

Coke Smoke



Mount Pleasant Rotary Club

March 2010

Elimination dinner reigns successful despite smaller turnout

By George Wood

We were back to Roosevelt Hall for our annual Elimination Dinner on Saturday, March 20th. The crowd was a little lighter than usual but the event went without a hitch. Leo & Sons Grille 31 laid out a nice spread of fillet, chicken and fish and the bar was busy too.

Going into the evening we had over 20 tickets to sell. They were more difficult to sell this year in the room as I believe many of those attending already had extra tickets. The raffle tickets for the extra tickets were down in revenue too. The 50/50 was over \$1,000. This year eight people took the \$125 which is more than usual although the \$500 was given back so we did ok there.

Ten people went to the table, three said NO DEAL and in the end only one person walked away a winner! Although the nine other people won't agree, the winner was a group that buys a large number of tickets every year.

Congratulations to Paul Toohey and his team that worked the event and behind the scenes for another great job!

To each of you a big thank you that sold tickets to make the event successful.



Rotarian Mark DePalma pulls the numbers.



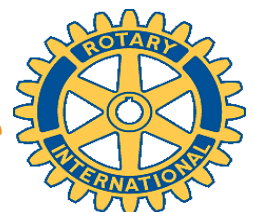
The winners!



Pg 2 - Tlumack serves as guest speaker at meeting

Pgs 3-5 - Exchange student Rittenhouse update

Pgs 6-7 - Reasons to give



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tlumack of LH Chamber speaks at meeting

By: Carolyn Tlumack

Carolyn Tlumack, fellow Rotarian, and Treasurer of the Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce, was our guest speaker today. She spoke about some of the changes at the Chamber and what that

means to business owners. The Chamber is completing a new interactive website, where members may link their website to the Chambers. This will help promote their business. Also, they are in the process of applying for

advertising grants to market the region and bring customers to the area. There are many discounts available with the “member to member” discount program and activities throughout the year to spotlight your business.



Tlumack poses for a picture.

Rittenhouse switches host families, dreams in Spanish

February Letter

Rotary,

The first bit of really exciting news is that I have had my first dream in Spanish this week! I do not remember if all or only parts of it were in Spanish but it was still exciting. Actually I would not have remembered my dreams as usual except that I accidentally slept through my alarm one day and they woke me up in the middle of it. I arrived late to school.

The second big piece of news is that I have been living with my new family now for two weeks. This transition, I feel, has been harder for me than the first family. Here I have a mom, dad, brother, and what I guess we would call a maid. Rocío, the maid, is the one I have gotten to know the best. She is always in the house and she is cool. The whole family is cool really, although hardly know my parents yet. They usually work until about 9 or 10 at night, so there is not a lot of time for socializing. The brother is fun and real talkative but so far has spent most of the afternoons (when he's home) doing homework on the computer, so the main interaction is just during the evening snack. The final member of the family is the only thing in Ecuador I have come to hate so far... the dog. It is a bulldog that likes to attack me and bit me on my first day here. I am now officially terrified by that thing. Sundays at least are a family day.

This month I recently went to my second real Rotary event meeting. It was a formal dinner that they do once every year. The other four exchange students in my club were there as well which was fun, although three hours of presentations, I have to admit, got a little boring.

During this month and next almost every Saturday will be spent with my class completing a graduation requirement of hours planting trees. We work from around 9 until 3 with a break for food. I have been enjoying the physical work as well as just normal hang out time with my classmates.

Starting soon the whole school is going to have little sports competitions within between the grades. Each class had to make a t-shirt for the team, and this week I taught everyone how to make tie-die. I felt kind of bad that not all of them turned out great, but it was fun to do that as a group because I think most enjoyed it.

Til' later,
Krista

March letter

Rotary,

Although I have had dreams in Spanish, I think my thoughts will always be in English. When talking, I automatically speak in Spanish. Several times classmates have asked me to talk with a British accent, but that is basically imposible for me because when concentrating on the accent, the words come out in Spanish and when I concentrate on speaking English, the accent isn't there. But all of my personal thoughts are still in English. That may be a permanent thing.

In the monings, I walk to school 2-3 days a week which takes me about 25 minutes and friend who lives close brings me home on all the days that I don't have soccer practice. Also, this month school is returning back to a regular schedule again. Last month, almost every day, there was a sports game for either the guys or the girls for the 'tournament'. Our girls' team (which I was a part of) won in the three sports: volley, basketball, and soccer. We also won the best uniform for the highschool, which was the tie-dye that we did last month.

On February 28, I left for the Amazon for 5 days as the the third Rotary event with a group of 25 other exchange students. There was a half hour flight and then a two hour ride in a 'truck' that was open on the sides with rows of small benches, then a ten minute canoe ride to arrive at where we were staying. While there, we went on lots of hikes to see the different types of forests. It was all gorgeous, but we did not see hardly any animals which was disapointing. We also got to visit a school nearby several times, go to a spiritual cleansing of an old medicine man that lives there, eat worms (cooked), float down the river in life jackets, and get an unbelievable amount of incredibly itchy bug bites. Everything was very enjoyable, but at the end of the five days I was ready to return back to normal life and friends here.

thanks,
Krista



Two other exchange students and I with a little girl from one of the preschools that is a project of Rotary down here. We went for a Christmas program that the students put on for the people of Rotary and some people from the town.

One Saturday, there was a fundraiser for the senior class trip where we planned activities and it was like a mini festival with food and activities. I worked with two friends to make a station of making giant bubbles. It ended up being a huge flop because they were almost impossible to make, but the little kids seemed to enjoy it and the boy in the picture was a bubble genius.



The stadium when I got to see bullfighting was fun to see. Have the experience but it's not something I want to do again.

Taking a tour of Lake San Pablo with my second mom and dad.



Four reasons why we cont

There are as many reasons to support The Rotary Foundation as there are ways to do good in the world.

By [contributing to the Foundation](#), you advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

5. Fighting hunger

In Romania, orphans and sick children have eggs, milk, and meat because of a Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant that benefits local farmers. The farmers are able to buy everything from animal feed to packaging materials. There is one stipulation: they must donate a portion of their products to children's hospitals, schools, and orphanages.

In Alaska, USA, the Rotary Club of Anchorage East is also [fighting hunger](#) by distributing food to low-income families through a mobile food pantry.

4. Reducing child mortality

The Rotary clubs of Jaela-Kandana, Western province, Sri Lanka, and Madras Northwest, Tamil Nadu, India, are helping reduce child mortality by providing improved sanitation facilities for 15 families in a small community of Sri Lanka. With a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, the clubs have built 14 toilets, helping to prevent diarrhea and other diseases related to poor sanitation.

According to the World Health Organization, 1.8 million children die of diarrhea every year, making it the second leading cause of death among children under five. Proper sanitation can reduce the rate of child mortality in many communities by up to a third.



Contribute to our foundation

3. Promoting peace and conflict resolution

Watching civil war tear apart his homeland of Cote D'Ivoire instilled in Rotary Peace Fellow Kouame Remi Oussou a passion to resolve conflict.

He is now working for the United Nations Development Programme in the Central African Republic, a country that weathered periodic internal fighting before a comprehensive peace accord took effect in 2007.

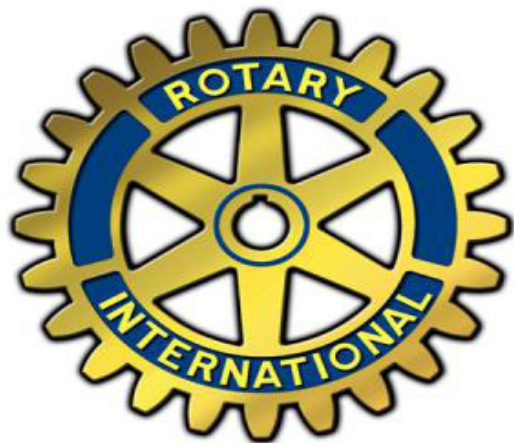
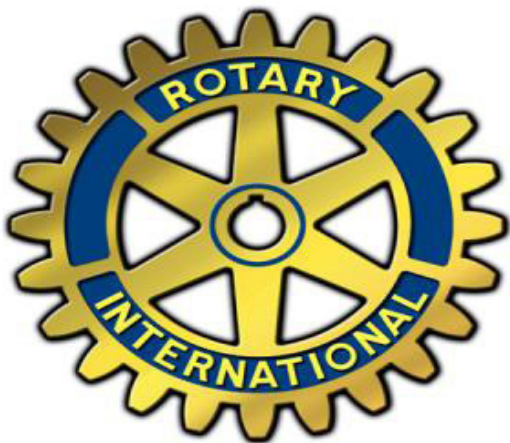
Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders in promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and conflict resolution.

2. Giving the world hope for just US\$2 a week

Foundation Trustee Chair Glenn E. Estess Sr. paraphrases Mother Teresa in explaining what keeps the Foundation going in the face of overwhelming need. "We must do what we can, where we are, with what we have," says Estess. "Through our Foundation, we are able to pool our resources and achieve even more. And the stronger our Rotary Foundation becomes, the greater the scope of the tasks we will be able to undertake successfully. We will be able to do far more good, in far more lasting ways." [Read more.](#)

By giving US\$100 a year through the [Every Rotarian, Every Year](#) (EREY) initiative, you become a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member. Contributions to EREY are the primary source of funding for Foundation programs. [Make a contribution now.](#)

Check next month's newsletter for Reason Number #1.



April Calendar

April 6 - @ Nino's 12:00 PM

April 9-11 - District Conference

April 13 - @ Nino's 12:00 PM

April 15 - Board Meeting 5:30 PM @ YMCA

April 21 - Scholastic Banquet @ Pleasant Valley Country Club

Mount Pleasant Rotary Club Officers and Board Members

Officers:

President: Allen Hoke	724.887.4900
President elect: Mark DePalma	724.547.8679
Vice President: Carolyn Tlumack	724.547.7515
Secretary: Dave Stairs	724.547.7100
Treasurer: Dale Walker	724.547.5753

Board Members:

Mark DePalma
Carolyn Tlumack
Dale Walker
Dave Stairs
Tom Forsythe
Rick Rega
Sue Skovira