

Bulletin

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Rotary Club of Menomonie

Founded December 17, 1923

District 6250—Club 2704



This Week—Mar. 10, 2010

Chancellor Sorensen
UW Stout Activities and
Developments

Programs

Program Coordinator
Sandy Ott
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Next Week—Mar. 17, 2010

5:00 P.M.
**Celtic Evening with
Irish Traditions**

THIS WEEK.....VISION

Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Menomonie Wisconsin need look no further than the University of Wisconsin-Stout for a model of how we (Rotary members) who have been admonished that "the future is in our hands" can develop a vision that shapes our future.

Stout's historical account (found on the University's website at <http://www.uwstout.edu/lib/arc/stouthistory/index7.html>) notes that the appointment in 1988 of Charles W. Sorensen as the sixth head of the institution "seemed almost a total break with the past. For the first time in more than 40 years, the institution would be headed by someone who had not graduated from Stout.... Sorensen is a historian [and]....he soon made it clear that he came to the university with an understanding of Stout's heritage, and a desire to continue to update the institution's programs while maintaining its unique mission.....In his inaugural address, Sorensen said he saw no pressing need for a dramatic change in the mission of UW-Stout. However, he outlined the challenges he said he believed the university must meet to maintain its leadership role. Among the most important was a strengthened relationship between the university and business and industry."

Many definitions of "vision" could be cited at this point, but the one proposed by Mark Ramm (<http://compoundthinking.com/blog/index.php/2006/10/25/so-what-is-vision/>) is the most compelling and most relevant to Rotary. In response to the question "what is vision?" he wrote: "In a country where segregation was the law of the land, and racial hate was rampant Martin Luther King Jr, continued to tell the story of a future where people would no longer be judged by the color of their skin. He continued to tell these stories in the face of economic hardship, and in under the the constant threat of assassination, and with the memory of attacks on his family still burned deeply into his memory. It is context that Martin Luther King Jr. made one of his most powerful speeches [about his vision] to his battle weary friends and followers saying "Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop...and I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land."

In his speech accepting the Malcom Baldrige award from President Bush (<http://www3.uwstout.edu/mba/accept.cfm>) Sorensen said that "UW-Stout began [the Baldrige] journey over a century ago when James Huff Stout established the Stout Institute to meet the workforce challenges of the industrial revolution. Women were to study domestic sciences, and men mechanical arts. We have traveled a long way since 1891, but our mission remains constant -- provide program and educational quality to meet the new challenges of the 21st Century, a digital century, a century of the knowledge revolution. When we officially adopted the Baldrige criteria in 1999, we did so because they offered the opportunity to demonstrate that we practiced performance excellence, and to demonstrate that public higher education could and must be accountable."

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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 and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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He continued "Now we are called upon to....educate men and women ready and able to keep this country competitive economically, and to preserve this great experiment in democracy." Sorensen dreams "for a university where ideas thrive, where intellectual curiosity leads people to new experiences, where the love of ideas meets the need for practical application, where learning is real and where quality education is simply not a cliché."

Our Rotary club has his example to draw upon. We too can meet the challenges posed by change and prevail by keeping both our mission and our vision clear and well championed.

Article submitted by Editor, Chris Smith

COMING EVENTS.....

March 12, 2010—Board Meeting at 12:00 pm at the Westconsin Credit Union's East Office

March 17, 2010—***A Celtic Evening with Irish Traditions*** starting at 5:00 pm with a social hour, followed by a dinner of Irish food, a Leprechaun, an Irish blessing, Irish jokes, Irish songs sung by John Taylor, and the Finale is a Celtic Surprise. New members will also be inducted.

March 24, 2010—Workforce Resource will present a program on Summer Youth Camp.

March 31, 2010—Tom Thorfinnson, a RI Director, will speak.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!



Barb Anderson
Paul Bundy-Wurtz