



Rotary Review

The Award Winning Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Plainfield and North Plainfield

Volume 8 Issue 6

December 2008

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Linda Persichino	President
Addy Bonet	President-Elect
Vicky Griswold	Vice-President
Michael Townley	Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas Reedy	Sgt. at Arms

DIRECTORS

Dave Hollod.....	Service Projects
Marilyn Birnbaum.....	R.I. Foundation
Paul Henry	Club Administration
Michael Townley	Public Relations
Vicky Griswold.....	Membership

Editor - Michael Townley

President, Rotary International DONG KURN LEE

Rotary Club of Seoul, Korea

"Make Dreams Real"

Governor, District No. 7510 JOE SCANDARIATO, SR.

Rotary Club of Hamilton Twp.

Assistant Governor

Bev Howard

Rotary Club of
Plainfield-North Plainfield

What Paul Harris Said...

"Perhaps there are two features of Rotary which more than any others challenge the attention of those who are not Rotarians. One is...our classification plan...The other is the provision that neither riches, political nor religious standings shall constitute barriers to membership."

**1933 Radio Address
from RI Convention in 1933**

History-Making Induction!

First Mother-Daughter Members in District 7510 Inducted

History was made on November 26 when District Governor Joe Scandariato inducted our newest member, Annie McWilliams.

Annie was proposed for membership by her mother, Darlene, herself a newer member to the Club. This is the first mother-daughter combination in our Club's 87-year history and, as best we can determine, in District 7510 as well.

At Governor Joe's official visit in October, he sat near recently-inducted Darlene and Annie. When he asked Annie when she planned to join, Annie told him that she already had indicated her interest. He then asked to be included in the induction as the presiding officer.

After the Board received Annie's application and approved her membership, the induction was scheduled to coincide with a pre-Thanksgiving Day joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains.



Annie is a newly-elected member of the Plainfield City Council. She is a real estate associate with Weichert Realtors in Warren, and lives in Plainfield.



Annie McWilliams (right) with her mother, Darlene, and District Governor Joe after the induction ceremony.

Women in Rotary

It may be hard to believe, but women have held memberships and more recently officer positions in Rotary for only twenty years.

Rotary began in 1905 as one of many clubs that were open to men only. This was common in the 1800's and early 1900's, with business and professional leadership positions almost ex-

(Continued on page 2)

Need more information? Have comments, questions or suggestions? All are welcome. Contact the Editor at 908-822-1441 or at RotaryPNP@verizon.net.

Why I Am A Rotarian

I am an only child. When my mother was in her early twenties, she suffered a motorcycle injury while with her boyfriend (my father). The doctors told her she would never be able to have children.

About 3 years later, she and my father had one child: me. They never had another child even though they never did anything to prevent having more children.

I have a romantic streak in me and this story always had special significance. I felt that I had to be born. There was a meaning, not an accident. [Perhaps I was too self-important]

In 1997-1998, I became the governor for Rotary District 5010. Circumstances and events compelled me to promote "The Children of Russia Project." By the end of my year as governor, 132 Rotary clubs in 19 districts in 5 nations AND the Rotary Foundation had raised over \$600,000 to improve the conditions of children in 22 communities in eastern Russia.

The romantic streak in me concluded that I had somehow completed the circle of life and repaid the fates that had decreed that I would beat the medical odds and become me.

Rotary made it possible for me to close the circle. And that is why I am a Rotarian.

Carolyn E. Jones, PDG
Rotary Club of Anchorage
East, Alaska- District 5010

Women in Rotary

(Continued from page 1)
clusively male.

It took a 1987 Supreme Court decision to overturn Rotary International's all-male policy, at least as it affected U.S. clubs.

The Rotary Club of Duarte, California, was threatened by Rotary International with revocation of their charter for admitting three women as members in 1977. The California appellate court ruled in favor of the local club, and RI appealed to the Supreme Court.

The issue for the Court was somewhat similar to a 1984 ruling against the then all-male Jaycees organization. The issue turned on whether the particular organizations involved were entitled by the First Amendment right of freedom of association to be exempt from state laws against sex discrimination.

The Supreme Court rejected Rotary International's argument that it had a right to bar the admission of women as members of any affiliated club because of its selective membership policy, public service activities and other attributes.

"The evidence in this case indicated that the relationship among Rotary Club members is not the kind of intimate or private relation that warrants constitutional protection," Associate Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. wrote for the Court.

He also said California's law against sex discrimination "serves the state's compelling interest in eliminating discrimi-

nation against women" and justified any "slight infringement" on RI's freedom of expression and community service activities that might be associated with the forced admission of women.

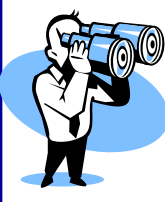
"Indeed, by opening membership to leading business and professional women in the community, Rotary Clubs are likely to obtain a more representative cross-section of community leaders with a broadened capacity for service," he said.

The then-Rotary Club of Plainfield had almost fifty members in the early 1980's. Discussion at Club meetings included the ongoing litigation as it played out in California and then at the Supreme Court. Opinions were voiced for both sides of the issue, but most members appeared to favor an open membership.

Rev. William Harvey, club president in 1987-1988, respectfully declined to take an oath of office at his induction, because the oath required allegiance to and support of Rotary International, which had not yet received the Supreme Court decision.

The Club inducted its first woman member almost immediately after RI "authorized" US clubs to admit women members.

Due to varied customs and values throughout the world, Rotary International did not compel women members, but simply eliminated the "male only" provision in its constitution and by-laws and allowed clubs to act as determined acceptable in their own countries.



Who's Who and What's New

Annie McWilliams was inducted into the Club by District Governor Joe at the 11/26 meeting. Annie's email is annie.mcwilliams@gmail.com. Members will receive her full contact information by email.

In addition to her new membership, Annie has taken on a very important position as member of the Plainfield City Council. Annie was elected on November 5 and will take office in January.

Welcome to the Club, Annie!

Rutgers

First two games (actually, first three) were held on 11/4 and 11/14. The first was very slow, generating only \$219 for the scholarship fund. The second evening was an unexpected doubleheader, with \$780 earned for our efforts. We are sharing profits with Dunellen-Green Brook based on the % of workers supplied by each Club. The \$ earned above are for our club.

Have a Ham?

StarFish in Plainfield is a food pantry that we support. For Thanksgiving, 150 families received groceries and a frozen turkey for their holiday meals.



We are helping StarFish purchase 3 lb. hams for 150 families who will receive Christmas holiday groceries this month.

Donate a ham or \$\$ at any meeting, or contact Michael to make your contribution today!



**10th Annual
Wine Tasting Dinner
Thursday, March 26, 2009
Cocktail hour at 6:00 PM
Dinner at 7:00 PM
\$70/person
(anticipated pricing)**

Dec. & Jan. Meeting Schedule

- ◇ Dec. 3 - Club Assembly & NPHS Student of the Month Awards
- ◇ Dec 10 - No speaker *
- ◇ Dec. 17 -No speaker *
- ◇ Dec. 24 - No meeting.
- ◇ Dec. 31 - No meeting.
- ◇ Jan. 7 - Club Assembly & PHS Student of the Month Awards
- ◇ Jan. 14 - Speaker by Dave
- ◇ Jan. 21 - Addy will speak on the Rotary Leadership Inst.
- ◇ Jan. 28 - Speaker by Darlene

* - We do not have a speaker in December, since we often have to move from our regular room due to holiday parties.
[Note: Please let Michael know when speakers are arranged so Certificates of Appreciation can be prepared and ready.]

2008-2009


YMCA Shelter - Quarterly dinner schedule: Completed for 2008. Dates for 2009 coming soon.

RU Basketball -
1/20 - Tuesday - Women vs. West Virginia @ 7:30 PM.

2/7 - Saturday - Women vs. Georgetown @ 2:00 PM.
2/22 - Sunday - Men vs. West Virginia @ 3:00 PM
3/7 - Saturday - Men vs. South Florida @ 2:00 PM.

Bring a friend or two and help us raise more scholarship \$.

Jack Townley's Corner



Jack told Mom that they wouldn't make up all the Santa Claus movies and stories if there really wasn't a Santa Claus. Guess he just doesn't want to give up yet.



YMCA Dinner



Marilyn Birnbaum dishes up some KFC fried chicken at the dinner on December 1 at the Y.



Darlene McWilliams with her son Adam and daughter Avery serving dinner and desserts



Bill Parenti, Marilyn Birnbaum, Adam and Avery McWilliams, and Darlene McWilliams serve fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, cole slaw and desserts, provided by the Club. We also served up ziti and macaroni and cheese that was provided by the United Methodist Church on East Front Street in Plainfield. Food was plentiful with leftovers available for another meal.



Dessert brought by the McWilliams family included homemade brownies and vanilla ice cream!



Dave Hollod brought along soda for the thirsty, accompanied here by desserts from United Methodist Church.

District Events

February 11, 2009

D7510 PETS I
6:00PM-9:00PM

March 7

D7510 PETS II
7:30AM-4:00PM

April 24-26
89th District
Conference
Annapolis,
Maryland



May 13
District Assembly
2:00PM-8:00PM

Wish Book

Denise Searchwell has been a community volunteer since she arrived in America more than twelve years ago. She is the single parent of six children, but found time to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

After helping other families get their homes, all the while working her fulltime job and caring for her family, Denise and her family received their own new home from Habitat last year.

Her Christmas wish was a for computer to help her children with their schoolwork.

The Board of Directors recognized Denise's efforts and donated \$500 toward her wish. The donation was sent through the Courier News annual Wish Book, which raises nearly \$20,000 annually..



Board of Directors

Rotary Anns

In many Rotary clubs throughout the world, wives of male members were affectionately called "Rotary Anns." This designation was never one of disparagement, but rather grew out of an interesting historical occasion.

The year was 1914 when San Francisco Rotarians boarded a special train to attend the Rotary Convention being held in Houston. In those days, few wives attended Rotary events, and until the train stopped in Los Angeles, the only woman aboard was the wife of Rotarian Bru Brunner. As the train picked up additional convention-bound delegates, Mrs. Ann Brunner was introduced as the Rotarian's Ann. This title soon became "Rotary Ann."

Since the clubs of the West were inviting the Rotarians to hold their next convention in San Francisco, a number of songs and stunts were organized that would be performed in Houston. One of the Rotarians wrote a "Rotary Ann" chant.

On the train's arrival at the Houston depot, a delegation greeted the West Coast Rotarians. One of the greeters was Guy Gundaker of Philadelphia, whose wife was also named Ann. During the rousing demonstration, someone started the Rotary Ann chant. The two petite ladies, Ann Brunner and Ann Gundaker, were hoisted to the men's shoulders and paraded about the hall. The group loved the title given to the two women named Ann. Immediately, the same term of endearment was used for all of the wives in attendance.

Guy Gundaker became president of Rotary International in 1923 and Bru Brunner was elected president in 1952. Thus, each of the two original Rotary Anns became the "first lady of Rotary International."

[Ed. Note: This was once a common practice but the term "Rotary Ann" has been rarely heard in recent years.]

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, November 26. The following are highlights from that meeting.

- The nominating committee reported on initial efforts to develop a slate of officers for election in December.
- The Board is investigating a networking event in partnership with the Somerset County Business Alliance in Spring 2009.
- The Club has been invited to a joint meeting with Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary at the Summit Medical Group in Berkeley Heights. Date to be determined.
- The Club will donate proceeds from the 11/26 meeting 50/50 and Happy Dollars to StarFish in Plainfield to help support their holiday food program in December.
- Holiday gifts will be presented to the staff at Giovanna's at the 12/17 meeting.

StarFish Food Pantry

Shelves that could be full of tuna fish and soups sit mostly empty as StarFish struggles to meet increased demand for help in Plainfield. While food donations at Thanksgiving have helped replenish supplies, the shelves will be bare again by the end of January. You can help keep these shelves stocked with food - bring your donations to any meeting and they will be delivered to StarFish that same week. Canned fruit, vegetables, tomato sauce, tuna, and beans are good choices; spaghetti/penne, mac 'n' cheese, cereal, instant oatmeal are also staples that are always needed.



2008-2009
Club Directories
are now available.

~
See Tom Reedy
at any Meeting
for your copy.

Current Members and Classifications

Allen, Janice	Child care administration
Birnbaum, Marilyn	Public education
Bonet, Addy	Social service
Griswold, Vicky	Music retail
Hawkins-Todman, Linda	Real estate
Henry, Paul	Financial planning/CPA
Hollod, David	Public administration
Howard, Beverly	Cardiac care
McWilliams, Annie	Real estate
McWilliams, Darlene	Real estate
Persichino, Linda	Banking
Rainear, Frank	Funeral home
Reedy, Thomas	Social service
Townley, Michael	Stained and leaded glass

Honorary Members and Former Classifications

Harvey, William	Clergy - presbyterian
Gindin, William	General law
Herting, Frank	Public education
Perrone, Ralph	Social service
Ridzy, Edward	Mortgage banking

Join us for a free lunch!

Clip this coupon (or bring the newsletter) and use it as your invitation to meet our members and to learn more about our Rotary Club and about Rotary International.

**Any Wednesday at 12:15 PM
Giovanna's Restaurant
1462 South Avenue
Plainfield, NJ**

THE FOUR WAY TEST of the things we say and do...

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it Fair to All Concerned?
3. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
4. Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?



The Rotary Review

**Rotary Club of Plainfield/North Plainfield
165 Palmer Avenue
South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2223**

Place
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Here

Inside This Issue

- ◇ History Making Induction
- ◇ Women in Rotary
- ◇ Why I am a Rotarian
- ◇ Who's Who and What's New
- ◇ StarFish Food Pantry
- ◇ Board Meeting Notes