



GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

Bruce MacCormack introduced
Nancy Jordan with BWEOC

Margaret Curtis brought
Megan Stanfield from
Sterling Savings Bank

Pat Fowley introduced John Huntley
from Mills Electric

VISITING ROTARIANS

None

OPENING REMARKS

Mark Knittel greeted us as we arrived and Irwin LeCocq sold raffle tickets, all the time swearing that the proceeds would not go to the Troubled Assets Relief Fund.

Dennis Murphy gave an appropriately Irish invocation after noting that he was wearing a blue and green tie in honor of St. Patrick's Day, which is actually Tuesday. He noted that blue was St. Patrick's color and the green is traditional now, so he felt in harmony with the Irish karma.

Don Anderson played the Star Spangled Banner and we all struggled to sing in unison.

President Margaret opened the meeting with yet another recitation of a very large number for this meeting (more on this later) and admitted that she had no report from the Board because she got to the meeting too late to know what had happened. She later fessed up and related that there would be a special board meeting following our regular meeting at some as yet unspecified Monday in April for all those Red Badgers who can't seem to find the Dorothy Hagen Building to get in their requirement to attend one such meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Clawson gave details of the Pickford Project, our outing on Tuesday to the new Pickford Theater building, Guiseppes (not traditional Irish fare, as described by Bruce as "boiled meat and green beer", and to which Murphy raised nary an objection), and the viewing of a film about the earlier Bellingham shipyards.

May 4 will be Rotation Day, when we will all be assigned to a fellow Rotarians' place of business for our meeting. Those willing to host were sought by Marty Haines, who said that nobody's business was too boring.

The basketball pool selections have been made, your faithful reporter snagging Duke and wondering how one of the chairmen got a top seed. Investigation to follow.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 23: Brian Griffin –
Senior Rotarians

March 30: Cheryl Crazy Bull –
Northwest Indian College:
Weaving Our Communities One
Student at a Time

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Susan Edgar, March 20th
Drew Schmidt, March 20th

PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

Kris Grinstad, March 20th

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Steve Adelstein, March 17th
Thomas Eckert, March 18th
Peter Self, March 18th

THIS ISSUE:

Reporter: Chuck Snyder

Photographer: Marty Haines

Editor: Dale Rings

This Tattler brought to you by:

Irwin LeCocq

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HARDLINES
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HAPPY BUCKS / FINES & RECOGNITION

Mauri Ingram had only one item - those who "...greatly value..." knowing just how many meetings our club has held were invited to put \$100.00 on the table. No one moved and no wallets were opened.

PRESENTATIONS

Three Students of the Month were introduced this month, honoring community service.

They were:

Bellingham High, Valerie Feerer, presented by Cindy Enger. With an impressive resume consisting of three pages and including work in Teen Court, working with animals and work and school excellence, Valerie told us of her latest project, a website to educate the public about horse slaughter, which although illegal in the U.S. is still practiced in Canada and Mexico. She has worked on legislation to end the practice of exporting animals for slaughter, and hopes to help the public understand why it should be stopped.

Sehome High, Bryn Smith, presented by Patti Leach. Bryn has been working with youth for some time, including a stint as a counselor at a mid-winter camp along with working at other kids' camps and mentoring students. She told us about her work mentoring students for the Math Olympiad, which she has done for three years. She is interested in math and science, and finds great satisfaction working with other students.

Squalicum High, Hannah Clark, presented by Ralph Rinne. Hannah has also worked with kids at camps also, including Camp Firwood. She has also helped out at the Sean Humphrey House, and is presently working to save food distribution on Sundays downtown. She told us how the Little Cheerful Cafe has been doing this but must end this summer, so Hannah is helping to find an appropriate alternate location.



Hannah Clark, Valerie Freerer, Bryn Smith

All three of these young women exemplify the highest standards of service to their fellow human beings, and all are to be heartily congratulated and thanked for all they do.

PROGRAM NOTES

The program today was Scott Dohnor, who told us how Superfeet insoles are made. Although most of those in attendance were using his product while he spoke, he was engaging and humorous. Superfeet grew out of an effort begun in Blaine in 1976 by Northwest Podiatric to create proper orthotic insoles for all types of shoes. The first effort wasn't profitable, and Scott revived it in 1992, also in Blaine.

HAPPY BUCKS / FINES & RECOGNITION

Scott showed how the insoles are made, using a proprietary fabric woven and attached to the foam insoles, then bonded to a polypropylene base. The product is made in both the U.S. and Korea, the latter coming courtesy of the exodus of running shoe makers to China, leaving excess capacity behind. 30% of the production is from the U.S. and most of the company's employees work in the Ferndale area. Scott noted that the Korean factories are efficient and produce high quality products, and that he is constantly monitoring to be sure that labor standards are upheld.

The insoles are sold in 28 countries, with the United Kingdom and Japan being the largest foreign markets. The U.S. is their primary area of sales at this time. The company is in the process of converting to employee ownership through the vehicle of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan because Scott thinks his workers are the best partners possible. Most sales to the public are through shoe outlets and 95% of the sales to those outlets are over the internet. You can buy them at many local stores or on line as well.



Scott Dohner

One never ceases to be amazed at the successful businesses flying under the radar (way under, in this case) of our community. It is refreshing to hear of an honest, quality product with local origin that makes so many feel so good. Thanks, Scott, for an informative program.

RAFFLE

There was a raffle winner, but he or she was keeping mum. Probably went out and spent his or her winnings on some Superfeet!

BUSINESS NOTES

The following membership proposals were approved by the Board of Directors, March 12, 2009 and they will be eligible for membership on April 6, 2009 unless written objection is received by Sandra Lindhout, Executive Secretary at 2200 Vining St., Bellingham, Wa. 98229 on or before March 30, 2009:

Megan T. Stanfield proposed by Margaret Curtis and Kathy Hughes to fill the classification "Banking-Private".

Nancy Jordan proposed by Peggy Zoro and Ray Trzynka to fill the classification "Community-Economic Development Council".

Although this came at the end of the meeting, Mark Knittel was happy for the fundraiser coming up this Saturday for Communities in Schools, which helps keep kids in school. His \$20.00 will presumably be matched by him come Saturday.

This Tattler brought to you by:

Wayne Langei



TATTLER

March 16, 2009

2008-2009

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The Tattler
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