



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Two of Rotary's newest members gave their classification talks at the club's Jan. 22 meeting.

Joy McMerty grew up in Wisconsin Rapids, the youngest of three children. Her father is a mechanic with a passion for slingshots, and her mother works in a specialty shop. Joy's dad has competed in slingshot competitions and won a few national titles, she said.

McMerty attended MATC and is currently attending Lakeland College in pursuit of a business management degree. She met her husband eight years ago on the worst day of her life (it got better) after the bank where she was a teller had been robbed. The couple now live in McFarland with their little dog. Joy plays volleyball, and she and her husband took up golf last year.

Joy's banking career began 14 years ago when she was a teller in high school. She later worked at Firststar Bank in Madison until she joined the M&I at Hilldale, then was transferred to Waunakee to manage that branch.

"I love what I do," Joy said. "It gives me the opportunity to manage a staff."

Joy also enjoys working with clients at the full service branch. Joy said M&I is very stable and has a huge capital base although the company has had to make some strategic changes to adapt to today's economy.

The Waunakee branch opened in 2001 with Jason Brown as the manager, she said.

Bill Tygum followed his life's passion when he and his partner began Little Strokes Academy four years ago. But he was not always a finman.

He first took lessons at the age of 4 at the Waunakee High School pool and struggled, he said.

Then, when he was 11, he was heckled by his classmates into join-

ing the swim team. During his first year on the varsity squad, he qualified for WIAA state competition. Although he didn't do too well in his first state meet, he gained experience and went on to become a four-year letter winner.

The highlight of his high school career was winning the championship 200-medley relay, where that team also won all-American honors.

After high school, Bill went on to compete at the college level. He had the choice of being in the top tier of Division 3 or lower tier of Division 1 and chose the latter. His coach at UW-Green Bay told him if earned a time of :53.0 or better, Bill would receive a scholarship. His coach kept his word, so when Bill's fastest time was :53.6, he missed out on the scholarship by 6/10ths of a second. Bill quit swimming and attended college for another year and a half before he realized he was there for the wrong reasons.

He returned to Waunakee and began coaching the Waunakee Rural Athletic Team with his future wife, Rachel. Later, he started Little Strokes with his business partner and had 16 students. The school has grown to serve 600 families in its location at Madison Country Day School.

Other items:

- The youth exchange weekend is Jan. 30. Volunteers are invited to help with cross country skiing Jan. 31, then attend the potluck at the Village Center.

- Al Dassow reported that the Polio Plus campaign is still strong. We should hear more about fund raising for it.

- President Dan Statz reported that the club received thank you notes from the Special Olympics, the Dean Foundation, SOAR Kenya,

OFFICERS

DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT • TOM REIS, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

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Calendar of Events:

- Jan. 31-Feb. 1, Winter Weekend for Youth Exchange
- Feb. 1, Waunakee Neighborhood Connection Super Bowl Sunday
- Feb. 21, Waunakee Community Foundation Hypnotist Show

Waunakee Neighborhood Connection and Haiti Outreach.

- The club received a \$2,000 grant from the Waunakee tourism fund for the Rotary Walk, Dan said. Al applied for that grant. Bill Erickson also applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from the Rotary District, for a total of \$7,000 to fund that project.

- Dan also said two seats on the board are available.

Guests: William Barlow, guest of Phil Willems; Craig Urso, guest of Fritz Durst; Eric Ballweg, guest of Ron Ballweg; Peter Derauf, guest of Lori Derauf; Paul Gilbertson, guest of Lynne Spielman.

Birthdays: Jan. 29, Gary Epping; Feb. 3, Jim Starling.

Anniversaries: Feb. 1, Jim and Terri Brussell.

Prayers: Jan. 29, Pat Durden; Feb. 5, Susan Vergeront; Feb. 12, Leonard Allen.

Programs: Jan. 29, Randy Guttenberg, Waunakee School District Administrator; Feb. 5, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Jan. 29, Don Tierney, Luke Tierney; Feb. 5, Jon Townley, Bob Tucker.