



Decatur Rotary Club

SPOKE 'N WHEEL

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July 14, 2010

As this is my first time as editor of the Decatur Rotary Club's Spoke 'N Wheel newsletter, I hope to continue our great tradition of timely, helpful and informative newsletters. I also wish to thank all the past editors for doing such a great job, and want to extend a personal "thank you" to Brenda Leder for so graciously passing her role as Editor to me.

Elliott Augustine & Andrea Greengard

President's Corner

The Four-Way Test

In everything that we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build
GOODWILL and
BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL
to all concerned?



Announcements

Remember: All First Thursday Events and Board Meetings will count as a meeting make-up.

The Rotary Scholarship Committee (chaired by **David Hughes**) awarded Conner Stubbs with the Rotary Scholarship. Conner, son of John Stubbs, will attend Center College and play on the lacrosse team.

A new Decatur Rotary directory is in the works. Has your contact information changed? If you have NOT sent in your updated information, we need it now. Email your changes to **Vee Nelson** at vee@vnelson.com.

Rotary Networking Resources

District 6900 has created this resource to help Rotarians in our district find employment. To find out more visit the district web site www.rotarydistrict6900.org and look for Career Networking.

Decatur Rotary is now on Facebook. Check out the page for updates and become a fan.

[Decatur Rotary Facebook Page](#)



President CJ Becker called the meeting to order.

Announcements:

President Becker announced that the first Thursday Event held at Ted Montana's Grill was well attended and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming events.

Bob Castellani will preside over the July 16, 2010 meeting as President Becker will be out of town.

District Gov. Casey Farmer will visit the club on July 30, 2010.

Walt Drake:
The History Of Independence Day

Decatur Rotary is now on LinkedIn. Check our page for updates and to join our group.
[Decatur Rotary LinkedIn Group](#)

Is your Online Profile Up-to-Date?

Go to our website at decaturnrotary.org and log in on the Membership Directory page to update your information. If you don't know your password, enter it in the "forgot password" area to have it automatically sent to you.

NEW!! Link to the most recent District 6900 Newsletter:
[District Newsletter](#)

Guests & Visitors

Steve Orthrip gave the invocation.

Our Guests included:

Betty Spiker introduced guest Sharon Johnson

Warren Davidson introduced guests John and Louisa.

Eric Norwood introduced guest, Chad Costley.

Robert Lanier introduced guests Richard Deriso and Robbie Lanier.

Scotty Candler introduced guest Carna Candler.

Kathy Johnson introduced guest John Hill



John Adams introduced the speaker, **Walt Drake**, who spoke about Independence Day.

Walt Drake told us that Independence Day commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776 - over 234 years ago. He then went

into a brief history of Independence day. After 1776, July 4th was celebrated with parades, oratory and toasts. The first official state celebration was in Massachusetts in 1781 and Boston was the first city to designate July 4th as a holiday (1783).

During many of the early celebrations, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud. Several years ago, **Bob Wilson** led a program at Decatur Rotary with four readers reading the Declaration of Independence to our club.

In the 17th century, the July 4th celebration often took on political tone and fireworks became a popular part of the celebrations. In the 20th century, there still were parades, music and fireworks, but the day had also become a symbol of freedom. In 1870, Congress made Independence Day a holiday (unpaid) for Federal Employees. In 1948, Congress changed it to a paid holiday. In the South, Independence was not as popular and that continued into the 20th century.

There were many notable celebrations over the years, but the largest was in 1976 (200th anniversary) - the Bicentennial. In Decatur, a parade started in the mid 70's and each year has grown. Today the City of Decatur has a parade through downtown, a wonderful fireworks show and concert. In Atlanta in 1961, the City of Atlanta and WSB TV started the Salute to America Parade, which has grown over the years. Lenox Square fireworks started in 1958 and the Atlanta Braves fireworks show started in the late 60's.

Concluding the history portion of the talk, the second half of **Walt Drake's** speech was centered on a speech given by Dr Judson Ward.

Dr. Judson Ward, Emory history professor, Dean of Emory University and later Dean of Faculty and Vice President, gave many speeches over the years with one talk in 1976 on reflections of where our country was after Bicentennial. He spoke of government, freedom, equality and security - many of the same issues our country is dealing with today.

Our Visitors included:

Amy Bivins from the Lake Spivey Rotary Club

Ronnie Kasibante from New Guinea Rotary Club -
Ronnie was presented with a Decatur Rotary Banner

Speakers At-a-Glance

July 16:
Dr. Richard Sams

July 23:
Don Mueller

July 30:
Dist. Gov. Casey Farmer

Officers of the Decatur Rotary Club:

President - C.J. Becker

President-Elect -Jason Conn

Past President - Bryan Downs

Secretary - Betty Spiker

Treasurer - John Bennett

Sergeant-at-Arms - Doug Torbush

District Governor - Casey Farmer



The meeting was then adjourned.

Report by John Drake

'Round the Room...

Birthdays!



July 3, Warren Davidson
July 4, Robert Castellani
July 4, Robert Soens
July 5, Betty Spiker
July 8, Linton Broome
July 10, Walt Drake
July 16, Ted O'Callaghan
July 17, Joe Kusmik
July 17, Barbara Tedrow
July 19, John Kline
July 21, John Bennett
July 27, James Thibadeau
July 27, James Topple
July 30, Mark Whatley



Our guest Ronnie receiving her Rotary banner from **President CJ**



Walt Drake and **President CJ** talk to members



Scott Thompson and Scott Drake sharing thoughts



Jimmy Smith and John Kline talk after the meeting

Sincerely,

The Rotary Bulletin Committee
Decatur Rotary Club

Directions: [Old Courthouse on the Square](#)

[Forward email](#)