

## Upcoming Programs

- Nov. 25: Rotary Foundations—Dave Sunderman and Doug Johnson
- Dec. 2: Homelessness in Mankato—Becky Beckett, South Central MN Housing Initiative
- Dec. 9: Christmas Party Social Hour 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m.
- Dec. 16: Elder Abuse—Robert Chesley
- Dec. 23: Nick Meyer—MN Valley Credit Union
- Dec. 30: Cindy Chadwick—Living at Home/Block Nurse

## 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



Did you know that you can learn great new things about Rotary and other related topics on-line, and receive make-up credit if you missed a meeting?

Log on to our website and look to the lower left of our home page for the "Rotary Club One" icon shown above.

You may contribute to the on-line club if you desire.



Wednesday, November 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 2009-2010**

### CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

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

## MANKATO ROTARY CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009  
Old Main Village  
Mankato, MN

**WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order at 12:20 PM by **Luke Robinson**. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. **Gordon Gibbs** gave the invocation. **Lloyd Miller** led members in reciting the Four-Way test.

**GUESTS:** **Holly Resner**, third visit; **Liz Brown** and Holiday Sharing Tree Board of Directors; **Lisa Rucker**, guest of **Larson Allen**.

**VISITING ROTARIANS:** **Ed Marek**, from St. Paul Sunrise.

**BIRTHDAYS:** **Roger Kontak** and **Owen Viker**, Nov. 19; **Dennis Davito**, Nov. 20; **Mike Krediet**, Nov. 22; **Curt Fisher**, Nov. 24.

**HAPPY DOLLARS:** Happy Dollars were donated to the Holiday Sharing Tree.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Upcoming Rotary schedule: we will have our regular lunch meetings on November 25, which is the day before Thanksgiving, as well as December 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas party is Wednesday, December 9, starting at 5:00.

Board meetings have been changed to the second Thursday morning of each month due to scheduling conflicts. The next Board meeting is Thursday, November 12 at 7:30 a.m. (U.S. Bank board room).

The Service Above Self award committee is seeking nominations for this year's award. Please contact Gordon Gibbs with nominations. The banquet will take place on January 20 at the Best Western.

The Salvation Army bell ringing schedule for our club is December 8-10. We will be at the Cub Foods East location. Sign up sheets will be available at club luncheons.

Special thanks to Lisa Rucker and Larson Allen for their voluntary work on our Club's tax return.

### PROGRAM:

**Liz Brown** spoke about the Holiday Sharing Tree; **Stewart Ross**, from the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees and the Mankato Kiwanis Club, spoke about opportunities for Kiwanis and Rotary to work together .

## When the Berlin Wall fell, Rotary was there

Adapted from an article by Matthias Schütt  
Rotary International News -- 12 November 2009

Enthusiasm for Rotary's role in a soon-to-be reunified Germany was scrawled onto the Berlin Wall before it was dismantled in 1990. *Photo courtesy of Rotary Magazin.*



On a November 1989 evening, hundreds of Rotarians participating in an International Institute packed the foyer of the Hilton in West Berlin. They anxiously waited for taxis to take them to a host hospitality event, but none arrived. Finally, a hotel employee walked to a microphone and made an announcement, as organizer Peter Lorenz, of the Rotary Club of Berlin-Spree, recounts: "He said, 'We have to ask for your patience because the taxis we called can't make it to the hotel. As you will see, thousands of visitors from the eastern part of the city are on the streets, blocking access to the hotel. We have been waiting for these guests for 28 years, and we ask you to wait with us. The [Brandenburg] gate and wall are open.'"

The fall of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago this month marked the beginning of monumental political changes in Europe, but also the start of a new era in Rotary. The event is largely seen today as the launching pad for the rebirth of Rotary across Eastern Europe.

German Rotarians, stunned by the events of 9 November, rejoiced in the prospect of a reunified Germany and what it would mean to Rotary. They also wasted no time in getting involved, even as the wall itself was coming down. Members of the Rotary Club of Berlin-Tiergarten welcomed visitors coming through the wall from East Berlin with tea and coffee. The Rotarians also donated street maps of West Berlin, which the visitors needed because their East German maps didn't indicate any West Berlin streets. "The coffee went cold, but the maps went in a flash," recalls Berlin-Tiergarten club member Jürgen Thormann.

In the weeks and months that followed, West German Rotarians developed strategies for reestablishing clubs that had once existed in the eastern part of the country, in cities such as Chemnitz, Dresden, and Leipzig.

District governors from the Austrian and German districts discussed plans for expanding Rotary into East Germany and neighboring countries, including Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. Clubs and districts also began conducting seminars with communities in East Germany, many of which helped establish twin city programs or led to Rotary club projects that are still ongoing, 20 years later.

Even though the concept of service clubs was foreign to an entire generation in what had been East Germany, within a year after the German reunification, 49 new clubs were chartered there.

*Adapted from Rotary Magazin, the certified regional magazine of Austria and Germany. Go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) for full article.*