



ROTARY CLUB OF APPLETON GUSTO

Service Above Self

June 14, 2016 Upcoming Programs

June 21st, 2016
Fox Banquets
Rotarian of the Year Awards/
Heeter Awards
Thought of the Day: Video

June 28th, 2016
Fox Banquets
Jennifer Stephany's induction
Thought of the Day: Paul
Hillmer

Officers 2015-2016

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Sridhar

President-Elect
Jennifer Stephany

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John Nygaard

Sergeant-At-Arms
Jon Kester

Rotarian of the Year
Mary Harp-Jirschele

Admin. Assistant
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Membership – 156

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Meets Tuesday Noon

MARY HARP-JIRSCHELE MISSION TRIP REPORT

I've heard people say they've had a mountaintop experience and sometimes wondered what they meant. Well, now I know. Our mission trip this year went to the highest mountain in Nicaragua, to a tiny village known as San Rafael del Norte. (There is, by the way, a San Rafael of the South, too.) As usual, our group of missionaries traveled under the auspices of Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity. It was my first time organizing the trip, meaning I was responsible for things like getting documentation from the Ministry of Health in Nicaragua that gave us permission to even be IN the country...much less hand-carry 3,000 pairs of glasses with us through a very finicky Customs checkpoint! Of course we were 36 hours away from departure and still had no legal paperwork to allow us into the county, so I was a wreck. Typically one of the eye doctors does the organizing, but some of us with "high control needs" in the group decided "we" should take over the organizing – and that WE turned into ME...and it added a whole different level of complexity to the trip. In the end, it all came together when the legal documentation arrived with 22 hours from departure to spare! There were 14 of us on this trip, 5 from Appleton, 4 from LaCrosse and 5 from Portage. It was our biggest mission group ever, and included 5 people who had never gone before. We were worried that we wouldn't find a job for everyone, but that was wasted energy because of course there was plenty of work to go around. We had 2 eye doctors, 4 opticians fitting people with glasses, 2 eye-therapy specialists, 2 people assisting the docs, 2 working the acuity charts and 2 who helped the patients navigate their way through our process. We also had some help from several village people, who did translation and registration. Together, we made a difference in the lives of 986 people from an incredibly poor and isolated region of a third-world country. The people of San Rafael were wonderfully gracious people and they loved the fact we were living among them, in their community. Other mission workers have been to their village, though never eye doctors, but they don't always stay in town. We stayed at a little casita (which means little house) run by an elderly woman who treated us like family. Other mission groups often travel to a larger city and stay at a nice hotel, which we, too, were offered. But that doesn't allow for interaction with people in the community, which enriches our experience – and that of the Nicaraguans, too. Yet one of our new travelers said the casita was a little too rustic for her – and we laughed out loud and said it was like a Hilton to us! The patients arrived at the clinic early every morning and were very patient as they waited in line for their turn. It's a hurry-up-and-wait society. Minus the hurry-up. There is really NO sense of urgency in a country where most people are unemployed. They have nowhere to hurry up to. After registration, people come to my area, where we do the acuity checks. Meaning, do you see 20/20 or 20/200? I didn't even know what an acuity chart was the first year I went, but I'm about as good as they get now! I know enough Spanish to say, "Con su mano..." The people are really grateful and a little relieved when we try to speak to them – this is a very nerve-wracking experience. Out of 1,000 people we saw this time, only a handful of them had ever seen an eye doctor before! So, they have no idea what to expect. The way my station works is this: I put a duct-tape marker on the floor at a distance of 20 feet from the chart, then 10 feet and then 5 feet. The older the person, the closer to the chart they have to get to read it. I want to thank you for the World Service Grant that made a difference in the lives of not just the nearly 1,000 people we served, but in my life and that of all of us on this trip. We are so proud to represent you as we do our good work for people in need. Imagine never, ever seeing clearly in your entire lifetime. Thanks to all of you, there is a little mountaintop area of Nicaragua where you are heroes to them all. –Mary Harp-Jirschele

THUMBNAIL-ERIC WELHOUSE

Eric is from Kimberly, Wisconsin and is one of our newest members to be inducted. He lives in Kimberly with his wife of 16 years and their 4 kids. He has 2 boys and 2 girls. Eric is the Director of Field Services for Catalyst Construction. He serves on the Governing Board, and as a small group leader for Student and Men's Ministries at Appleton Alliance Church. He is also the co-founder of Elena's Hope, raising money to find a cure for mitochondrial disease (which his oldest daughter has) supporting the UMDF. Welcome to the club, Eric!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you see extraordinary customer service fill out a Courtesy Award Nomination form. Deadline to get your applications in by is August 19th. You can find them on the website at www.appletonrotary.org or go to Survey monkey at <https://surveymonkey.com/r.LXPH8BP>.
- **SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 2ND** – Rotary on the Road at Reid Golf Course from 11:30-3:00. If you are not a golfer please stop by afterwards to enjoy some refreshments. More details coming soon!
- To all Rotarians – President Ravindran will be spending 2 days in Marquette on June 24 and 25th. Please plan to come to Marquette to help the Marquette Club celebrate their Centennial. On Friday night there will be Fireside Chat with President Ravi at the Hampton Inn in Marquette at 8 pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to chat with the Rotary President. The manager of the Hampton is a Rotarian and offering a special rate for the weekend. A small block of overnight rooms for anyone needing accommodations. Rate is: \$169 for a non-lake view room, \$189 for a lake view room. This block will be held until June 17. Guests are welcome to call the hotel at 906-228-6001 to make their reservations. On Saturday morning the 25th of June there will be a major need for volunteers to help pack 100,000 food packets – President Ravi will be taking part. Please sign up and for more information here <http://www.rotaryclubofmarquette.com>/That evening - The Rotary Club of Marquette is having their Centennial Dinner on Saturday, June 25th from 5:30-7:30pm at the Frazier Boat Yard on the beautiful shore of Lake Superior. Rotary International President K.R. Ravindran will be the featured speaker for the Centennial Dinner. Tickets to the Centennial Dinner are \$75 each and the dress attire is business casual. Proceeds from the Centennial Dinner will support local programs that combat childhood hunger. Tickets for the dinner can be reserved by emailing our Club's Treasurer, Ryan Whitley, at mqtrotarytreasurer@gmail.com. If you have not already made your reservations there is still time!!!!!! Believe me you will be glad you came and you will really enjoy meeting Ravi up close and personal. And his wife is quite the lady! Bring the kids and make it a family affair. I am sure Ravi would be honored to have his picture taken with them as well. Remember that Marquette is on Eastern Time and not central time. Let's help Marquette celebrate its 100th year!!!! Hope to see many of you in Marquette in two weeks. Rick Jansing, DG 6220

GUESTS, VISITORS AND MAKE-UPS

Visiting guests this week were Patti Jorgensen, Jeff Jirschele, and Marcy Voss with Mary Harp-Jirschele, Laura Huizenga with Trisha Huizenga, Beth Idaase and Heather Warnecke with Amy Flanders.

There were No Visiting Rotarians this week

There were No Make ups this week were

TUESDAY, JUNE 28th – JENNIFER STEPHANY'S INDUCTION

Come and see what the stunts committee has in store for Jennifer Stephany as President Sridhar's term comes to a close and we induct Jennifer as our newest Rotary President.

PRESIDENT JENNIFER'S HAPPY HOUR CELEBRATION

Please join us Tuesday, June 28th from 4:30-6:30 at Bazil's Pub located at 109 W. College Avenue to celebrate Jennifer Stephany's induction. Popcorn and pizza will be provided!