October 8, 2007
Call to order: Deb Wirtz
Prayer and Pledge: Carla Altepeter
Today’s Program: Preserving Our Natural Heritage Through Land Trusts
Today’s Speaker: Jim Klinkert

October 1, 2007
Steve Schmudlach, President-Elect, opened the meeting and welcomed all Rotarians and guests.

Jim Grines led the club in the prayer and pledge.

VISITORS AND GUESTS from October 1, 2007:
Introduced by Lori Renning
Southwest Rotary- Bill Thimke, Tiffany Martin, David Green
Morning Rotary- Ryan Ames
Guests of Members- Rick Kern, guest of Gary Eake
Jeff Kaplan, guest of Casey Zaniewski
Bill Calhoun, guest of Sherry Lynch
Guests of Our Club- Carl Stapel, Appleton Rotary Club
Dan Posanski, Rotary fellow
Merriman Blum, Oshkosh North student
Vito Macedo, Rotary exchange student
John Aukec, Ambassador from the Republic of the Sudan and speaker
Adrienne Benson, UW-Oshkosh student and Ambassador assistant
Shane Dvorjac, UW-Oshkosh student and Ambassador assistant

MARKET REPORT:
No market report provided...

ROTARY MINUTE:
John Nichols presented a Rotary Minute on the topic of Ambassadorial Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to candidates from low-income countries by the Trustees on a world-competitive basis. At present only 11% of Ambassadorial Scholars originate from low-income countries each year. The main purpose of the scholarship is educational development and investment in top quality human capital that will benefit the society. Scholars from such countries on their return will contribute in economic and social development and use their skills in training their fellow citizens. The Trustees of the Rotary Foundation invite all districts to donate to the Scholarships Fund Pool for Low-Income Countries. These scholarships will be awarded exclusively to approximately 32 candidates from low-income countries. Strong candidates are those who plan to return to their home countries after their scholarships to share the knowledge and skills they acquired abroad.
GOOD NEWS/HAPPY DOLLARS:

(Contributions are made to Polio Plus, Literacy Council, and Peru Soy Cow Project.)

• Larry Schultz gave the raffle update. The raffle is presently up to $60.
• Doug Pearson gave happy dollars on behalf of himself and Carla Altepeter for their appearance in the Northwestern this past weekend and as thanks for all her assistance with Chamco.
• Tom Willadsen gave happy dollars for the Chicago Cubs being the “tallest midget” in the central division.
• Lori Renning gave the news that she is pregnant with a baby boy.
• Lori Renning reported that the American Red Cross had a successful blood drive last week. She stated that 1 pint of blood saves up to 3 lives.
• Liz Rice Janssen gave happy dollars for her upcoming trip to Oklahoma City to see her daughter compete her horse for the title of Grand National Champion.
• Mark Harris gave happy dollars on behalf of his wife’s contributions to the West High School band uniforms and for the upcoming West High School Homecoming game this weekend.
• Ryan Ames gave happy dollars for him and his wife closing on their first house.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

• Sue Andrews corrected a statement in this week’s edition of the Spokes. Sue reported that the club sees a profit of $7.60 per dozen roses sold.
• Kathy Propp announced that Alexander Zimmerman has been selected as an Ambassadorial Scholar from our district to Africa.
• Jim Grines stated that he saw several Rotarians at the symphony this past weekend. Jim also announced that the Wine Opus will be held Saturday, October 13th at the Oshkosh Country Club.
• Michael Cooney reminded club members about the final Gallery show at Thimke’s on October 6th.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct 13 District Meeting in Slinger, WI.
Nov 9-10 Rose Sale Pick-Up Day

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

Oct 8 Preserving Our Natural Heritage
Oct 15 My Goals as the New Oshkosh Police Chief
Oct 22 Truancy Intervention Program

PRAYER PLEDGE AND GREETER:

Oct 8 Carla Altepeter
Oct 15 Joshua Anderson
Oct 22 Sue Andrews

OCTOBER 1, 2007 - MEETING REVIEW:

Speaker-Hon. John Aukec
Title- Ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan

Message from the editor: I apologize if the statements below are not completely accurate. I had a difficult time understanding the speaker.

The Honorable John Aukec was introduced by Mr. Jeff Kaplan.

The Ambassador began his talk by stating that he was an oppositional fighter against the government of Sudan. He was awarded a scholarship to go to Iowa State University in 1982. Conducting political work against the government of Sudan, he worked very hard for the Sudan Peace Act. In January of 2005, a peace agreement was signed between the Northern and the Southern parts of Sudan. Upon graduation from Iowa State, he went back to the Sudan and was asked by the government to assist in improving the global image of the Sudan, at which time he became an Ambassador.

The Ambassador stated that there has been war in Sudan since the British left in 1956. The British began ruling the Sudan in 1898, of which Christianity divided the country.

The Ambassador went on to state that the war in Darfur is the chief “problem” bringing down the reputation of Sudan. The war in Southern Sudan has killed approximately 5 million people and displaced approximately 10 million. Southern Sudan now looks like a place from the 18th century, without roads or buildings, just mines.

The war in Darfur is different than that of Southern Sudan. The war is between those of African origin versus those of Arab origin. It is also a fight between farmers versus cattle owners because of limited resources. The desert had moved about 90 miles south, causing a drought. As cattle numbers increased, the drought caused a decrease in grazing lands, of which the farmers did not want to give up. The government had difficulty controlling populations which are primarily tribal.

The war in Darfur is so complicated because the population has a tribal base. Peace is also difficult to achieve because the South has 14-19 different factions without one unified voice.

The Ambassador concluded his talk by stating that today’s Sudan is a new Sudan. He stated that the United States had invested many resources in helping Sudan achieve peace. Darfur has been the barrier slowing the process of installing a democratic government in the Sudan.

4-WAY TEST:

Keith Voelker led the club in the 4-way test to conclude today’s meeting.
Four Avenues of Service

The term "Four Avenues of Service" refers to the four elements of the Object of Rotary: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service and International Service.

Although the Avenues of Service are not found in any formal part of the constitutional documents of Rotary, many Rotarians use this concept to describe the primary areas of Rotary activity.

Club Service involves all of the necessary activities Rotarians perform to make their club function successfully. Things like taking attendance, keeping records and raising money come under this Avenue of Service.

Vocational Service describes the opportunity each Rotarian has to represent the dignity and utility of one's vocation to the other members of the club, as well as the responsibility of the club to undertake projects related to such areas as career planning, vocational training, and the promotion of high ethical standards in the workplace.

Community Service pertains to those activities that Rotarians undertake to improve the quality of life in their community. It frequently involves assistance to youth, the aged, the disabled, and others who look to Rotary as a source of hope for a better life. When we are volunteer readers at Lincoln School, when the club pays to send grade school students to the symphony, when we raise money for the Literacy Council we walk this Avenue of Service.

The Fourth Avenue of Service, International Service, describes the many programs and activities that Rotarians undertake to advance international understanding, goodwill, and peace. International service projects are designed to meet humanitarian needs of people in many lands. Our most obvious international service is our connection with the orphanage in La Molina, Peru. Half the money from our table nes goes toward the eradication of polio through RI's Polio Plus effort. So even here in Oshkosh we are working internationally through the connection of Rotary.

When a Rotarian understands and travels down the Four Avenues of Service, the Object of Rotary takes on an even greater meaning.

From the District newsletter October 2006