

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE ANNUAL ROTARY CAMP COOKOUT!

SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

- 6:00 Cocktails
- 7:00 Dinner
- 8:30 Campfire or Cards!

Get ready to **P-A-R-T-Y!** Once again the Rotary Club of Akron and Northwest Summit Rotary are collaborating to plan another wonderful and fun Camp Cookout!

Here are Six Reasons you won't want to miss it!

- Mouth watering steaks and chicken will be grilled to perfection!
- Gene Fiocca's band will keep your toes tapping!
- Plenty of your favorite libations will quench your thirst!
- Renew acquaintances with some of the finest folks in town – Rotarians!
- Reflect on why Rotary matters as you see how Camp is changing lives!

And if you choose to linger ...

- A campfire (with smoores and campfire songs) or a Poker game in the dining hall can provide the perfect ending to your evening at camp!

Send your check for \$25 to Mary Weaver: 263 Millcreek Dr. Akron, OH 44307.

And . . . don't forget to select steak or chicken!

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

We've had an interesting month of August examining how news of Akron and the region is delivered to us through television, commercial radio, public radio and print media. Hope you've enjoyed the insight and are better informed Rotarians!

It's September, and the kids are back in school. This is the age of choice...even choice among alternatives for educating our community's children. The good old neighborhood public school is seemingly a thing of the past, for the most part. So, in September, let's examine some of the education choices for our children in our community...what are their respective missions and visions and how are they facing today's challenges:

September 6	The public school view will be delivered by Bernie Burchett, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning for the Akron Public Schools.
September 13	Father Michael J. Marco, President of Walsh Jesuit High School, will give us the parochial school perspective.
September 20	John S. Farber, Headmaster of Old Trail School, will tell us about an outstanding local private school.
September 27	Our very own fellow Rotarian Mark Krohn, Chief Operating Officer for White Hat Ventures, LLC will tell us about innovations through the charter schools.

Don't forget to invite prospective Rotarians to our very informative programs!



THE ROTARY CLUB OF
AKRON



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

September 2005



As we move into fall, a new school year, and the Camp Cookout that is scheduled for September 20, 2005, it seems most appropriate to recognize how important the Camp is to obtaining and retaining new members for the Club. In the past two months I have had the pleasure of both handing out red badges to new members and blue badges to those who have advanced from being red badgers. However, I have also had the experience of attending Board meetings where resignations have been accepted and a statistical analysis would show that the rate of resignation is unacceptably high.

While adding new members to the Club is vital, exciting, and fun, it is only a part of the process. To truly grow as a Club we need to increase our rate of retention. Granted, some resignations are unavoidable – employment transfers, serious health problems and similar issues can be beyond anyone's control. However, to the extent that we have members drift away due to a lack of involvement and/or a lack of commitment to the extremely valuable work that the Club does, we all would be wise to consider what we can do to reverse this particular process.

There are many extremely valuable, challenging and rewarding activities immediately available in the Rotary Club of Akron. It takes no real thought at all to realize that you can become involved with exchange students, scholarships for outstanding high school students in the City of Akron, and even child advocacy. However, one of the Akron Club's most challenging, valuable and from a membership retention perspective significant opportunity, is the Rotary Camp. My contact with state, district and local club officials over the past several months have highlighted just how unique our Club is in this regard.

If you have not visited the Camp recently, particularly while campers are present, I strongly urge you to do so soon. If nothing else, such a visit will boost your enthusiasm and help renew your commitment to the Club and the Camp.

I was privileged to visit the Camp recently in the dual capacity as your Club President and as a representative of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs as a sponsor of the Wayne Homes Chili Open. (Your Chili Open Committee hosted a reception for all sponsors including Wayne Homes, etc.)

That visit not only supplied an opportunity to visit the physical facility but also to encounter both campers and staff. If you have not been present for the activities leading up to dinner at the Camp, you are missing an extremely interesting set of activities.

You will also find that your Camp staff is fully in tune with the international nature of Rotary. In one evening's visit, I met Camp staff members from The Ukraine, Poland and England. You will also find campers dealing with a wide variety of challenges ranging from severe physical disabilities to ADHD and autism. Your Camp staff from Dan Reynolds to the Camp nurse is remarkably adept at dealing with this wide range of challenges on a remarkably successful basis. Simply put, any time we have difficulty remembering why we remain committed to Rotary, either spend a few minutes thinking about what the Camp does or better yet spend an hour or two and visit.

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President's column continued ...

That commitment to the Camp might also lead to a commitment to the many activities the Club and the Camp Board undertake to support its operation. For instance, the first Chili Open committee meeting ("WHCO") is scheduled for a few days after my preparation of this article (the committee meeting is scheduled for August 16th). Have you volunteered to help with any of the activities on this committee in the recent past? There is certainly an extremely dedicated and hardworking group involved with this fun and very successful fundraiser. All of us certainly appreciate the role that individuals such as Mark Krohn, Jim Redmond and Scott Stutler play in this process along with many others. Should more of us be helping? As we recruit new members, shouldn't we be making them aware of this entire process?

I do not mean to suggest that involvement with the Camp and the Wayne Homes Chili Open is the only method of maintaining commitment and membership in our Club. As noted above, there is a multitude of fun, valuable and challenging activities. It behooves us all as members of the Club, as committee chairs, and as committee members to make certain that we are doing our best to involve all of our fellow Club members (and in particular those still wearing a red badge) in one or more of these activities. In that fashion, I believe we can do our best to retain those new members that all of you, and in particular your Membership Committee, are adding to the Club.

It is time to continue my series of thank yous. The first thank you this month goes to the Wayne Homes Chili Open Committee and to Dan Reynolds for their good efforts in sponsoring all of our Wayne Homes Chili Open sponsors. The evening was not merely entertaining but also informative and valuable opportunities to both thank our sponsors and maintain their commitment to the Camp.

Second, I need to extend my thanks to Marcia Holcomb for her untiring (and I hope by now successful) efforts to locate housing for our incoming exchange students. For those of you who have never been involved in this process, let me assure you Marcia has spent countless hours and worked tirelessly scouring the entire county for host families.

Third, I want to extend the thanks of the entire Club to Dan Reynolds and his entire staff for another successful camping season. Their good efforts were an inspiration to observe.

Yours in Rotary,
John Reyes

2005 EXCHANGE STUDENTS ARRIVE . . .

Ayaka Tanaka is a girl coming from Japan who will be attending Green High School.. Her host family are Nancy & Jerry Bennett , 2100 Simone Dr, N. Canton 44720, 330-896-0171. Her email address is pinky_ibc@hotmail.co.jp

Rohit Makhijani is a boy coming from India. He will attend Tallmadge High School. His host family are David & Janis Mills, 393 Knollwood Ave , Tallmadge 44278 Phone:330-630-9990. His email address is romak89@yahoo.co.in

Marcia Holcomb
International Youth Exchange Coordinator for the Rotary Club of Akron
holcoma@ci.akron.oh.us 330-375-2116 (W)
mgholcomb@neo.rr.com 330-665-5119 (H)

ROTARY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON IS PLANNED - SAVE THE DATE!

The Rotary Holiday Luncheon will be held on December 20 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, at Portage Country Club. An outstanding choral presentation will be given. Please invite your spouse, colleagues, potential Rotary members, friends and family to join you at this fun and festive holiday event. Details to follow.

Happy Birthday

Ed Wagner	August 4
Robert O'Herron	August 6
Katerina Papas	August 8
Nick George	August 8
Douglas Hausknecht, PhD	August 10
Roger Read	August 11
Douglas Kohl	August 11
Ellen Otto	August 12
Bruce Rogers	August 14
Marcia Holcomb	August 21
Gregory Bean	August 22
Richard Rogers	August 22
James Swartz	August 23
Thomas Finley	August 24
David Lewis	August 26
Kevin McGee	August 29
Stephen Hardesty	August 31

SEPTEMBER BOOSTERS

- MARILYN BUCKEY*
- JOHN DAILY*
- JOHN ECONOMOU*
- FRANK FIELD*
- GENE FIOCCA*
- EARL HAMLIN*
- DAVE KOLY*
- BOB MEYERS*
- DON NELSON*
- FRED SWARTZ*

To join, please send your contribution of \$25 for a one-year sponsorship; you will receive recognition in the *Akrotarian*. Checks should be payable to and mailed to:
The Rotary Club of Akron
263 Millcreek Dr. Akron, OH 44307-2217

B O A R D n e w s

President's Report: A contribution has been requested from the Rotary International Foundation but no information is available to report at this time. This item will be tabled until more information is received.

Old Business: Doug Hausknecht has received an AV table and a temporary small screen and cord. He is still on the hunt for a larger screen and cord.

New Business: Assistant Governor John Werne was introduced and invited everyone to attend the Conference of Clubs at Geneva on the Lake at the end of September. Informational packets are being placed at all the tables for the meeting. A Rotary calendar is being made to help members avoid time and money conflicts; therefore, please let President John or Mary know of any dates for planned events for the upcoming year so they can be added to the calendar.

The camp cookout is planned for September 20. Tickets are \$25. Donations of bottles for the bar are welcomed.

A public relations person is needed for the program committee to publicize the meetings and speakers in the local media.

New Membership Applicants: The application for Anthony P. Malorni, Sales Consultant, Azsure Fiduciary was presented for membership by Steve Shechter. After approval from the Membership Committee, GinaKaye Maddox moved to accept Mr. Malorni as a member. The motion was seconded by Frank Horn and approved by all.

The next board meeting will be on September 13, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. at the Martin Center.