GUESTS: Guests on February 18 were **Tami Phillips**, guest of **Doug Johnson**, **Amanda Eppen**, guest of **Nathan Crane**, **Mark Landgraff**, guest of **Dick Kalkedy**, and **John Dorn**.

BIRTHDAYS: **Dave Thompson**-Feb. 19, **Denise Zernechel**-Feb. 23, **Jerry Keenan**-Feb. 24

MAKE DREAMS REAL – Gordon Gibbs.

HAPPY DOLLARS: Happy Dollars donated to **Fast For Hope**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Board meeting—February 26
- Fast for Hope meal—February 25
- Car Raffle Ticket Sales
- District 5960 Conference—April 17-19 in River Falls
- Book Distribution—April 29

PROGRAM: **Don Ostrom** was our guest speaker and discussed the Growth and Justice organization. This organization is committed to making Minnesota's economy more prosperous, fair, and environmentally sustainable. The organization combines independent research with civic engagement. More information is available on the website www.growthandjustice.org.

February is Fast For Hope Month

February is Rotary's Peace and World Understanding month when our district conducts Fast for Hope (FFH), our annual international project. Fast for Hope is a program unique to District 5960, although many districts undertake similar efforts. In the early days of the program, District Rotarians were asked to skip the meal during their Rotary meeting one day per year and to instead donate the cost of the meal to a district international service project, hence the name "Fast for Hope."

Over the years, our district has raised significant sums of money, which have been used to fund projects throughout the world. In 2003-2004, our district began a three-year collaboration with District 5950 on the Haiti Safe Water Plus project, which also involves Haiti Outreach and World Vision as co-participants. We extended our commitment for a fourth year which concluded during the 2006-2007 Rotary year. During this four year effort we raised over \$135,000, bought a new well drilling rig to replace one that was lost in a hurricane, built over 60 new wells, repaired 10 damaged wells and built over 200 latrines.

In early 2007, then District Governor Elect Lillis and the Governors Planning Council formed a task force which was directed to identify a new undertaking for Fast for Hope. Since one of the goals of the task force was for this new undertaking to provide a meaningful volunteer opportunity for District 5960 Rotarians, their family and friends, the task force focused its efforts in Central and South America. After much research the Task Force agreed on characteristics of what they were looking for in a new model. They were:

- To attempt to address in a particular village. This is different from in the past we have tended to work on a "project" that benefits several villages.
- To provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for Rotarians and their families.
- A program that can be replicated.

There are two significant differences between this year's Fast for Hope effort and efforts in prior years.

1. That we are focusing on one village, but rather than tackling one project our objective is to simultaneously address the myriad of factors which are interconnected and that cause extreme poverty.
2. That while we can assist and inspire, the villagers themselves must identify their needs and potential solutions. This becomes extremely challenging in a community where because generation after generation has lived in extreme poverty, the villagers have come to believe that living in extreme poverty is a condition that they are destined to experience the rest of their life. It is very difficult to teach people how to identify what they need to do and can do to change this condition, when their entire effort and focus is on surviving to the next day. Yet it has to be done in order for this effort to be effective.

For more information, go to the district website:

<http://www.rotary5960.org/showDoc.cfm?pObject=52&pMenuTop=51>