



The Wheel



Rotary Club of Northwest Summit County

August 2003

President's Message *by Tom Kelley*

This year's Rotary International theme is *Lend a Hand*. RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe asks us to extend our hands to help our brothers and sisters in need. He asks us to support and develop projects in our community to provide food, clothing, shelter, and improve the quality of life for impoverished community members, giving at risk children a better start in life.

One focus of our club has been to help the children of our community. We have generously donated to the Boy Scouts, Emmanuel Christian Academy, college scholarships, Safety Town, D.A.R.E., and other projects aimed at helping our youth.

We are now going to take our efforts a step further by asking the members of our club to take their particular gifts and talents directly to our youth. Three proposals have been put forward. Dave Hastings proposed that we present a career program to the high school children involved in the Boys and Girls Club of Summit County. The program would consist of several of our members going to the club and talking about their vocations. The purpose is to help provide career direction for youth who may not have role models in their homes. It is expected that there may be as many as 90 youth attending.

A second proposal was put forward by Rich Millisor. Rich proposed that we get involved in tutoring youth at an inner-city elementary school in Akron. The commitment would be approximately one hour per month and our efforts would be directed to children who are in dire need of such help.

The third proposal was from Mark Whitlam. He proposed doing a pizza bash at Revere and/or Copley-Fairlawn High School prior to a basketball game. It apparently would be a minimal time commitment, which would increase our exposure in the community and would help raise funds that we can use for our school or youth projects.

Each of the proposals is a way that we can personally help improve the lives of children of all ages, and yet, does not require a tremendous time commitment on our part. It will also help increase the club's exposure and stature. If you have any interest in participating in one or more of the activities, please contact the member in charge of the program.

Notes from your Auction Chair...

Nancy Kropko



I woke up a few mornings ago to realize that August was here and I don't even remember the sights and sounds of summer prior to this. Oh yeah, it was not the sun shining brightly or the warm breeze blowing through the trees that I remember, but the thick cover of gray and black skies opening up to relentless downpours and the wind ripping its way through the trees. I have picked up branches in my yard no less than 8 times.

August for me means slight anxiety. That's right! The spring auction is coming closer! In the next month, I will be calling upon many of you to help spearhead the various categories and announce my vice chairman of this event. He does not know yet, so we won't spoil the surprise!

Time does fly, so continually think of businesses you may want to ask for donations - and then ask!

Thanks for your continuing support. *Nancy*

Treasurer's Corner *by Bob Meyer*

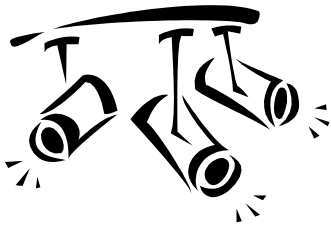


Billings went out July 25 for the Second Quarter. We bill "after the fact", meaning that your club has already paid for or is in the processing of paying those bills incurred for the Second Quarter such as Rosemont CC breakfast billings and the Portage CC bill for the installation dinner.

SO, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUES.



THANKS, Bob

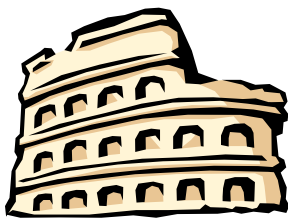
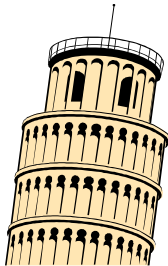


New Member
Spotlight
on....
Ralph Christ

I'm a born and bred Akronite currently living on the west side with my wife Cheri and with no kids or dogs. After a 2 1/2-year tour with the Army in Germany, I came home and enrolled in the University of Akron. I received a degree in secondary education and a teaching certificate and was fortunate to discover, during my student teaching, that I was not particularly well suited for the classroom environment. During college, I took a summer job with the Akron Health Department and 32 years later, I retired from public health. During my last 8 years with the Health Department, I served as the Housing Administrator enforcing the Akron Housing Code, the Lead Paint Ordinance, Rental Unit Registration and various other housing related programs for the City of Akron.

Since my retirement 5 years ago, I have accepted officer and board positions with various housing organizations serving the low income and underrepresented populations of Akron and Summit County. Upon retirement, I was immediately pressed into service by my church and am currently a church officer and sit on just about every committee that comes along (churches are like that).

For fun and entertainment, Cheri and I enjoy the theater and have experienced a variety of local and distant presentations and venues. Travel is also a passion for us and we have visited the usual Caribbean tourist destinations with long time friends Mary Boesch and her husband Mark. Europe has become another destination of choice and this past July, we toured Italy for 15 days from Lake Como to Rome. I enjoy spending time outdoors and can be found hiking or biking on the Towpath. I'm a decent skier but I stink at golf.



Social Events



The Board is planning some additional social events this year. The first is the Akron Aeros baseball game in August. We are also planning a wine tasting train trip on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic National Railway for November; a play at the Carousel Dinner Theater in February or March; and a ride on the GoodTime II in May or June. In addition, John Van Fossen has offered to host a picnic at his house. Additional details will be provided. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please talk to Tom Kelley or another Board member.



August Schedule of Meetings/Events

- 6- Club Meeting
- 14- No Morning Meeting
- 16- Aero's Baseball Game
- 20- Bob Shepard
- 27- George Sherwood

September Schedule of Meetings/Events

- 3- Club Meeting
- 10- Picnic at John Van Fossen's (No Morning Meeting)
- 17- Ralph Waszak
- 24- Mark Whitlam

Northwest Summit County Rotary 2003-2004 Officers and Directors

- Thomas Kelley, *President*
- Linda Littler, *President-Elect*
- Greg McDermott, *Vice President*
- Steve Schloenbach, *Secretary*
- Robert Meyer, *Treasurer*
- Don Gasser, *Sergeant at Arms*
- Ralph Christ, *Club Service Chair*
- Nancy Kropko, *Auction Chair*
- Mark Whitlam, *International Chair*
- Dave Hastings, *Member Chair*
- Fran DeCarlo, *Vocational Chair*
- John Shulan, *Paul Harris Fellow*
- George Sherwood, *Nominating Committee Chair*
- Dennis Kleidon, *Special Projects*
- Richard Millisor, *Past President*



IN CASE YOU MISSED THE NEWSPAPER and the "Available" sign in front of Revere Refinishing in Bath, Ann Fremon and the employees at Revere Refinishing changed their location on July 1st. Deciding not to renew a very expensive lease, Ann helped her employees move to "lower rent districts" to continue their particular part of the business. Randy Gonzales moved his antique and furniture repair portion to Walterville in Copley, John Wilkie moved the actual refinishing operation to Norton, and Robin Gentner her decorative painting to Copley. Matt Fremon, co-owner of the business, will be joining Allstate in a full-time position.

Following this change, Ann joined Mike in his home office working for PlasticsRecruiters.com, his ongoing computer-based business. This webpage, developed specifically for the plastics industry, follows Mike's 30 years in the plastics and plastics recruiting business. Ann and Mike's close working relationship goes back many years and they are happy to be back together on the same project.

Ann plans to devote more time to Rotary morning meetings. Both are looking forward to the Spring Gala and Auction with the 2004 theme "*Eat, Drink and Be Merry*" featuring fine food and drink ideas, unusual cookbooks, gourmet kitchen fare and such. They like working together on that project too!

Good Luck Ann - and thanks for your continued help with the auction!



DID YOU KNOW THAT

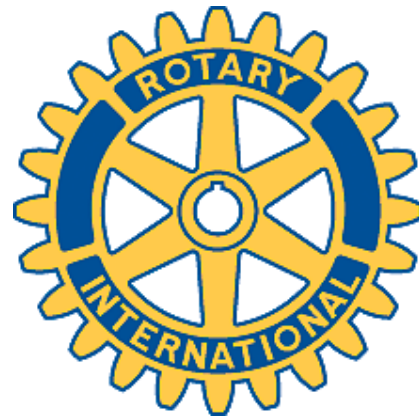
the purpose of this newsletter is to keep our membership apprised of activities in our club, Rotary International, and to keep each other informed about changes or important events in our lives? With that in mind, we ask that every Rotarian make contributions to this newsletter. Whenever there is an important event or change in your life, or something that you feel the membership should be made aware of, please let us know so that we can include an article in the Wheel. If you have any suggestions or comments concerning the newsletter, please share them with us.

Mary

330 670-9433 x206

mboesch@champaignbank.com

119 Conger Ave. Akron, OH 44303



In nearly 100 years, Rotary has grown from a small club of four members to a worldwide network of men and women who share a common vision for a better world. The world's first service organization, Rotary has a long history of helping those in need and uniting people of different cultures and beliefs. Through the work of individual Rotary clubs, and through the programs of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, Rotary is making the world a better place.



Rotary Club
of Northwest Summit County
c/o Mary Boesch
119 Conger Avenue
Akron, OH 44303

To: