



ROTARY CLUB OF APPLETON

GUSTO

Service Above Self

May 26th, 2015 Upcoming Programs

June 2nd, 2015
Rotary on the Road
FVTC Public Safety Training Center

June 9th, 2015
Radission – Empire Room
NFP Roundtable Discussion
Thought of the Day: Dennis Episcopo

Officers 2014-2015
President
Deborah Wetter

President-Elect
Sridhar

Past President
Peter Kelly

Secretary
Jennifer Stephany

Treasurer
Chad Hershner

Directors
Rosie Cannizzo
Michelle Devine-Giese
Ruth Ann Heeter
Gary Hermsen
Dennis Hietpas
Egide Nimubona
Shana Shallue
Marta Weldon

Sergeant-At-Arms
Jon Kester

Rotarians of the Year
Tony Gonzalez/
Kathy Dreyer

Admin. Assistant
Meghan Warner
Phone 205-5255
rotaryappleton@gmail.com

Membership – 173

Downtown Gusto
Meghan Warner, Editor
Dist. 6220, Club 2656
P. O. Box 703
Appleton, WI 54912
www.appletonrotary.org
Meets Tuesday Noon

MARY HARP-JIRSCHLE: EYE CARE MISSION IN PANAMA

Through the World Service Committee grant Mary Harp-Jirschele and the Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity (VOSH) group were able to help put glasses on 856 people at a makeshift clinic set up 7 ½ hours west of Panama City in a village called Petrillo Arriba. This year the group was hosted by an organization called “Youth With a Mission” YWAM for short. They have a base camp in the middle of nowhere in Panama, which is where they typically like to be because it is where the most need is. The eye clinic was set up in an old school about 3 miles from camp. There was a courtyard for the kids to play in close by so the parents could keep an eye on them. VOSH brought soccer, tennis and baseballs and the kids could not believe their good fortune. Interestingly, at the end of the day, the balls were left right in the middle of the courtyard. In the end, VOSH gifted them to a teacher at the school who helped set up every day and she walked more than an hour each day, each way, to help them out. While the children were playing in the courtyard, VOSH was serving their parents in their little makeshift clinic. You cannot even imagine the look of surprise when someone sees clearly for the first time in their lives. They actually had a woman say, “This is the first time I’ve seen my baby’s face,” It truly is a miracle. This year they carried about 3,000 pairs of glasses with them in suitcases and shipped another 600 or so ahead of time. Add to that hundreds of sunglasses in another bag. The people of the village and surrounding area are like every other central American place they have been to. The people work harder than anyone should have to just put food on the table, where there are no frills but much contentment, where access to things we take for granted-like running water- is a luxury residents will never see in their lifetime. There was electricity most of the time in this area and cell phones are becoming more apparent. Out of about 900 people they saw a few stories stood out. There was a 90 year old man who had never had glasses in his life. When he was outfitted in his glasses in the dispensary, he stood up and announced to the crowd, “Nuevo hombre” – I am a new man!” Everyone Cheered! There was an 81 year old woman who was a tiny little thing. They found the perfect little stylish pair of glasses for her little face, and she was so excited to put them on for her. The woman did not say anything...she just kept looking around. People’s reactions are so different. They finally asked her what was wrong. She quietly said, “I just never expected this. I can see.” When all is said and done, the bottom line is consistent each year; they make a difference in the lives of not just the people they serve, but also in their own lives. Mary’s closing comment in her journal one year said it best: “The world is bigger than what WE know, and it’s good to be reminded of that occasionally-whether it’s in a big way like this kind of trip or in a smaller way at your favorite nonprofit back home. Either way, you come to realize how blessed we really are.” VOSH is very blessed that the Rotary Club of Appleton chose to provide \$1,000 from the World Service Fund for this trip. It made a WORLD of difference in the lives of some wonderful people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bimal Rajbhandari, Rotaract student from Lawrence University, is raising money for the earthquake victims in Nepal, his home. Please follow him on his Facebook page if you are interested in helping. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nepal-Relief/1431020890533768>
- Paul Greene visited Iceland with his wife and brought back some dried Haddock for President Deborah.
- Paul Hillmer presented the club with a check from Associated Bank for \$250.00 for a donation to the World Service Committee.

7 DAY NOTICE

The following individual has been proposed for membership in Rotary. He has passed all committees and unless an objection in writing is submitted to the secretary within 7 days, this member will be admitted to the Rotary Club of Appleton.

Brian Pierce of 4725 Gardenwood Lane, Appleton, WI 54915 has been proposed into membership by John Parker. He would enter under the classification of Market Research.

GUESTS, VISITORS AND MAKE-UPS

Today our guests were Dnyanesh Patkar with Sridhar, Sally Mielke with John Mielke, Patti Habeck, Shelly Leadley, Erin Wilkum, Patti Jorgensen, Jeff Jirschele, Mary Ann Forster, John Forster, Alyce Dumke and Jarrad Bittner with Mary Harp-Jirschele and Lori Allman with Sonia Barham

There were No Visiting Rotarians this week

There were No Make ups this week

JUNE 9TH MEETING-NFP ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

On June 9th the Program Committee is once again presenting Non-Profit Roundtables. This will be a great way for rotary members to learn more about some of the agencies represented in our membership and how these organizations are serving our community as a whole. Come learn about how these groups are improving the quality of life we enjoy in our community.

HANDS OVER THE FOX

This is an event to remember lives lost and help the community move forward after a tragic shooting took the lives of Jonathan & Olivia Stoffel and Adam Bentsdahl on the Trestle Trail in Menasha, Wisconsin.

Date:

Sunday, May 31st, 2015

Time:

Program to begin at 7 p.m.

(We highly suggest you plan to arrive on either side of the bridge trail no later than 6:30 p.m. because of the large expected crowd; shuttles will start at 5 p.m. – scroll down for parking information)

Location:

Trestle Trail Bridge, Menasha, WI

Details:

On Sunday, May 31, community members will gather on both sides of the Trestle Trail Bridge beginning at 6:30 p.m.

At 7 p.m., there will be a brief invocation, then people will be asked to walk onto the bridge from either side until both sides meet in the middle

Hands will be joined and raised during a moment of silence in honor of the lives lost. Nearby churches are asked to ring their bells at 7:33 p.m.; immediately following, boaters and kayakers in the surrounding water will collectively sound their horns as another sign of community strength and support.