



Waunakee Rotary Club

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While the number of hunters may be shrinking, one organization is hard at work raising funds to see that the tradition continues in the Midwest.

Jim Wittinger of Whitetails Unlimited explained the goals of the organization at the Waunakee Rotary Club's May 21 meeting.

Jim said he organizes fund-raising banquets throughout the Midwest to benefit Whitetails Unlimited. That non-profit, 501 (c) (3) is a national organization, although it was started in 1982 in Sturgeon Bay.

The national education campaign puts an emphasis on youth and conservation, Jim said. One of the goals is to preserve the hunting tradition for future generations.

Some of the educational campaigns focus on hunter education, restoration and management of wildlife habitat, and preserving deer and land to hunt on. Whitetails also is involved in the acquisition of land for hunting.

To raise funds for these goals, Jim and others hold banquets, with 50 percent of the proceeds benefiting the local communities. Since 1982, the organization has raised \$49.7 million.

Whitetails Unlimited hosts a banquet at Rex's with the Rotary Club, and in the last six years, the banquets have raised \$20,000 for Whitetails.

Rotary Club President Dan Statz said it is one of Rotary's most profitable fund-raisers.

Jim said it feels good to give back to the local community, as well.

Jim said he does about 50 banquets per year. But the rising number of hunting organizations and

other charitable groups, combined with the economic downturn, have contributed to the decrease in funds raised by Whitetails, Jim said.

At the last banquet in Waunakee, 14 fewer people attended and each spent an average of \$18 less, Jim said. Still, the Waunakee banquet is one of the better ones, he added.

Jim said an average of 14 hunters is lost for every hunter gained. If that trend continues, it will be harder to keep public lands open for hunting.

Other items:

- Jon Cullen said the 59th Service Club Olympics is coming up July 27-28 with competitions of all sorts. The location has been changed to the west side, with competition at the new Keva Sports Center and other venues. Jon will begin circulating a sign-up sheet.

- Bill Erickson said a foursome and a half is signed up to play in the Sun Prairie Rotary golf tournament. If you'd like to complete the second foursome, see Bill.

- Dan Statz said the Steak Fry dinner will be held June 25 with the new board members taking office.

- The Rotary Club awarded four scholarships, each for \$1,000, to students during the high school's scholarship presentations. Dan said he hopes to have these students attend a meeting so the club can learn about their future plans.

Guests: Dr. Gordon Meffert, guest of Ray Statz; Judy Larsen, guest of Shelley Moffatt.

Birthdays: May 28, Jon Jordan.

Anniversaries: May 28, DuWayne Statz and Roberta Valle-

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

DAN MUXFELD • BILL ERICKSON

Calendar of Events:

- June 25 – Annual Steak Fry, cocktails at 6 p.m, dinner at 7 p.m. at Rex's.
- July 27-28 – Service Club Olympics.

Statz; May 30, Phil and Betty Willems; June 2, Jon and Ellen Jordan.

Prayers: Leonard Allen; June 4, Pat Durden; June 11, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: May 28, Mike Vilstrip, Parade of Homes; June 4, Club Assembly.

Greeters: May 28, Susan Hedrick and Bob Hoskins; June 4, Jonathon Jordan and Jim Jukes; June 11, Kevin Kearney and David Kennedy.

On the lighter side...

"An abstract noun," the teacher said, "is something you can think of, but you can't touch it. Can you give me an example of one?"

"Sure," a teenage boy replied. "My father's new car."

Make up meetings online

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