



The Ramrod



1919

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

2011-2012

Visit the: Elyria Rotary web site: <http://elyriarotary.org/index.shtml>



January 3, 2012

By Maggie Kelch

The Elyria Rotary Club began the new year with lots of positive news- two new members, a repeat Paul Harris Fellow and the introduction of our officers for the 2012 year.

President **Mark Wagner** kicked things off positively with the singing of *America* and the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, **Debbie Warden** helped us to positively celebrate the New Year by reading a number of quotations about New Years and new beginnings.

President Mark asked all Rotarians to keep **Jack Smith** in their thoughts and prayers. Jack suffered a heart episode recently and has been in EMH Regional Healthcare System. Mark reports that he is stable and should be home in a couple of days.

Mark Mathes was accompanied by **Tim Donohue** (aka non-Joannie) on the piano as we sang *Auld Lang Syne*.

Two New Members

Two new members joined our club today. First, **Steve Hosler** introduced new member **Mike Warnock**. Mike is the District Executive for the Boy Scouts of America. Then, **Mark Wagner**

COMING UP!
JANUARY 10, 2011

The Honduran Experience
Jeremy Watson
President, Amherst Rotary

Jeremy went to Honduras as part of a Rotary service project team and found that his life was changed by the experience. He will share his experience in San Pedro Sula with all of us at our meeting on January 10th. Jeremy will be introduced by Mark Wagner.

introduced new member **Dan Samms**. Dan is the Pastor of Group Life for Church of the Open Door.

Both have been involved in the local community in a variety of ways and bring many talents to our club. A warm welcome to both our new members!

Greg Kruszka then presented a special award to **Mark Wagner** to thank him for bringing a new member into the club. Mark was the 26th member of the club to sponsor a new member. According to Greg, more than 50% of our Rotarians have sponsored a new member into our club.

Paul Harris Fellow Award

Amber Fisher presented a Paul Harris Fellow Award to **John Aquilla**. This was the third Paul

Harris award presented to John in recognition of his generosity and commitment to Rotary Foundation.



Steve Hosler introduced new member Mike Warnock at today's Rotary meeting.

New Officers



Mark Wagner introduced the Elyria Rotary Club officers for 2012. Taking office in July will be President **Spencer Ryan**, President-Elect **Steve Hosler**, Secretary **Greg Kruszka**, Treasurer **Jim Backs** and Sergeant-at-Arms **Don Andress**.



Mark Wagner introduced new member Dan Samms at today's meeting. Mark also received an award for bringing a new member into our club.



Amber Fisher presented a Paul Harris Fellow Award to John Aquilla.

The Jug Strikes Again!

Don Boddy was at the podium today to inflict maximum fineage on the unwary Rotarians in the audience. Targets of his barbs today were: **Mark Mathes**, **Chris Mosely**, **Dale Forthofer**, **Joe Laco**, **Jim Canan**, **Dan Samms**, **Joel Sinegar** and **Bill Thomasson**.

Conserving Land for Future Generations

In **Jack Smith's** absence, **Chris Green** introduced our speaker today: Andy McDowell, Western Field Director for the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

Andy, who is a North Ridgeville resident, told us about the WRLC and how they work to conserve natural areas and agricultural areas for the future.



Andy McDowell was introduced by Chris Green.

The WRLC was formed in 2006 when several different land trust organizations were merged. It is now the largest land conservancy organization in the state of Ohio. It covers a 14 county area that was historically the Western Reserve area.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Greg Kruszka

November Board Meeting

October attendance was 70.2 percent and Oct. 31 membership decreased by one to 121.

Administration of the Club website now is password protected. Treasurer Jim Backs opened a new checking account at First Merit Bank. He and Chris Mead prepared and submitted IRS form 990 and State of Ohio Registration for Charitable Organizations (\$100 fee). President Mark Wagner appointed Steve Hosler Chair of Membership

Development and Public Relations to replace Heidi Finniff (resigned).

The Board supported (no vote) the concept of an Elyria park project; Clarence Wills will investigate with Parks Director Frank Gustoff. Approved submitting letter to support City of Elyria request for Brownfield alleviation planning grant from U. S. EPA (Spencer Ryan drafted and submitted letter).

December Board Meeting

November attendance was 67.4 percent and Nov. 30 membership was 121. Treasurer Jim Backs made the third annual payment (\$14,000) for the EHS WiFi Café; funds have been set aside for payments four and five. Assets are healthy and performance to budget is favorable.

The Board elected officers for a one year term starting July 1, 2012. Mike Gebhardt suggested The Chronicle be invited to the Children's Holiday Party next year. Chris Fichtner and Grants and Scholarships committee reported on recent grant requests and announced website documents are being updated. Debbie Warden and Vocational Service committee are developing mentorship and speaker ideas. Spencer Ryan reported the ad hoc Fund Raising committee will focus on updating the Auction concept.

MAKEUPS

Bill Tattersall: December 6, Fountain Hills, AZ, December 15 & December 29, Scottsdale, AZ

Committee Chairs – you and your committee members are eligible for makeup credit when you have a committee meeting. Send the list of attendees and the date of the meeting to Maggie Kelch for inclusion in the Ramrod at: (mkelch@rossenvironmental.com)

UPC OMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

1/17 – Martin Luther King presentation by Mark Skellenger

1/24 – Steffani Baker, Alzheimer's Association, introduced by Chris Green