

ROTO NEWS

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Upcoming Events:

- Four Way Speech Test –April 3rd
- Spring Fling - March 21st.
- Easter Egg Hunt-Apr 4th
- Fishing Derby– May 8th
- New Member Drive Lunch-June 19th

President: Adam Sonnhalter
 Pres. Elect: Shawn Mueller
 Secretary: Carl Commons
 Treasurer: Bob Bunsey
 Sgt. At Arms: George Stokes

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March 2009

Happy Spring fellow Rotarians! As I write this, it's in the mid-60s and sunny in North Ridgeville in early March as we all start to wake from our Winter slumbers!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped out with our Nicaraguan Ambulance project as well as to deconstruct how this project came about and was executed. The best thing about this project is that many hands truly made for light work. Here's how things unfolded.

Past District Governor Jack Young visited our club in late Summer 2008 at the request of Warren Blakely to talk about the Christmas Shoebox project for the Children of the Dump in Chinandega, Nicaragua. As part of his talk, Jack mentioned how a couple of other clubs in our district had sent an ambulance and a fire truck to Nicaragua over the past couple of years and how the fire truck was directly responsible for saving three lives during its first week on duty. Club members Emil Bagi and Denny Johnson were both at the lunch that day.

In September, Emil Bagi informs our Club's Board of Directors that he is planning to travel to Nicaragua in December with Jack Young and a group of 13 other Ohio Rotarians to deliver the Shoe Boxes and help in other ways. Our club agrees to cover half the cost of Emil's trip.

In October Denny Johnson informs the Board that the city of North Ridgeville is decommissioning an ambulance and wouldn't it be great if we could send it to Nicaragua. Even better, how about we fill it up with non-perishable medical supplies as well, the Board chimed in? A discussion ensued regarding whether or not we should try this project on our own or try to enlist the help of other clubs. The Board decided we should try it alone.



First step was to get it approved by City Council. So with Rotarians Denny Johnson (the city Safety Director), Dave Gillock (the Mayor), and Kevin Corcoran and Dennis Boose (both members of City Council) in attendance at the November meeting, City Council approved the donation of the ambulance to Nicaragua.

Things really started heating up in December. Emil, Jack Young and the group head to Nicaragua for a week. We begin to get word out that we're looking for supplies to fill the ambulance as well as for a transportation company to ship the ambulance to Houston. Fire Chief Rick Miller gets the word out to contacts he has at other fire stations as well as local hospitals regarding the need for supplies. Rick's efforts lead us to St. John's West Shore Hospital, Fairview Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic. All of these organizations made donations of medical supplies. Plus, let's not forget the many fire fighters of North Ridgeville, who not only stored the ambulance for a couple of months, but also helped us load the ambulance with supplies whenever a Rotarian would stop by. Two doctors at St. John's also got involved in making an introduction to MedWish International which also donated medical supplies. The doctors personally donated \$500 to defray some of the transportation costs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT

On the transportation front, many Rotarians including Bob Kirkpatrick and Hal Bogner (who was in Florida for the winter at the time), talked with contacts they have in the transportation industry. Meanwhile, Jack Young also spoke with Courtney Trucking which helped with transporting a previous ambulance. They offered to take the ambulance to Houston for only \$1,000 (significantly less than any other company we spoke with).

In addition to the many organizations that made donations, our members made some direct donations as well including Denny Johnson and Pete Trunzo and his wife Dana. Each step of the way our head of Public Relations, Kathy LeRoy, was busy getting the word out to everyone and anyone who would listen, which has helped increase our visibility and recruiting of new members. Wade Hammond spoke with a long-time customer, the owner of ambulance company Life Care about the project and they agreed to donate some equipment and supplies. Along the way, every member of our leadership team (Shawn Mueller, Bob Bunsey, and Carl Commons) contributed in many ways as well. Joe Martin even made sure to get one of our newest members, Traci Purdum, involved in pulling together a press release about the project. Not to be outdone, Paul Graupmann talked with someone in the FBI who had a contact at the Plain Dealer and a reporter and photographer from the Plain Dealer joined us as we handed off the ambulance on February 23, 2009.

As you can see from the above timeline of events, many people did a little bit and we've had a tremendous impact. Jack Young estimated that the ambulance was filled with over \$50,000 in medical supplies. After netting out the cash donations we received, our club invested \$526 to purchase the ambulance and pay for its transport to Houston. So a \$526 investment resulted in over \$50,000 in medical supplies plus an ambulance which will save lives. I'm not sure how to calculate the return on that investment (because lives are truly priceless), but it certainly beats anything I've seen. Between the Shoeboxes and the Ambulance Project, we have certainly made a dent in reducing the number of children under the age of 5 who die every day from preventable causes. Way to go North Ridgeville Rotarians!

Yours in Rotary,
Adam Sonnhalter

Three
Themes:

Kangaroos

26,000

50



This lady is worth upwards of \$880!
Are you feeling lucky?

Wade Hammond

Wade works for National City Mortgage after spending 26 years in the manufacturing business. He is married to Darlene and has three children, Michael, Laura, and Jeffrey. Let's not forget Sandy is Golden Retriever. They've lived in North Ridgeville since 1965.

Wade enjoys Ballroom Dancing, Texas Hold'em online, Exercise and sports.

Wade enjoys Rotary activities and giving back to the community.

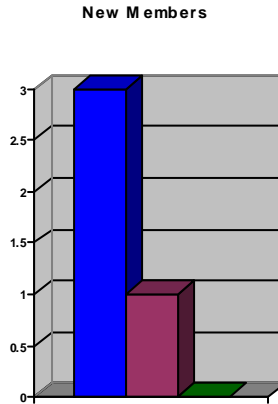
Pete Trunzo and Dennis Boose are both credited with inviting him to Rotary. Something no one knows about him ... he

was "nominated (Final 3) Marine of the Year; He can still do a cartwheel roundoff." His Key to success "being genuine and listening to others"

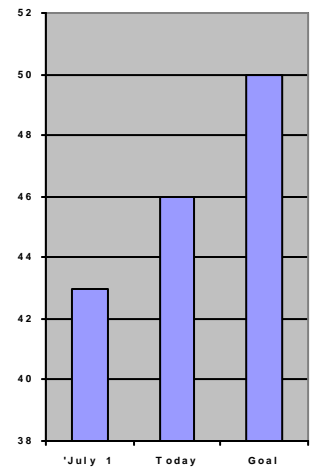
2008-2009 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our newest members are Paul Cruz (left) and Doug Maurer (right).

Remember, our goal is 50 kangaroos.



Members Goal: 50



SGT AT ARMS- FINES FOR MARCH

Birthday Fines:

- Shawn Mueller
- Hal Bogner
- St. Patrick
- Bob Kirkpatrick

Anniversary Fines:

- Glen Zimbelmann
(and his wife.)

*"I'm the f'nor ... and
you're the finee..."*

.....tink, tink, tink..."

*-George "The Hatter"
Stokes*



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH (BY TRACI PURDUM)

Rotary Club of North Ridgeville Students of the Month – March 2009

Elyria Catholic All Star Athlete Plans To Attend John Carroll

Senior Danny Accorti is one of those athletes that seem to excel at everything he does. Indeed, he has been on the Elyria Catholic football, wrestling and rugby teams all four years of his high school career – earning MVP or All Star status in each. If that wasn't enough, he also is an avid snowboarder and skateboarder.

Obviously, Danny thrives in a busy environment. In addition to sports, he finds time to volunteer at St. Peter Parish in North Ridgeville. He also spends his summers doing landscaping for the city of Elyria.

After high school, Danny plans to attend John Carroll University to study either criminology or pursue a career in teaching.

As a Rotary Student of the Month (March 2009), The Rotary Club of North Ridgeville wishes him well.

Sports, Academics And Community Service Prepare Elyria Catholic Senior

Combining sports, academic achievement and volunteerism proves to be the right formula for Elyria Catholic senior Kevin Fentner. During his high school career, Kevin has participated in the Ambassadors Club and S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions). He was named to the National Honors Society, earned First Honors and maintains a 3.7 grade point average. He also volunteers at a children's development center and is an active participant in St. Peter Parish's CYO, where he helps with CYO sports.

Speaking of sports, Kevin participated on the Elyria Catholic golf team during his freshman and sophomore years (he was the most-improved golfer in his sophomore year). And throughout his entire high school career he has been a part of the basketball team – serving as captain three of the four years. During his junior year, the basketball team earned the distinction 1st Team All Lorain County. Combining sports with service, Kevin also volunteered with the Special Olympics.

Kevin plans to attend college and study business. For now, you can find Kevin at Teresa's Pizza in North Ridgeville or on the basketball court.

Rotary Club of North
Ridgeville

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A Special thanks to **Emil, Kathy, and Adam** for the photos in this newsletter.

I really want everyone to know what we are doing both inside and outside the club. Do you have new products, new services, vacation pictures, funny stories. I want this stuff to put in the newsletter. As you may have noticed I try to change the pictures every month to keep things exciting. I want pictures of the stuff you are doing.

KEG TAPPING PARTY

