



MARCH 11, 2010

# Spokesman

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD SOUTHEAST

## TOP STORY

### March is Literacy Month

Did you know that nearly 800 million people worldwide are unable to read or write? Without these skills, they are especially vulnerable to poverty, hunger, and disease. Literacy Month is an opportunity for Rotarians to share their talents, energy, and resources to promote reading and writing.

So far, during this Rotary year, Southeast has supported two local community literacy projects: 1. We have given \$1022.70 to Watkins Elementary for a literacy/communications project and 2. We have given \$1337.00 to Ozark Literacy Council for a book distribution project

In addition to funding, we try to provide our members with programs to learn about literacy and education issues and encourage them to get involved with their community.

#### Southeast Members who are making a literal difference:

*I am a board member of Missouri Literary Festival. We help with literacy efforts and donate money to the Ozarks Literacy Council. I also activated "Get Your Read On" for the Springfield Cardinals, where they read to school aged children in the Springfield area. And I volunteer at Horace Mann school.* **Kirk Elmquist**

*During a Rotary programs a few years ago, I heard Tom Slaight discuss the alarming statistics for illiteracy in our area - including the correlations between literacy and our economy. The Ozark Literacy Council was at the club that day and I signed up to be a volunteer reader. I've been visiting preschools and reading to classes ever since.* **Dawn Hiles**

*I am a part of a group of 3 at Empire Bank that reads to a 2nd grade student at Bingham once a week on Tuesdays. So, every 3rd week I am reading at the elementary school.* **Steve Brooks**

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Registration and Website Open for Business

The Missouri Rotary Convention has begun the registration process and has opened up their website at

[www.MissouriRotaryConvention.com](http://www.MissouriRotaryConvention.com). The Three Rotary districts will come together for the combined state-wide district convention from April 15 – 17, 2010.

Register now, so you won't miss out on the highlights, which include: a hands-on service projects, a Hall of Friendship that includes an example encampment from the Shelter Box program, a Keynote speech from Baseball Hall of Famer Whitey Herzog, a Rotary VIP Tent at Rock 'n Ribs, and a presentation from Robert F. Kennedy on Water, Poverty, and Environment.

## CALENDAR

### Looking Ahead

- 3/16 New Member Orientation
- 3/22, 23, 25 Basketball Tournament at Drury
- 3/30 PHF Reception at Bob Beine's home 6-8 p.m
- 4/7 Leadership Education Training Seminar
- 4/13 Rotary Board Meeting
- 4/15 Joint Rotary Club Meeting at the University Plaza

### Today's Agenda

- Invocation: Steve Scott
- Welcome Student Guests from Central
- Recognition of Jerry Morgan
- Announcements
- Sarge
- Program: Extreme Home Makeover by Sam Clifton
- 4 of Clubs Drawing



## ROTARY INFORMATION

### Rotaract Club by Dan Reiter

The Rotaract Club of Springfield was founded in 1995, sponsored by the Southeast Rotary club. Rotaract is Springfield's only service organization exclusively for members age 30 and under, with approximately 75 members. All of our members are professionals, working in career fields such as banking/finance, law, nonprofit, municipal, technology, and owners of small businesses.

Community service is an important aspect of Rotaract membership. While the club offers multiple volunteer opportunities, many of them are geared around helping our designated charity, the Boys & Girls Town of Missouri. In 2009 the Rotaract Club of Springfield was awarded the 2008 Star Volunteer Award by Boys & Girls Town of Missouri. The Star Award is given each year to recognize organizations in the community which have given time to volunteer and support the efforts of Boys & Girls Town of Missouri.

In addition to raising over \$6,000 from our annual fundraiser, Casino Night, members are directly involved with the kids by such events as a Halloween Party, ice cream social, decorating one of their cottages for Christmas, movie night, game night, glamour night for their girls, and a professional skills day for some of the older kids. Fellowship and social activities are an important part of Rotaract, too. We hold monthly socials, which can range from happy hours to attending movies, the symphony, or the First Friday Art Walk. We also sponsor our members on intramural volleyball leagues. Rotaract members are active participants in city-wide Rotary events such as Rock'n Ribs, the Special Olympics basketball tournament, and the city-wide meeting.

Rotaract meet at noon on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Uncle Buck's in Bass Pro. We invite all Rotary members to attend a Rotaract meeting and hope you will encourage your young employees and colleagues to visit a meeting and consider membership. Contact [info@springfieldrotaract.org](mailto:info@springfieldrotaract.org) for additional information.

## WHAT'S NEXT

### Round Ball Fast Approaching

A longstanding Rotary tradition will continue this spring as the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Rotary Basketball Tournament to Benefit Special Olympics will be held March 22, 23, & 25 at the Weiser Gym at Drury University.

The three-night tournament features basketball games between area Rotary and Rotaract clubs.

### MEMBERSHIP

#### Jerry Morgan

Jerry has completed his new member steps and will be recognized at today's meeting.

Jerry Morgan

Regulatory Software Services

Joined 2/5/09

Classification: Computers and Technology

Sponsor: John Horton

Committee: Projects

## SOUTHEAST SNIPPETS

### Are You a Paul Harris Fellow?

Southeast's Foundation Committee will hold a reception for Southeast's Paul Harris Fellows members (and their spouses if they are PHFs) on Tuesday, March 30. The reception will be held at the home of Bob Beine. We will be taking R.S.V.Ps over the next few weeks. There is no cost for the event. **6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Directions:** Going South on 65 past James River Freeway. Exit on Evans Road and head East toward Millwood CC. Turn North (or left) on Farmers Branch Road for 1/2 mile. Turn East (or right) on Farm Rd #186 for 1/2 mile. We are on the right. Look for Rotary signs. ADDRESS: 3808 East Farm Rd #186.

### Joint Rotary Club Meeting Details

The Luncheon on Thursday April 15 is the opening event of the Convention and is also the Springfield all-City meeting. It features baseball's Whitey Herzog. If you want to attend this event, you need a reservation by April 1 and pay \$10 (the club is covering the other \$10). See Theresa at the weekly Thursday meetings and pay your \$10 to get on the reservation list.

At this time, we are maintaining a waiting list for your guests. Note to exempt members: your cost is also \$10.

## RECOGNIZING ROTARIANS

### 3/4 Raffle Winner

Skip Jansen