

The *Rooter*

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of the Rotary Club of Red Wing



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Last Week at Rotary... January 12th: STRIVE students joined us for lunch to hear our exchange student, Alberto give his presentation

This Week at Rotary... January 19th: Follow-up meeting for Membership and Fundraising Goals

RED WING MORNING ROTARY CLUB

FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 7:00 AM SMOKEY ROW CAFÉ

- **RED WING MORNING ROTARY** meets at **7:00 am** every other Friday morning at **Smokey Row Café**. Future meeting dates are: **January 8th, & 21st, February 5th, & 19th**.
- **RED WING MORNING ROTARY** would like to invite you to check us out! For more information contact David Anderson at (H) 388-8576, (W) 388-4724, (C) 380-4672



STRIVE ARRIVES

On Jan. 12 we were introduced to this year's Strive students and their mentors. The mentors encourage and assist the students to help them improve academically.



GABI RETURNS!

We also were visited by former Youth Exchange Student Gabi Rios who presented the club with a banner thanking us for her time here.

Clare Pavelka's Past Presidents Report 2008-2009

My term as president began in a rather unconventional fashion. In May of 2008 I give birth to my daughter Monica. I was committed to maintaining my service to Rotary and knew it could be done with the help of my club members. And from the start it was a success.

My first order as President was to get out and visit other clubs. With Monica just a few weeks old, we visited clubs across the district to learn what works for others and listen to new ideas. This was a great foundation to begin working through my goals for the year. I asked Don Rutten, Past President 1999-2000, to become the interim president because he was instrumental in encouraging me to become involved in Rotary as program chairperson when I joined in 1998. Don and I had weekly phone calls and together lead the club through the busy summer parade season. The club again hosted the Red Wing Band Classic lead by chairperson David Anderson. We also coordinated the River City Days parade led by Tom Feehan and Mandy Lohmann.

On the evening of the annual steak fry in August our youth exchange student from Finland, Juuso Jauhiainen, was introduced to the club for the first time. Later in the year I had the opportunity to meet JJ's father when he visited Red Wing. Many thanks to Phil McNairy and Lisa Marty for their work with the Youth Exchange program and a big thank you to the host families.

I returned to my professional duties in the fall of 2008 to help launch our inaugural year of STRIVE at the Red Wing High School. This mentoring program received an added bonus with the recognition of a \$5000 grant from the Stepps Up Program. Emily Nelson was key in helping the club apply for the grant and Meg Walch was the STRIVE coordinated this first year. We had a fantastic group of 11 seniors to work with. Scholarships were awarded to; Jennifer Scheuer, Tyler Boek and Morgan Bohmbach.

Our sole fundraiser, Rose Days Sales, chaired by Diane McNeil netted the club \$3,425.00. This money was used to fund our local projects including; Kids Fishing Contest, up-keep at Pottery Pond and the Skate Park, River City Days Frisbee Golf Tournament, SE Tech College Scholarship, Red Wing High School Scholarship, Group Study Exchange and community grants.

With the help of a matching grant from RI, the club was able to provide \$1000 to Goodhue County Public Health for an immunization clinic. It was one of many ways the club members were involved with hands on service. Thanks to Club member, Margaret Ekdhal, for learning the RI grant process and working diligently for our club to receive this grant.

We celebrated the holiday season with our annual Christmas Party at the Indigo Room. Despite the blizzard that raged outside, we still carried on singing songs and toasting with our friends from the Lake City club.

Because of the downturn in the economy, the club looked at creative ways to increase our membership. The new year brought renewed excitement in starting a morning Rotary club. Tom Feehan became a champion of this effort by organizing Red Wing's first Rotary Day.

You can't beat fun for a good time, and we sure did have fun at our weekly meetings. Paul Christenson was my faithful side-kick on the piano. We recognized our many wonderful speakers with a book donation in their name to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. And we had had numerous off-site visits, including the Red Wing Shoe Flagship Store that was under construction.

A highlight for the club is hosting the inbound Group Study Exchange team. For one week we hosted the District 2360 team from Sweden. Team members included; team leader Christer Wecke, Charlotte Karlsson, Jakob Sjodin, Martin Dahl and Maria Lindberg. I had the pleasure of hosting Maria at my house and it was a fabulous experience. A Double GSE bonus this year was our club sponsoring an outbound GSE team member from the community, Stephanie Riegelman. Steph is my colleague at Red Wing Shoe Company and I was very excited for her to participate in this life-changing experience.

To round out my year in June Charter President, Jerry Borgen pulled off another successful PAR (polio ain't rid) golf tournament. The event is an annual fundraiser for the RI Polio Foundation.

I want to close with a HUGE thank you to all the members of the club. When there was work to be done and projects that needed attention-members stepped forward to volunteer their help. I felt like the conductor of a well-tuned orchestra in that I lead the song and you played it beautifully. I could not have taken on such a responsibility as President, plus a new baby at home, without your help and cooperation.