



## Club Number 3371, District 6540, Chartered June 17, 1944

March 3, 2008

**President Christina Dougherty** presided at the meeting, led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Four Way Test. **Doug Busby** gave the invocation.

**Songleader Leigh Morris** continued the tradition of wonderful classical music (initiated over the weekend by the La Porte County Symphony's performance) with a stirring rendition of "Singin' Polly Wolly Doodle"

**Happy \$'s – Christina Dougherty and Mike Arnett** had good reasons to be happy today and contributed dollars to this fundraiser for "Shoes for Kids"

**Sergeant at Arms –** Still recovering from his illness, **Andy Serafin** collected from Rotarians who did not know that the first tax imposed by the U.S. Congress in 1791 was a tax on whiskey. Trying for double-or-nothing, we lost on the question, "What is the only country on the European continent that has a Carnegie library?" Serbia.

**Queen of Hearts – Agnes Betkowski** had the winning number today but did not find the queen.

### State of the City Address – Monday, March 17

A joint meeting of Rotary and the Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will be the occasion to hear Mayor Kathy Chrobak's State of the City Address. The event will be held at Rotary's regular meeting time at Best Value Inn. All Rotarians need to contact the Chamber office (362-3178) no later than 5:00 pm on March 13 to make a reservation. Cost for Rotary and Chamber members is \$21.50. Cost for non-members is \$25.00.

**New Member – Marv Goad** inducted **Deb Varnak and Agnes Betkowski** as Rotary's newest members. Deb is with La Porte Savings Bank and Agnes is with National City Bank. Their memberships were sponsored by **Tim Gropp**.

**Club Assembly –** Members met with their committees, and chairmen of Areas of Service reported results. **Tim Gropp – Club Service –** Tim reported that the club's goal for new members was 50% accomplished with three new members; that the issue of attendance could be addressed by emphasizing that membership in Rotary is an honor and service is part of the Rotary commitment; programs are booked through May 12; the club's website will host the names of those Rotarians who have met their goal of "Every Rotarian/\$100/ Every Year" and those who have become Paul Harris Fellows; and Christina Dougherty has agreed to manage the club's public relations following her presidential years.

**Scott West – Community Service –** Scott reported that the community grants are focusing on the "Shoes for Kids" program; that March 31 is the deadline for return of applications for the John and Helen Haverstock Memorial scholarships to be awarded in 2008; a work party for Craven Pond clean up will be scheduled for May; and that Rotarians make a substantial volunteer commitment to the Salvation Army with their bell-ringing each December.

**Jeanne Howell – Vocational Service –** Jeanne reported that the club sponsors La Porte High School students to attend the World Affairs Conference and the Rotary district Speech contest; that students will continue to attend Rotary meetings; there is interest in sponsoring a "Reality store" for high school juniors; and there is interest in another industry visit such as American Licorice.

**Cindy Hartzell – Special Events –** Cindy reported that the Installation Banquet is set for June 23, as a joint meeting with Michigan City Rotary; Port-A-Pit fundraiser is May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Walmart; the Sunflower Fair is September 20; and the GSE team will be visiting us in April.

**Welcoming Committee for March –** Committee members to assist Treasurer Mike Arnett with greeting Rotarians, collecting monies, welcoming guests, and setting up for the meetings in March are **Ron Gigliotti, Andy Serafin, Bill Hedge and Tim Gropp**.

**Rotary t-shirts – Tim Gropp** will be placing the order for "Rotarian at Work" shirts to wear to future club events in order to show team solidarity for Rotary. If you want to order one, contact Tim.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade – Tim Gropp** asked for volunteers to co-chair the effort to build a joint service project float for the parade with the Kiwanis club. Contact Tim to volunteer.

### La Porte County Literacy Coalition Spelling Bee -- Thursday, March 27– Michigan City Holiday Inn

President Dougherty is proud to have two teams representing La Porte Rotary for this fundraiser for La Porte County Literacy. Spectators and cheerleaders are welcome. The fun begins with cash bar at 6:00 PM and the spelling starts at 7:00 PM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** LILIANA AKE, MIKE ARNETT, AGNES BEKOWSKI, JIM BLINT, DOUG BUSBY, CHRISTINA DOUGERTY, RON GIGLIOTTI, MARV GOAD, TIM GROPP, JUDY HAMILTON, CINDY HARTZELL, BILL HEDGE, JEANNE HOWELL, NORM JUDAY, BILL KOLASH, YVONNE LINDBORG, DALE PARKISON, JOHN PROVAN, DAVE REES, JON SALISBURY, MIKE SEITZ, ANDY SERAFIN, DEB VARMAK, SCOTT WEST.

**GUESTS/PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS –** FRED MCNULTY, VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AT LA PORTE HOSPITAL AND HEATHER FORD, WELLS FARGO BANK