



The Downtowner"

KIWANIS CLUB OF ROCHESTER, Rochester, MN www.kiwanisroch.org

Feb. 16, 2023

- Feb. 16 Students of the Month catching up from previous weather delays.
- Feb. 23 Prof. Ron Elcombe, reviewing the progress of writing his first Novel. It is being printed now.
- Feb. 30 Not on any calendar

***This issue is late and a compilation of several weeks. Your Editor has been putting something together for 22 years now and sees the need to pass the job to someone else. He will gladly help get it re-started if someone chooses. The beauty of a job like this is that you can make it what you choose the Newsletter to be. In the 22 years I've had no more than 3 complaints and all have been in the form of corrections. The readers are very accepting of what they read and helpful on content. I can show someone how relatively easy it is to set it up and then show how to send it out. No more 'mailing' as in the beginning. Now we set it up on the computer and can send it to members from your own desk. My biggest problem now as I turn 90, is that I don't get around composing and sending it out in as timely a manner as it should be. This issue is an example of that. If you can't keep some self-imposed schedule, you can quickly see the problem. Let one of the officers or me know of your interest. It really is a fun job and keeps you more up to date

with club and member activities. Once you have it set up, you don't have to re-invent the wheel each issue. You simply make changes on the old format. The format I have been using hasn't changed much from the start of my tenure. You can make changes as you think fit. If someone doesn't care for it, they will let you know. The most difficult thing is keeping member information current. They forget to tell you and it is quite some time before they get around to pointing it out. The best 'watchdog' for these needed changes is Colleen. She has a great eye for proofreading. My routine is to compose and set up the NL. Then I proofread it slowly. Next I print a copy and give it to my wife June to proofread for me. She is real sharp on text and style. Catching things about members is not so easy. It will still get saved and sent out with errors.

We will have a really mixed content on this issue. Please excuse that. Most of the problems are timing for me. But, we have had weather changes this year and the Students of the Month and other programs have been postponed. That drives Bonnie crazy making these changes, but she has done it well working that around her husband's recent surgery. Thanks Bonnie.

Damascus Way

Program on Jan. 26 was Our Mission

Damascus Way Reentry Center provides reentry leadership and services using a Christ-Centered approach.

Our core service model supports residents with: a stable housing pathway, employment and career readiness programming, and healthy community connections-all aiming at reversing the cycle of recidivism.

Presentation was by director Nick Abbott.



details now.

Nick says the most common denominator with the people they serve is the lack of a good role model in their life.

Damascus is a local non-profit. Details can be found on Google as well as how to obtain help.

They attempt to provide stable housing. It appears their organization provides help to men, not women.

Damascus constantly needs mentors and prayer, says Nick. A resident can be in the facility for up to 18 months.

They get a good response from potential employers.

Oxbow Zoo and Park



This was a short program on a favorite topic. Its namesake was Dr. Paul Zolman, DVM for

whom the park is named. Paul was a longtime member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club (Currently called Kiwanis of Rochester) He was always injecting humor and goodwill at our meetings.

The presentation was given by the current director. The park is named for Paul, but it is a part of the Olmsted County system now.

This might be a good time to put in some ‘good news.’

Russell Schultz, Bonnie’s husband continues to recover from some form of heart surgery.

Paul Austinson is still battling his cancer with more treatment. Wish you well, Paul

Roger Krsnak is also having more treatment for his cancer. Roger has been to our meetings again, for which we are glad. You and Paul keep up the recovery.

**Now we come to the jumbled part of this issue. I have some notes on my computer files as well as things I add along with photos of the Students of the Month presentations. If the pictures don't go with the correct names, all I can do is pretend this a game for the reader. Pin the right name on the student. Maybe that will sell.

THURS. FEB 2, 2023

Invocation by Clare W.

Raffle won by Don Borcherding

Dell's birthday (you guess which one)

Austin has been pen-pal with Harriet Bishop Elementary for many years. Interesting avocation. Listen to the tales....

Students of the Month

Isaac Oxentenko was a student from Lourdes H.S. His parents are Amy and Shawn Oxentenko. Nominated by the Social Studies Department. Isaac is the definition of disciplined. He works hard in class and outside of class to do well. His teachers have also seen him grow through contributing more in class discussions and being a leader in small group discussions. It's this kind of growth and work ethic we love to see in social studies!





Next SOM is Avery Walz from Mayo High School. Avery is the daughter of Juli Walz. The reasons for Avery's nomination for this award are many: She has been a member of the Mayo

Girl's Swim and Dive team since 8th grade. As captain, she is a strong leader and a cornerstone of the swim/dive team. Avery is respected by her teammates and coaches. She has grown from a timid young girl to a confident young adult who is ready to take on the world and any obstacle in her way.

Avery is a force in the water. She never makes excuses or backs down from a challenge. She has high expectations of herself and those around her. She approaches every workout with focus and determination. She looks for ways to make herself and her team better on a daily basis. It has made her a great teen and made me a better coach. Avery will jump in immediately if anyone needs help or a shoulder to lean on. She is here for you if you need her. As a loyal teammate and fierce competitor, she is the guardian of our team culture. The future is bright for whatever she sets out to do and I am proud to call her a member of this team.

Besides swimming, she is captain of the Girls Lacrosse team, Environmental Action Club, Model United Nations, Mayo Honors Society, Spartan 300 Freshman Orientation Leader, and Manager of the Boys Swim and Dive Team.

Her future plans are to attend college after high school and major in a STEM field



Xavier Stevermer

from Lourdes High School. He is the son of Annie and Greg Stevermer.

He has been nominated by his Math Department. Some comments about him are: Xavier Stevermer is the Kiwanis Student of the Month because of his ability in math and his commitment to the Math league at Lourdes. He was a great student and very knowledgeable when he took AP Calculus AB as a junior, and is the Math League captain this year. He has been active in Soccer, Math League and Campus Ministry.

He hopes to pursue a career in Computer Science, specifically Cyber security

Some of his honors have been: National Honors Society, 3XLetter Winner in Soccer

Captain of the Math League Team

Yale Book Award May 2022

MSHSSCA Academic Excellence Award three times.



Esmira Hodzic

Also from Mayo High School. She is daughter of Senad and Fatima Hodzic.

She was nominated by teacher Aaron Cole (department unknown)

He says Esmira is a great band leader. She's always helping and looking out for others. She welcomes new band members and is an all around positive presence in the band program.

She participates in many things in band and the music program. She is a tuba section leader. Esmira is also a photographer and yearbook staff member.

Esmira's other artistic hobbies;

Future plans to attend a nearby university. Her interests have yet to form in arts and science.

She has several awards and honors in local and state band.

Last but not least is Emma McCabe, also from Lourdes.

She is daughter of Jasmin and Patrick McCabe. Presenter is Linda Hull.



Emma was nominated by the Religion Department. The teacher says Emma is an excellent student and always rises to the challenges in front of her. She is a leader and a positive role model for those around her. She is steady in her work habits.

(This is a compilation of SOM's for the last 2-3 months. These occupied most of the program time. If you find

something that doesn't make sense, we can attribute that to weather, or whatever you choose.)



Passing of Dan Moore.

We have been saddened by the passing of long time member of this Kiwanis Club.

It was just mentioned that Dan's full Obituary can be

found is the Post Bulletin records on line for those who knew him best and longest. Dan's last 'full time' position for the club was that of 'Club Jester.' Nobody could top his never ending sense of humor.



**Don
Borcherding,
alias Lieutenant
Talcott in the
Civil War, just
turned a
glorious 77 this
past week.
Happy DOB, Lt.**

There are at least 3 more Students of the Months of January & Feb. photos and write-ups cannot be found.

Emma

Loreli

?Johnson. All three were students from Lourdes.

We will include later, if found.

Colleen's classic question that usually ends the honoring of students was a real winner this time. All three girls answered with the most mature responses we have heard for some time. Congratulations Students.

Note to all program presenters! (and members)



We have a few (lot) of senior members in our club with some hearing

deficiency. Please use the mike properly and inform your speakers of our problem. You must

1. Hold the mike 3 inches in front of your mouth 2. You must talk straight into the mike opening. 3. Use your normal speaking voice.

Remember, you may hear yourself over the speaker system, but that same volume is not reaching the audience.



Speak Up. We want to hear and understand what you are saying.

Dan Carlson presented a short essay on the closing of the Toy Store at Miracle Mile. He had

many great 'kid' memories. Thanks Dan. I, personally had never been in that Toy Store, but I had some pretty sad thoughts as you told me your story. Always good to hear about things from the past that have affected our lives in some way.

Our Club received a note of thanks from ABC for the contribution of \$500 for their work with the handicapped in our city. They are a worthy organization providing for a need.

David Nelsen brought a Veteran to the meeting to share some experiences from his military service. Chan Thompson told some anecdotes of interest. No WAR stories. Thanks to Dave for bringing attention to veterans and their contribution to our country.

Treasurer

**Bill
Kalmes**



**Reminds all of us that 2023 Dues were due
October 1. Help him out!**

