



Abilene Southwest Rotary Club

*RI President - D.K. Lee
District 5790 Governor - Jerry Parr
District Gov. Elect - John Miller
Asst. District Gov. - Isaac Castro*

Officers:

Robert L.W. Martin ----- President
Stephanie Kraly ---- President - Elect
Jenny Hicks ---- Secretary/Treasurer
Roberto Aguirre ----- Sgt.- At - Arms
Delbert Allred ----- Past President
Millie Braddy -----Pianist

Executive Secretary

Will Speight
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Rotary's Theme 2008-09



Directors

Roberto Aguirre Stephanie Kraly
Delbert Allred Robert Martin
Blair Church Charles Richardson
Clyde Gustafson Karla Rose
Jenny Hicks Will Speight
Jerry Jordan Tim Temple

Editor

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March 2009

The Wheel

President's Perspective



Hello Rotarians,

Li.ter.a.cy - the ability to read and write; quality or state of being literate. March is Rotary's designated month for Literacy.

I personally know of someone who is about 45 years old who cannot read or write. Can you imagine how hard that person has to try to avoid an employer, knowing about his problem. The prospect of getting a job that pays well enough to support yourself and a family is almost nil.

When I graduated from high school, I was at the bottom of my class. Why? Because I was having too much fun with other things other than studying the books. Unfortunately, my parents didn't push me to study, especially, since my father only went to the 8th grade. What a shock when I got out into the real world and wanted to be on my own and own a car and other things. So, I joined the military, and found out that to get higher up in rank than Airman 2nd Class and make a better paycheck, I needed to know things. Finally, it dawned on me to get educated. I took some night classes and a number of correspondence courses and achieved a 2 year college GED, which helped me to go to Officer's Candidate School and on to Pilot training. What a difference this all made in my quality of life, for me and my family.

Literacy can mean so much to children in countries that have governments that don't make the children go to school or hold back girls from going to school. Unfortunately, with so many countries in a state of war against others and some against their own people, how can these children learn? They need the knowledge of reading and understanding to be able to know how to plant crops, create products, how to better protect themselves from disease, and to be able to compete in the world market for jobs.

We, as Rotarians, have an obligation to do what we can for these children. We know that a nation becomes great when it protects and educates its children. It has to instill in its children the willingness to learn and to pass on to their children the necessary skills to be creative, educated and useful in a world so dominated by wars, disease and intolerance.

Our particular club is helping by collecting books for Africa. But somehow, we (Rotary) need to find other ways to better the lives of the world's children and adults who are not literate. This includes those living in the United States.

You can see by the teenagers, who gave us the Four Way Test Speech on February 24, that education gives them confidence to get up, in front of a group of people, and give a speech. They quoted from various notable people, and this could only be done by being able to read and then write down their ideas and thoughts about the Four Way Test.

Last Valentine's Day we had a very nice Social at Wesley Court. The food and entertainment was top notch. I hope everyone, who can, will join us next year to make it a bigger and better event.

Robert Martin, President

"Service Above Self"

Bulletin Board

Mar. Free Meal: Gary Soben
 Jan. Attendance: 80%
 Jan. 31 Membership: 66 + 5 Honorary

Mar. 9 Club Board Meeting

Apr.. 24-26 District Conference
 May 16 District Assembly
 May 28 Top Fifty Plus Banquet

Club Web Site:
www.abilenesouthwestrotary.org



Aletta Allred - 03/02
 Stephanie Kraly - 03/07
 Paul Ruska - 03/19
 Doug Banks - 03/21
 Leslie Ellis - 03/26

Anniversaries

NONE for March 2009



Greeters Schedule

03/03 Julian Bridges, Richard Buzard, Blair Church
 03/10 Jimmy DeFoor, Pat Egdorf, Clyde Gustafson
 03/17 Lee Hamilton, D. Hargesheimer, Blair Haynie
 03/24 Jerry Herttenberger, Jerry Jordan, Dave Mason
 03/31 Natalie Matthews, Bob May, Peggy McConnell

March 2009 - Programs

03/03 Kristina Jones - Alliance for Women and Children
 03/10 Dr. James Heflin - Update on Europe (Germany)
 03/17 Dr. David Miller - Hendrick Home for Children
 03/24 Priscilla Templeton - Abilene Community Enhancement
 03/31 Kris Proctor-Cleveland - Habitat for Humanity

Every Rotarian - Every Year (ER-EY)

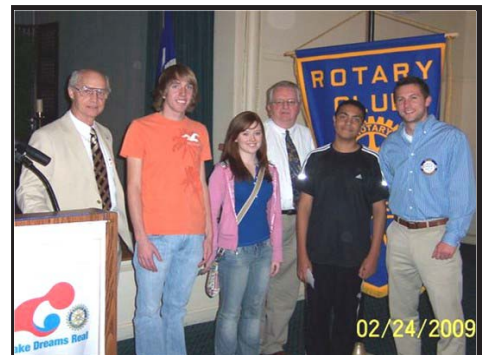
Our Rotary Club has set a goal of every Rotarian contributing \$100.00 to the Foundation this Rotary year!
About half of the club has responded - if you haven't, please consider doing it NOW! Thank You!



PDG Dave Mason (L) presents Paul Harris Fellow Award to Carolyn White (C) while Fred White (R) looks on.



Sweetheart Party Celebrities
 Pictured (L-R) Yulia Chernova, John and Peggy McConnell, Pam and George Deffenbaugh, and Leslie Ellis



Four Way Speech Contest Winners
 Pictured (L-R) Pres. Bob Martin, Levi Weaver, Lauren McClure, Larry McGraw, Alex Bryant, and Speech Teacher, David Doyle



- Abilene Southwest Rotary

The Organizational meeting of the Rotary Club of Southwest Abilene, Texas of thirty charter members was held on March 6, 1956 at noon in the Abilene Woman's Club with 45 members and guests present. After the luncheon, Briggs Todd, acting Chairman presented Leroy Jennings, special representative of District Governor Arch Evans and Chairman of extension committee of the Abilene Rotary Club.

Chairman Leroy explained that it was necessary to adopt a constitution and By-laws and also to elect a slate of officers for the new club. He explained the standard constitution and By-laws of R.I. with changes suggested by the guiding committee of the club.

On a motion by Pat Brogan and seconded by Carroll Rogers, the suggested Constitution and By-laws were adopted by a standing vote.

J.W. Hooker, Chairman of a nominating committee presented a proposed slate of officers that his committee had chosen. Then the following officers and directors were elected:

President - Briggs Todd
Vice President - Harry Hobbs
Secretary/Treasurer - John Mayfield
Sgt at Arms - Rufus Starnes
Director - Virgil Musick
Director - Miles Monaghan
Director - George Page

The meeting was turned over to the new President Briggs Todd who introduced District Governor Arch Evans of Stephenville, Governor of 186th District of R.I., and he spoke briefly, welcoming the club into Rotary.

The Charter application was submitted to Rotary International and returned with a charter date of March 12, 1956.