



Weekly eWheel for the

Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor



Michigan, USA • District 6360 • Chartered 1918

JULY 24, 2017

Can you believe that August is around the corner? Time flies when you're having fun and here's hoping you've been having fun in this great summer weather we've been having.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE



Sometimes things don't work out exactly as planned... but it doesn't mean you stop trying.

The service and humanitarian impact of the Rotary International Committee was the feature of Monday's meeting. Prudy Barrett spoke about the work in Uganda of the Orphan Welfare Organization and the Rotary Piggery Project and the struggles the project has faced.

The idea was to raise money to buy pigs that would then be sold for a sustainable income for the orphanage. The project would provide for education expenses for students, a reserve fund and medical expenses.

Unfortunately, Barrett said, the project ran into several difficulties. The fundraising went well with our local Rotary raising half of the \$7,000 needed. However, after the project began, there was a swine flu outbreak and of the 35 pigs purchased, only 32 survived.

The project rebounded and had 45 new piglets which could pay for school fees for 32 children as compared to being able to pay for only nine children at the beginning of the year. However, eastern Africa is currently facing a drought the severity of which will leave an estimated 16 million people food insecure in the next six months. People don't want to buy a pig to raise when they cannot find food to feed their families, Barrett explained.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 7/31: 100-Year Celebration Meeting at 11:00 AM at Heritage Center
- ❖ 7/31 Meeting: David Stevenson, Guatemala Literacy Project

Rotary

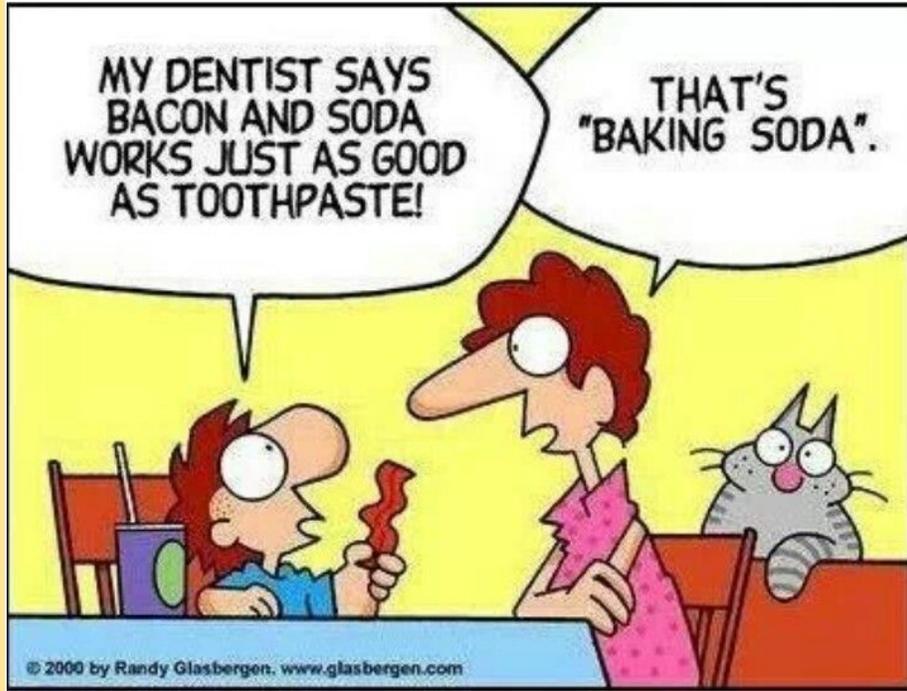


THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

JOKE OF THE WEEK



DID YOU KNOW?

When you sponsor a new member, you can get reimbursed for the cost of two lunches (\$22) for when you brought them as a guest.

100 YEAR CELEBRATION!

Join the 100 Year Anniversary Committee on Monday, July 31 at 11:00 AM at the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center. For more information contact Debra Trapikas at tawana53@aol.com



KITCHENAID SENIOR PGA UPDATE

Our club volunteered to be Marshalls for Hole 15 at the 2018 KitchenAid Senior PGA. We currently need 24 additional Marshall Volunteers, which can be members of our club, friends or family. We also need 2 more Captains and our Hole Captains must be identified by September 30, 2017.

If anyone is interested in joining our hole 15 Rotary Marshall team, please visit www.srpga.com and use access code spga2018hole15 when registering. the volunteer cost increases a bit on 31 July.

If you wish to be a Hole Captain, call or email Danae Donatello at the Senior PGA: 269-487-3200 or ddonatello@pgahq.com



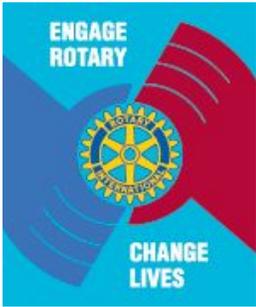
IT'S RAFFLE TIME!

Debra Trapikas will be selling tickets for the District 6360 Raffle at our next few meetings. Remember, we get a percentage of the funds raised to invest in RYLA and other youth activities.

DOMINICAN UPDATE

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the Facebook page for the Dominican trip to see what the Rotarians and Interact Members were up to down there. We'll enjoy a presentation from some of the Interact Members in the next month or so. In the meantime, Jackie Huie has some additional updates for us:

- Mike Huie's Dad, John Huie, donated \$2000 toward the trip, covering 4 days on a Medical Team and 40 backpacks filled with school supplies
- The backpacks are part of a program through the La Romana Roteract Club, whom they met with while in the DR
- As ambassadors for these efforts, there's a desire to find a way to bring two members of the La Romana Roteract Club to the US this Fall



2017 GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

The St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club Foundation will be awarding up to \$58,000 in grant monies to local non-profit organizations. Please contact Bob Judd at juddrj@gmail.com with any questions.

Completed grant applications are due by September 15, 2017 and funds will be awarded later this year.

The mission of the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Foundation is to improve lives in the greater St. Joseph/Benton Harbor community, by supporting projects that focus on

- (1) improvement of health;
- (2) support of education;
- (3) economic and community development; and
- (4) other Rotary International initiatives that have local impact.

Particular emphasis is given for efforts that seek to better opportunities for youth and special needs populations.

[CLICK HERE](#) for 2017 Grant Information

[CLICK HERE](#) for 2017 Grant Application

[CLICK HERE](#) for Grants Awarded through 2016

POLIO UPDATE: UNDERSTANDING THE RECENT POLIO OUTBREAKS

Outbreaks of vaccine-derived polio have been reported this month in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Syria, according to the [World Health Organization](#).

At least 24 cases were identified in Syria and at least four in Congo. In both countries, health officials are working with the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) to respond immediately to the outbreaks with supplementary immunization activities and field investigations.



To prevent the virus from spreading further, investigations and immunizations are also being strengthened in neighboring countries, the World Health Organization said.

Despite the new cases, the push to eradicate polio is stronger than ever, with fewer cases reported so far this year than ever before. It also got a boost at the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, where donors [pledged](#) \$1.2 billion for the effort.

Vaccine-derived cases are rare, and they differ from wild cases. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out what you need to know to understand these outbreaks by reading the full article from Rotary International website.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

(CONTINUED)

The severe drought has forced families to pull their children from school so they can work. Young girls are being taken from school and married to claim the dowry which will help feed the family, Barrett said. Because of this, the pig project has been put on hold.

Still another setback for the project were the difficulties in communicating with the local club which slowed the project. Barrett doesn't plan to give up. She is planning a trip back to Uganda in 2019 or sooner and would welcome others to come along.

The International Committee will keep its focus on the Dominican Republic, said committee member Mike Kinney. He said all projects need to have strong partnerships, strong need and proximity that allows some travel. These projects are supported by local dues - \$23 from the dues paid annually by each member is allocated to international projects.

In the coming year, the full budget will be focused on literacy, Mike said. A \$6,000 grant will go to the Dominican Republic project entitled "My Treasure is Hidden in Books." The project is a partnership with the Vero Beach, FL Rotary Club and will impact 1,700 students in the San Marcos area. The goal is to stock and staff three libraries and to create book clubs. The staff will help identify reading levels and work to make literacy important to the parents.



NEWS & NOTES FROM YOUR CLUB PRESIDENT

Our Board of Directors just met a few days ago and as always, there was a lot decided/planned with plenty of passion exhibited for the projects we accomplish in our community. If anyone would

like to get more information or ask questions about any board related activity, please just ask me and I am sure our Board members would be glad to talk about the hustle and bustle of activity.

Here is a brief summary of some of the discussion items, news, agenda items (not all inclusive), etc. from the last Board meeting:

- The 2017-2018 budget was adopted
- Membership Committee will be meeting every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 215 Colfax, Benton Harbor and it's bring your own lunch. Membership retention, orientation, Rotary after Hours and more great ideas were discussed and more are brewing.
- Four students will attend RYLA from 11-13 August and the Interact students just returned from the Dominican Republic. The goal is to have these students present their training experiences and benevolent work respectively at a Monday meeting.
- An ad hoc committee was established and Steve Smith will head this up to review our youth exchange policies.
- Potential plans to establish a scholarship program for our Interact students.
- A new Rotary road sign along Lakeshore Drive for our club is soon to be a reality.
- Our board is in the very early stages of investigating the duties, cost and advantages of a Club Administrator. There are four clubs in our district that have such a position.

Please remember to offer me your thoughts, feedback, ideas, suggestions and that my inbox (rvilla@villaenv.com) is always open.

Rick Villa
Club President

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE eWHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Emily Hosinski, Brandi Smith-Gordon and Lisa Cripps-Downey with photography by Jen Cole. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write to RotarySJBH@gmail.com.

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Joseph-Benton Harbor

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