



The Whirl

THE ROTARY CLUB OF OMAHA

PO Box 964
Omaha, NE 68022

Meetings:
Wednesday Noon
Field Club,
3615 Woolworth

E-mail: director@omaharotary.org
Executive Director: Gretchen Bren

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Rotary Club of Omaha Newsletter for February 15, 2012

Next Meeting: The Omaha Conservatory of Music

We don't mean to string you along, but we will have a special program this week. Our speaker will be Ruth Meints, the executive director of the Omaha Conservatory of Music. The Omaha Conservatory of Music is the premier location for private lessons on many instruments as well as conducting, music composition and theory. While Ms. Meints will be our speaker, we will also hear from two students of the students – Jahong and Jennifer Ahn, who will play the viola and violin. Come join us for this musical interlude!



Additional information on the Conservatory can be found on their website: www.omahacm.org.

Helping out the club at the next meeting

- Greeter: Brandon Stephens & John Mock
- Invocation: Camille Metoyer Moten
- Piano: Sandi Downing
- Registration: Ed Smith & Clarice Jackson
- Sgt of Arms: TBA

President's Pen

It seems appropriate that in a week before Valentine's Day Rotary should remind me how fortunate of a husband I am. I light-heartedly tell people all the time that Gretchen is 100% of the looks and 95% of the brains in our family. The truth—at least from my perspective—isn't far off from that. I have a seemingly congenital inability to say no when people ask me for help and while she could shake her head and not be involved, she's a partner in all the things I've been involved with.

About two months after Gretchen took the position as Executive Director in June of 2007, we attended a Foundation seminar and heard someone speak about the Polio campaign. That seminar inspired her to do something very different and challenging and has given me an opportunity to support her as a partner in something of powerful impact to her and those around her.

continued on page 2

Upcoming Events

Wed Feb 15, 2012	Weekly
The Omaha Conservatory of Music Ruth Meints, Executive Director more >	12:00 PM - Field Club
Wed Feb 22, 2012	Weekly
ONE Steve White more >	12:00 PM - Field Club
Wed Feb 29, 2012	Weekly
No Meeting- anniversary event on March 2 more >	No Meeting
Thu Mar 1, 2012	Social
Centennial Gala More information and to register online: http://www.omaharotary.org/centennial more >	6:00 PM - CenturyLink Center
Wed Mar 7, 2012	Weekly
What are things worth in Douglas County? Roger Morrissey more >	12:00 PM - Field Club
Fri Mar 9, 2012	Board
Board Meeting more >	12:00 PM - BBE board room
Wed Mar 14, 2012	Weekly
GSE Team to India Barbara Bartle more >	12:00 PM - Field Club
Wed Mar 21, 2012	Weekly
Filmstreams Rachel Jacobson, Executive Director >	12:00 PM - Field Club
Wed Mar 28, 2012	Weekly
The Hope Center Ty Schenzel, Executive Director >	12:00 PM - Field Club
Wed Apr 4, 2012	Committee
People With Disabilities Committee Meeting Jason Tonjes, Chair >	11:00 AM - Field Club

President's Pen continued

While these Polio trips are adventures, they are adventures with a degree of roughness and danger. On her last trip to Nigeria, they were escorted by armed guards with AK-47's to help ward off potential kidnappings and violence. One of the immunization sites they worked was on a sidewalk in the shadow of a wall next to an open sewer, because it was the only place out of the sun that would help protect the vaccine.

She's been able to share serve those needing help with her expertise and heart and while helping others has been profoundly touched by those experiences. While we've paid for those experiences through our own pocketbook and sacrifices, the experiences would not be possible without Rotary. Perhaps this is the most powerful message that Rotary can bring to each of us...that regardless of our walk of life, where or how we live, we share the same needs and desires. I'm proud to support Gretchen and Rotary in making a difference here at home and around the world.

Her presentation to the club last week about her recent trip to Mali and Chad is a reminder that volunteering a bit of our time can have a powerful effect not just on those that we help, but on ourselves as well.

Update on Centennial Gala

Our Centennial Gala on March 1st is going to celebrate the difference that each of us can make in the world and the difference the world of Rotary can make in each of us. Not many of you have made reservations yet and we need to get everyone signed up as soon as possible. The event is really targeted not just at Rotarians, but to the general public as well. The highlight of the night will be a 90 minute one-time-only concert by Billy McGuigan featuring music from throughout the last 100 years. For those of you that don't know who Billy is, he's an outstanding local talent that has gotten attention on a national level for his tributes to Buddy Holly, the Beatles, and legends of Rock & Roll.

I've always liked Don McClean's "American Pie", but never really appreciated what the song was about until I saw Billy's "Rave On," show at the Omaha Community Playhouse. This concert is a not to be missed event of its own, but it's also part of a very special celebration you don't want to miss. During this week's meeting we'll be doing something special for ticketing, but regardless, don't miss unique opportunity to have some fun and celebrate a birthday a century in the making.

Rotary 101 Membership Campaign

You can be a winner! All you need to do is participate.

FREE Membership for the year OR \$325.00 towards your Paul Harris Fellow!

- Provide names of potential members to the committee – **YOU'RE IN**
- Bring a potential member as a guest to a meeting – **YOU'RE IN**
- Sign-up a new member – **YOU'RE IN**

On Wednesday, April 18th two names will be drawn from the hat to compete in a 5 question Rotary history showdown in order with the winner getting the prize. The more you participate, the better chance you will have to win.

Campaign runs from Wednesday, January 26th through Thursday, April 12th. Get involved today.



OMAHA ROTARY BOARD MEMBERS 2011-2012

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[District Newsletter](#)
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Do you really have to print this email?
Think environment!

From our Members

Donna Garst missed the meeting and the board meeting this week -- their son got married on Friday, February 10th. This is their first child to get married.

Paul Smith wanted to take the time to announce two bits of good news: first to thank everyone for contributing over \$3 million to the Tree of Lights Campaign. His second bit of news: 28 years ago on Wednesday, he proposed to his wife (she said yes!).

Jim Hanson had good news on our exchange student: he has been accepted at an English speaking high school when he returns back to France. Our student arrived here knowing no English, so this will allow him to keep improving his English when he gets home.

Brad Burklund has been waiting *months* for the snow that we have outside. And for his annual reminder that nothing says "I love you" more than a new set of tires.

Thank you to **Melissa Stricherz** for the announcement of the Boy Scout anniversary and for the cake that we enjoyed.

Tim Cavanugh announced that 25 years ago on Wednesday, he became a father.

LeRoy Swedlund is back from the Operation Hippocrates trip to Belize: while there, they saw almost 100 children in the two days of the clinic. We will get a chance to meet some of the children when they are brought to Omaha for their surgery.

Jim Smith was glad to pay to welcome **Dr. Paul Hodgson** back to the meetings. It's good to see you again!

Grants given

The people with Disabilities Committee have approved a number of grants to community organizations for the year. Here's a summary of what's being done:

Children's Respite Care Center: Sponsorship of a Themed Weekend for families with children that have cerebral palsy.

Easter Seals: purchase of additional supplies and cover maintenance to keep the kiln, potter wheel (both donated last year), and related projects for the approximately 400 campers ESN will be serving in 2012.

Career Solutions/Ollie Web Center: Conversion of training tapes and slides to DVD

Children's World: Purchase miscellaneous items to be used at Children's World: Rifton Toddler Chair with tray, Steffy Toddler Chairs, Mechanical Lift Swing, Leap Frog Explorer pad and games, plates with dividers.

Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands (DSA) to bring Sean Smith, Ph.D. in Special Education-Technology Integration to present at the annual Advocacy in the Midlands Conference on March 10, 2012.

JP Lord School: Purchase of equipment/toys to help children who are blind, have visual impairments, or those who have deaf-blindness

Funds for these grants come from you donations to the Service Fund when you pay your dues.

Speakers from these organizations will be joining us at our weekly meetings over the next couple of months -- this is a great time to find out more of what they do.

--submitted: Jason Tonjes, committee chair

One Night Only!

It's not often that we get to celebrate the hundredth birthday of anything. Join us on March 1st, 2012 to celebrate the centennial of the Rotary Club of Omaha. The event will celebrate a century of service to our community and each other and will be highlighted by:

- "Rockin Through the Ages," a **one-time-only 90 minute concert by Billy McGuigan**, the man behind "[Rave On](#)", "[Yesterday and Today](#)", and "[Rock Legends](#)." Whether or not you've seen Billy perform in the past, you won't want to miss this musical tour through our first century.
- Our keynote speaker—**Ron Burton**, incoming president of Rotary International—honoring the achievements of Rotary in Omaha in our first century and looking forward to our second century.
- Emcee **Michael Kelly** from the Omaha World-Herald.
- Exhibits of photographs and history from our first hundred years, as well as participation by organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Visiting Nurses, and J.P. Lord School that have been part of our club's heritage.



Don't miss this once in lifetime event!

www.omaharotary.org/centennial

The date will be **Thursday, March 1** * Location: **CenturyLink Center**

Time: Cocktails: **5-6 PM**; * Dinner & Entertainment start at **6 PM**

Reservations required by February 20, 2012



Omaha Area Rotary Meetings

Missing a meeting? You can make up Rotary meetings at any of these Metro locations.

Day	Group	Time	Location	This week
Monday	Bellevue	noon	DJ's Dugout, 10308 S 23rd St	
	Millard	noon	Bel Air Banquet Room, 121st & West Center(NW)	Trev Alberts-UNO Athletic Director
	North	noon	Eppley Airfield Conf. Room	Sara Pirtle- on Central American Outreach
Tuesday	Omaha Morning	7:00 AM	Happy Hollow Country Club, 1701 S 105	Kayla Blackwell-Kayla's Honduras Project
	Northwest	noon	Champions Club, 138th & Eagle Run Dr	Tim Anderson-Tri-Faith Ministry
	Southwest	5:15 PM	Lone Star Steakhouse, 17501 W Center Rd.	Kathy Spoonhour-Boy Scouts of America/Mid America Council
Wednesday	CB Centennial Morning	7:00 AM	Hy-Vee, 1745 Madison Ave, CB	Jessica Plueger-TeamMates
	Omaha Downtown	noon	Field Club, 3615 Woolworth	Omaha Music Conservatory
	Thursday	W Douglas Co. Council Bluffs	7:00 AM	Elkhorn Common Ground CC, 1701 Veterans Drive
Suburban		noon	Council Bluffs Senior Center, 714 S Main St	Annual Chili Luncheon-reservations/tickets required
		noon	Anthony's, 72nd & F Street	Scholarship Fundraiser Kickoff
Friday	West	noon	Champions Club, 138th & Eagle Run Dr	Governor Dave Heineman-Update on Nebraska

If you can't make any of these meetings, why not try an on-line meeting? Check out <http://rotaryclubone.org> for more information. Or just Google ""[Rotary eClub](#)"" for even more options. Or, you can download an app for that! ([more»](#))

News from Other Rotary Clubs

Effective immediately: Southwest Omaha Rotary Night club has moved and will be meeting at **Lone Start Steakhouse, 17501 W Center Road (south of Center at 175th Street)**. Meeting date and time stay the same: Tuesdays, 5:15 - 6:15 pm.

Find out what's happening at all the Rotary Clubs in our District at the District website: www.rotarydistrict5650.org