

WAVERLY EXCHANGE CLUB

Waverly, Iowa

DATE: Thursday, August 6, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Arns, Irv Bettenga, Dennis Button, Bill Cashman, Clarence Diekman, Gary Duneman, Steve Egli, Kevin Fiene, Dewey Hildebrandt, Jim Hurley, Al Janssen, Len Jentz, Brian Larson, Jim Lee, Dan McKenzie, Jerry Vallem, Jere Vyverberg, Bill Westendorf, Roger Wilcox, Gary Williams, Ken Winter

GUESTS PRESENT: Romeo Djoumessi (speaker)

MEETING RECAP:

- President Duneman called the meeting to order with prayer (Arns) and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Because of a changed work schedule, Tyson Keith needs to resign from Exchange Club for awhile. Best wishes Tyson and know that you're always welcome to return.
- We received notification from the National Exchange Club that the Waverly Exchange Club has been recognized for the Club Excellence Award and the Club Membership Achievement Award. Nice job everyone!
- Please contact Gary Duneman if you're available to help in Parkersburg sometime this week/weekend.
- If you haven't yet done so, check out our updated and active website ... www.waverlyexchangeclub.org. If you click on Calendar, you'll find a listing of all upcoming events (click on the red entry on the particular date and a pop-up will tell you pertinent information).
- Make sure you put October 3 on your calendars ... we need a lot of manpower for The Best Dam Run.
- Dave Arns introduced today's speaker, Romeo Djoumessi. Romeo moved to Waverly from Cameroon in his junior year of high school. While at W-SR, Romeo won a state championship in wrestling. The past four years, Romeo has attended Wartburg College and will graduate at the end of fall term with a double major in social work and religion. Romeo also won a national wrestling championship for the Knights his junior year and was the first international student to be selected Homecoming king. Highlights of Romeo's presentation and PowerPoint include:
 - Grew up in conditions of poverty in Cameroon
 - Family (including cousins, aunts, uncles, etc.) is very important
 - Goal was to come and earn an education in the United States then help people in and the country of Cameroon
 - Very thankful for the efforts of many to allow him a chance to learn, grow, succeed, and give back
 - Over 40% of people within Cameroon live below the poverty line
 - Encouraged us to continue the cycle of helping others

Romeo then answered questions from the group.

- Applying to UNI for graduate school with the intent of someday being a coach to help young people
- Learning English was the greatest immediate challenge upon arrival in the United States
- Helps by sending money back to Cameroon to help family
- Soccer was actually his first love before wrestling
- Hoping to qualify for the 2012 Olympic wrestling team for Cameroon
- Still has one semester of eligibility of wrestling at Wartburg ... debating whether he's be able to use it or not
- Younger brother is considering coming to W-SR (following both Romeo and his older brother who also attended Wartburg)

Dave – thanks for sharing this special young man with us this morning.

"Building a Better America and Eliminating Child Abuse"

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 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
- 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 -- The 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"