



This Week—Mar. 31, 2010

RI Director
Tom Thorfinnson

Programs

Program Coordinator
Sandy Ott
sandyleo@wwt.net

Next Week—Apr. 7, 2010

Celebrating
Paul Harris' Birthday

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL – featuring Vice President Tom Thorfinnson

Our club is fortunate to have the Rotary International Vice President in close proximity to Menomonie, Wisconsin who will be speaking to us on March 31, 2010. Director Thorfinnson is often quoted within the www.rotary.org website for which much of the following information is derived.

Tom was a Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator back in 2004 when he spoke to a club in region 5950 (central and southern Minnesota) who had never given to the Foundation. He shared information about the District's well project in the Dominican Republic and as a result, the club he spoke to and others in the district have increased per capita contributions to \$185, one of the top five districts in the world. Undoubtedly, Mr. Thorfinnson has inspirational abilities. His picture and bio are show below:



Vice President
Thomas M. Thorfinnson
2009-11, USA

Tom Thorfinnson is general counsel for the Accra Care Group, a nonprofit organization that provides health care to those in need, and is on the board of directors for the First Minnetonka City Bank. He has served Rotary as a task force member and a Reach Out to Africa Service Associate Countries Subcommittee member. Tom also was part of the North America Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign leadership team. He has received the RI Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. He has led nine volunteer trips to Haiti and Nigeria and is an active supporter of water projects in developing countries. Tom and his wife, Jamie, live in Eden Prairie. [Spouse: Jamie]

In October of 2007 Mr. Thorfinnson of Zone 27, (which includes Illinois, Iowa, parts of Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin), Eden Prairie, Minnesota was nominated to serve (his first term) on the RI Board of Directors in 2007, one of only 3 persons from the USA out of 8 total nominees to be considered and one of 17 total directors who sit on the RI Board along with the President, John Kenny and President Elect, Ray Klinginsmith.

Since Tom's election onto the RI Board, the Board has reviewed and revised the RI Strategic Plan in November, 2009. Following a S.W.O.T. analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), the RI Board revised the strategic plan with updated priorities to support and strengthen clubs, focus and increase humanitarian service and enhance public image and awareness. "The revised strategic plan focuses RI's efforts on the clubs and getting back to basics," says RI Director Thomas Thorfinnson. "RI's main role should be supporting clubs and helping them to expand their service and publicize the accomplishments of their efforts."

Continued on page 2

Officers

President

Mark Lewis
markl@cfbsi.com

Vice President

Bryan Kneeland
bryankneeland@gmail.com

Secretary

Sandy Ott
sandyleo@wwt.net

Treasurer

Michael Fekete

Past President

Leo Schindler

Directors

Director A-Club Service

Bryan LaVoy

Director B-International Service

Sue Beety

Director C-Community Service

Bill Butsic

Director D-Vocational Service

Chris Smith

Sergeant-at-Arms

Robyn Morin Sandy Ericksen
Bobbie Jo Miller

Club Youth Protection Officer

Lori Ausman

Editors

Lisa Lyon Jane Roberts
Tony Manzella Chris Smith
Maltee McMahan Shelley Stewart

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?

Continued from page 1

Having bigger and better clubs is not solely about increasing the number of club members and programs, said Thorfinnson. Bigger clubs have a diverse membership that reflects the demographics of the local business community, along with strong membership recruitment and retention efforts. Better clubs are balanced in Rotary's four Avenues of Service, have strong strategic planning and leadership development processes in place, and embody Rotary's core values.

"Fun is a part of what I consider to be a Rotary core value," Thorfinnson added. "When you make a club better, you often will find that it is bigger as well," noted RI President John Kenny in a Monday morning address.

What is a "Bolder Club?"

Promoting bolder clubs involves empowering club leaders and "stepping out of the box a bit," Thorfinnson said. "We want to foster flexible and innovative clubs. The leader must determine where the club needs to go and take that club there."

While bold moves will vary by culture, bolder clubs in general are those that take action to solve community problems, develop and become known for signature service projects, and promote the networking opportunities that Rotary clubs offer to their members, he said. March 8, 2010.

Lastly, in another recent speech, the newly announced and elected Vice President of Rotary International Tom Thorfinnson provided a speech to the 2010 International Assembly where he spoke about his values as a Rotarian and it is likely we will hear firsthand his earnest desire for our own club from this potential future President of Rotary International, this upcoming Wednesday, March 31, 2010!

Article submitted by Editor, Tony Manzella

MENOMIN PARK VOLUNTEER DAY

Our Rotary club has a long history of helping to support the Menomin Park. In the last year the Menomonie Area Mountain Biking Club has worked to improve the walking and biking trails in the Park. On April 22nd at 9 am approximately 60 to 80 middle school students will be going to Menomin Park to work on trails and overall cleanup as part of Earth Day. Our Rotary club has been asked to join the Bike club and the students at the Park to help with the activities on April 22nd. If you would like to help the activities will start at 9 am and last until 2 pm. However, any length of time you could attend would be appreciated. Please sign-up at Rotary or send a note to bill.butsic@conagrafoods.com if you can help and what hours you think you would be able to be at the Park.

COMING EVENTS.....

April 7th— *New Member Orientation* at 11:00 (prior to the meeting) at Olde Towne.

April 7th— *Induction* of new members.

April 7th— Paul Harris Fellow presentations

April 10th— The Menomonie Sunrise Rotary Club will be hosting its 15 th annual Rotary Fest wine, beer and food tasting adventure on Saturday April 10th. Known as "Menomonie's Party With a Purpose", the event will be held from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm at Visionquest, N4439 440th St, Menomonie, WI 54751.

April 14th—Presentation on Gillette Children's Hospital

April 15th—Board Meeting held at the Westconsin Credit Union East location—12:00-1:30 pm

April 22nd—Menomin Park Volunteer Day 9:00 am to 2:00 pm