

WAVERLY EXCHANGE CLUB

Waverly, Iowa

DATE: Thursday, July 30, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Arns, Irv Bettenga, Jim Brandau, Dennis Button, Clarence Diekman, Gary Duneman, Steve Egli, Kevin Fiene, Jim Hurley, Al Janssen, Len Jentz, John Johnston, Brian Larson, Ron Leibold, Jason Leonard, Dan McKenzie, Jeff Meyers, Jerry Vallem, Bill Westendorf, Roger Wilcox, Clark Wilharm, Ken Winter

GUESTS PRESENT: Jim Vowels (speaker)

MEETING RECAP:

- President Duneman called the meeting to order with prayer (Ken Winter) and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Thanks to those who were able to help at Cedar Valley Friends of the Family last Saturday. We were able to complete a number of projects and will be going back again to finish several more. Watch for additional opportunities to serve.
- Reminder to everyone ... if your speaker needs the computer/presentation station, please email Kevin Fiene (kevin.fiene@wartburg.edu) the preceding week so the equipment can be set-up and ready to go.
- When you get a chance, check out our updated and active website at www.waverlyexchangeclub.org! It is going to serve us well; both for members and prospective members.
- Ken Winter introduced today's speaker Jim Vowels, instrumental music teacher at Waverly-Shell Rock High School. From May 10-June 11, Jim toured and visited communities and schools in northwest Italy through a Rotarian exchange program. Highlights of Jim's presentation include:
 - Five educators comprised the team (higher education, secondary education, elementary education, and graduate school were all represented)
 - Rotarians at each area hosted and set the agenda/visit in that city/area
 - Many Rotarians in Italy were extremely wealthy
 - Discovered that credit is not used much in Italy, e.g., buy it only if you have the money, including 90% owning their own home outright
 - Universal health care present in Italy ... potential issue of immigrants (north Africans and middle Easterners primarily) coming into the country and immediately qualifying for the health care
 - Most Italians spoke excellent English
 - American culture very much a part of Italian daily life
 - Less processed food and exercise led to healthy lifestyles in Italy
 - Most school visits were in private schools
 - Two visits to public schools indicated quite a difference between public and private institutions
 - Sense of a substantive difference between the haves and have nots within Italy
 - Came away with a deepening understanding and appreciation of American way of life and culture

Thanks Ken and Jim for a very interesting program!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Thursday, August 6 -- Dave Arns program (W-SR state champion and Wartburg national championship wrestler Romeo Djoumessi speaking)
- Tuesday, August 11 -- Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:00 a.m. (Grace Baptist Church)
- Thursday, August 13 -- Business meeting
- Thursday, August 20 -- Meet the Members program
- Thursday, August 27 -- Gary Duneman program (Barb Prather from Northeast Iowa Food Bank will be here to discuss their building project)
- Thursday, September 3 -- Meet the Members program
- Tuesday, September 8 -- Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:00 a.m. (Grace Baptist Church)
- Thursday, September 10 -- Business meeting

“Building a Better America and Eliminating Child Abuse”

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- Thursday, September 17 -- Cory Berkenes program
 - Saturday, September 19 -- 25th Anniversary celebration (evening)
 - Thursday, September 24 -- Irv Bettenga program / Student of the Month
 - Saturday, October 3 -- Best Dam Run fundraiser
 - Thursday, October 15 -- Firefighter of the Year presentation
 - Saturday, October 24 -- National Day of Service

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Fiene

“Building a Better America and Eliminating Child Abuse”