



## Waunakee Rotary Club

June 28, 2007  
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Valerie Breunig of Waunakee is helping people in developing nations find access to financial services.

As the director of the Worldwide Foundation for the World Council of Credit Unions, Valerie told the Waunakee Rotary Club how that council is helping people in developing nations to develop strong credit unions and end the cycle of poverty.

Valerie said many people in those countries currently don't have access to credit unions or financial services.

The World Council of Credit Unions trains credit union staff, managers and volunteer board members to extend credit union operations in difficult operating environments.

For instance, in Ecuador, one man helped start a credit union and borrowed enough money to start a chicken farm.

"Because these people have access to credit, they can make a life for their families," Valerie said.

In Afghanistan, credit unions are lending money to finance produce farms rather than the Taliban-financed poppy fields.

Although poppy is the more profitable crop, many people there want to get out from under Taliban control, Valerie said.

With their board of directors, credit unions help to foster democracy. All of the board members vote, including women who would ordinarily be denied that right in some countries.

Credit unions are key in rebuilding post-conflict areas such as Rwanda. They aid in the transition, helping to get permanent

buildings established.

After the tsunami in 2004, a \$1.3 million donation from credit unions to the federation helped in the rebuilding.

In Kenya, the World Council educates the board of directors and helps to write credit union laws.

An \$8.7 billion Gates grant will help the World Council of Credit Unions double business in the next three years in Columbia, Rwanda and Kenya.

States throughout the U.S. have a mentoring partnership with countries around the world, and Wisconsin is beginning one with the Dominican Republic.

#### Other items:

- President Drew Lawrence reminded club members that this week's meeting will be the Steak Fry on June 27 at Rex's Innkeeper. Cocktails are at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. It will replace the Thursday noon meeting for the week, so don't show up on June 28 looking for lunch.

- Ray Statz said he is beginning to plan for Rotary Rustic Road Rally in October. It will be an overnight in Galena, Ill., and could be scheduled for the second weekend of that month.

- The Service Club Olympics is coming up in July. There will be more information on that at the next meeting.

Guests: Fred Caywood, Lynne Spielman; Kelly Cefalu, Kathy Cefalu.

Birthdays: June 27, Tammy Reeve; June 28, Rod Cupp.

### OFFICERS

DREW LAWRENCE, PRESIDENT • LYNNE SPIELMAN, PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY  
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • KIM LENGFELD, TREASURER

### DIRECTORS

TOM REIS • LORI DERAUF • BILL ERICKSON

### Calendar of Events:

June 27, Steak Fry  
July 26-29, Waunafest  
Oct. 6-7, Oktoberfest

Anniversaries: June 29, Jim and Joanne Leonard; June 30, Fritz and Sheri Durst; June 30, Gene and Catherine Smith; July 1, Kevin and Leslie Even.

Prayers: June 27, Pat Durden; July 5, Msgr. Kramer; July 12, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: June 27, Steak Fry at Rex's Innkeeper (Wednesday evening meeting); July 5, Club Assembly; July 12, Mary Dowling, Sharing Resources Worldwide.

Greeters: June 27, Harriet Statz and Ray Statz; July 5, Jim Steffenhagen and Sandy Taylor.

*The bride came down the aisle and when she reached the altar, the groom was standing there with his golf bag and clubs at his side.*

*She said, "What are your golf clubs doing here?"*

*He looked her right in the eye and said, "This isn't going to take all day, is it?"*

### Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org). Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.