

## *Upcoming Programs*

- October 8:** Twin Rivers Arts Council  
**October 15:** To Be Determined  
**October 22:** Mankato Area Children in Need  
**October 29:** Chanhassen Theatre  
**November 5:** TBD  
**November 12:** TBD  
**November 19:** Holiday Sharing Tree

## **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**

- October 23, 2008**  
Board Meeting
- October 11, 2008**  
GSE Sweden Interviews  
St. Paul
- October 17, 2008**  
District Grants Monthly Meeting (formerly WCS)  
Boy Scouts of America  
393 Marshall Avenue  
St Paul MN 55101  
11:45 am to 1:45 pm
- Look for these on the district website



Wednesday, October 8, 2008

# **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  
Becky Kunst - President Elect  
Wes Taylor - Secretary  
Roger Kontak - Executive Secretary/Treasurer  
Bob Weiss - Past President  
Angi Hiller - Newsletter Editor  
Kenny Klooster - Membership  
Jeremy Sullivan - 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

October 8, 2008  
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 **Denise Zernechel** led members in reciting the Four-Way test.

**VISITING ROTARIANS:** Visiting Rotarians in attendance were **Randy Farrow** from River Falls, WI, **Phyllis Votca** from North Mankato, and **Gary Peer** from Stephenville, TX.

**GUESTS:** **Howard Vetter** was a guest of **Bob Weiss** and **Matt B.** was a guest of **Luke Robinson**.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Rotarians celebrating a birthday between this meeting and the meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> are **Ken Klooster**.

**MAKE DREAMS REAL – Gordon Gibbs.**

**HAPPY DOLLARS:** Happy Dollars donated to the Girl Scouts.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Holiday Sharing Tree – Club match for first 30 presents up to \$75
- Rotary Youth Exchange – There is a need to individuals to volunteer to help with the program.

**PROGRAM:** **Lee McGrath**, Institute for Justice on "eminent domain". Mr. McGrath shared information on eminent domain how it has changed over time.



## Birmingham at its best

Rotarian and tour boat operator Earle Wightman guides our canal boat through the Victorian heart of Birmingham, England. We glide past steps worn into the embankment by 240 years of passengers trudging up to higher land; the two towers that inspired J.R.R. Tolkien, author of *The Lord of the Rings*; and factories transformed into outdoor cafes and lofts as part of the city's ongoing renaissance. "Birmingham has more canals than Venice," Wightman says.

Birmingham is full of such surprises. It has the biggest retail complex in Europe, a symphony hall ranked among the world's finest for its high-tech acoustics, and more than 200 restaurants featuring the cuisine of 27 countries. Once known solely for heavy industry, England's second city is today a leading center for medical and environmental technology research and for artistic innovation. Birmingham's leaders, who have included many Rotarians since their first club was chartered in 1914, have a tradition of reinventing the city so it will thrive in a changing world.

The Rotary Club of Birmingham meets at the modern Repertory Theatre, in an upper-level space with huge windows. The soothing sound of a viola fills the room – it's in lieu of a guest speaker. The club president, John Ankcorn, is studying the viola and asked his teacher to perform. Ankcorn also supports a home for abused women and children. On my left is Beverly Lindsay, born in Jamaica and managing director of a travel agency, and on my right is Brian Fuller, the energetic chair of the Host Organization Committee and the city's retired fire chief. After the performance, the room is loud with good-natured ribbing and raucous stories, including one whose central plot concerns rum. Guests at this meeting include a handful of prospective members in their early 30s. Once the heart of the industrial revolution, Birmingham, population 1 million, is now the heart of England's convention industry, hosting a G-8 summit, the International Red Cross, and Microsoft, among other groups. More than 30 million people visited in 2006. This makes it a fitting location for Rotary International's 100th convention, to be held here 21-24 June.

Birmingham is a direct plane trip from more than 100 cities, and London is 90 minutes away on Virgin's comfortable high-speed trains. The site of the convention, the National Exhibition Centre, is adjacent to both the train station and the airport.

Organizers expect that this convention, the first in Great Britain since 1997, will particularly attract Rotarians from the 53 British Commonwealth nations, such as India and Ghana, giving everyone a chance to meet many potential project partners. The convention will feature a massive House of Friendship recreating a Victorian village with its own pub, along with events such as an evening at Warwick Castle, England's largest and best-preserved medieval fortification.

My first stop, on a fast-paced walking tour with Fuller, is police headquarters to meet Rotarian Paul Scott-Lee, who is chief constable for the West Midlands – and also a knight. Sir Paul is unpretentious and low-key but passionate about his city and the people who live there. "This is a very vibrant city," he says.

"Birmingham is the safest city in England," he tells me. Why? "We're bloody good!" he declares. Since 2003, crime has dropped by 25 percent, he says. Scott-Lee has initiated vigilant community policing – "unashamedly" focusing on the few who commit crimes – reinforced by frequent canvassing. "Statistics don't mean a thing if residents don't feel comfortable in their homes," he says, adding that the police here "come to work because they feel they can make a difference."



Every day do something that will inch you closer to a better tomorrow.  
**Doug Firebaugh**