



# The Wheel



Rotary Club of Northwest Summit County

September 2003



## *President's Message* by Tom Kelley

Have you looked around our club lately? With the exception of the recent addition of two new members, our club's membership has been shrinking. We have been losing members faster than we have been adding them and we do not have as many younger members as we need. Generating new members is important to our club for several reasons including increasing our revenue, ensuring the longevity of our club and the causes that we support, and most importantly, new members bring energy, enthusiasm and a fresh outlook that is necessary to maintain the vitality of our club. I have made "increasing our club's membership" one of our primary goals this year. Dave Hastings is serving as the membership chair, and he is doing a wonderful job. We recognize that membership is an ongoing process which must be worked on throughout the entire year. Membership is not just a one-time drive that we hold in January. With that in mind, each member of our club must be active in generating new members. It is easy to invite a guest to our morning meetings or to one of our social events. I request that each member invite at least one guest per quarter. If we do that, I am hopeful that we can have ten new members in our club by the time Linda Littler becomes our next president.

The Board has also been reviewing our current grant process. The goal is to establish a more formalized process and procedure which is more efficient and effective. One of the areas that the Board is looking at are the scholarships that Rotary traditionally gives to Revere and Copley/Fairlawn students. Over the last couple of years, there has been a general lack of interest in our scholarships. In light of that fact, Bill Bennett, John Shulan, Nancy Kropko, and Linda Littler are speaking with school officials to determine what other needs the schools/students have. We are trying to determine if there are other ways our money can be more effectively and beneficially used in the educational setting. If you have any thoughts on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. It has been a wonderful summer. I am looking forward to a great fall.



## *Notes from your Auction Chair...*

*Nancy Kropko*



We have had our first auction committee meeting and the beginning stages of the event are coming together. I guess it is too late to renege on my acceptance of the chairperson's position, so I bought Rogaine instead.

The following people have agreed to spearhead the various categories:

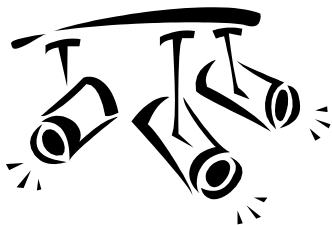
Mark Whitlam - Co-Chairperson \* Mary Boesch - Ticket Sales \* Ann & Mike Fremon - Theme & Decorations \* Dennis Kleidon - Publicity \* Linda Littler - Women Only & Kids' Corner \* Kurt Minson - Men Only \* Len Ash - Golf Packages \* Rich Millisor - Getaways & Adventures \* Mary Ann Krejci - Home Decor \* George Sherwood & Greg McDermott - Corporate Sponsors and Corporate Tables \* Fran DeCarlo - Potpourri \* Steve Schloenbach - Logistics & Security \* Dave Hastings - Manpower \* Henry King - Wine & Spirits\*

There will be a few more people added.

**Donations are beginning to come in** - I love when a plan comes together. The more donations and the earlier, the less Rogaine I have to use.

I expect the economy will continue its upward movement and therefore I hope people will spend with open pocketbooks. Of course, Mike Ayers thought this last year and the economy dragged on.

Thanks in advance for all your help and support!



New Member  
Spotlight  
on.....

*Kurt Minson*

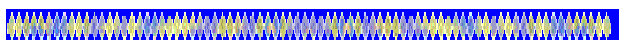
I was born 11/8/62 in Akron to Charles Richard and Elizabeth Bailey Minson. I have one sister, Lisa. I am married to Sharon and at this writing we have a daughter Nastassja, with another baby, (who had better be a boy!) due in October.

I attended Akron Public Schools and graduated from Buchtel High School and studied broadcasting and communications while on the college prep tract. I played basketball, baseball & chess and was also involved in the student "radio station."

I began college while still a high school junior and graduated from The University of Akron with B.A.'s in Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology with a minor in Economics. My other areas of major concentration were German, French, history and the classics.

At this point, I have more than 25 years of sales, marketing and customer service experience - including stints at Dillard's, Kaufman's, Gentry Men's Clothing, Lane Bryant, The Men's Wearhouse, American Income Life Insurance, and Akron City Hospital.

I founded *The M Group* in 1994 as *Ultimate Personal Images Group*, a name that was quickly changed to *Ultimate Images Group* when I realized that the former name could be interpreted as *U PIG*. The focus of the early firm was on the development of sales and other client contact personnel through effective dress and image enhancement. The name of the company was changed in 1996 to *The M Group Consultants* to reflect the new and different focus of providing exciting sales training and coaching to sales personnel, of which imaging is a vital part. Marketing activities were integrated in 1998, with customer service training following in 2000, giving rise to the M Group's own **marketing + sales + service = the "complete sale"** perspective. To date, *The M Group* has worked with well over 300 companies and scores of individuals in the various phases of its **complete sales** enhancement practice.



*September Schedule of Meetings/Events*

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

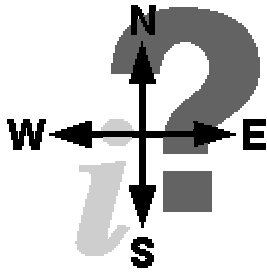
*October Schedule of Meetings/Events*

- 1 Club Meeting
- 8 Matt Wracher
- 15 Paul Anacki
- 22 Len Ash
- 29 Mike Ayers



*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*



## Everything you wanted to know about the Financial Side...

The financial commitment of all Active Members in the Rotary Club of NW Summit County is as follows:

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL & DISTRICT DUES** are \$100 annually and are billed at \$25 per quarter.

**BREAKFAST COSTS** – All active members are responsible for \$10 per week for breakfast costs - whether present for the meeting or not.

**MAKE-UPS** – Should you be traveling on business or pleasure we highly encourage you to attend a Rotary meeting at that location. Friendships can be built across the country and the world in this manner. When you do so, be sure to get a visitor ticket and return it to the Treasurer or Secretary and you will get a \$10 credit for each time you visit another club in lieu of attending your home club.

**SPRING GALA** – Our main fundraiser, hosted in conjunction with the Great Trail Council of the Boy Scouts, is held the first Saturday of April each year. We share the proceeds of this auction with the Boy Scouts and our share of the proceeds is the main source of the grants our club makes back to the community. Over the past four years we have contributed approximately \$90,000 to local high school scholarships and many different community non-profit enterprises. Tickets for the GALA are \$200 per couple and each member of the club is responsible for the sale of two tickets, (normally one ticket for the member and his

significant other and the second to be sold to friends or family). We have many members who sell more than two. There are also opportunities to purchase Corporate Tables, Advertising, and various other forms of sponsorship. There is also a non-financial commitment to bring in at least one donation to the auction. (Check with the Auction Chairman if you need ideas!)

**SPECIAL EVENTS** - About once per quarter we try to step outside the club atmosphere and do a social event of some kind involving spouses and sometimes the whole family. These events are normally in lieu of the regular breakfast meeting during the week of occurrence. These events are billed at cost to club members who have signed up for the event. Should you elect not to attend an event, you will be billed at the normal breakfast rate for that meeting.

**JANUARY EVENING MEETINGS** – Because Rosemont Country Club is closed in January of each year, we move our regular breakfast meetings to Wednesday evenings and have a dinner meeting instead. We encourage all members to bring spouses or significant others. These meetings are also billed at cost to the members. Those electing not to attend the evening meetings are billed at the normal breakfast rate.

**ROTARY DONATIONS** – On a strictly voluntary basis, Rotary International has a plethora of programs which you can support by additional donations. These programs are more fully described on their website or in the monthly Rotary magazine - which you will receive as part of your Rotary International dues.

**If, for example**, you elected to not attend any January meetings or Special Events, your annual financial obligation as a Rotarian with our club is:

Rotary International & District Dues:	\$ 100
Breakfast Costs	\$ 520
Spring Gala Auction Tickets	\$ 400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,020</b>

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 330/670-9017. Thanks, Bob



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

*To:*