



Waunakee Rotary Club

Sept. 17, 2009
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Several new members have joined the Waunakee Rotary Club over the past couple of years, and two of them gave their classification talks at the Sept. 10 meeting.

With Amy Fluke and Susan Hedrick as new members, the club's male-to-female ratio is beginning to even out a little more.

Amy remarked on being in the minority as a woman during her classification talk. Amy was born in Wisconsin, then moved to Iowa before ending up in Chicago to join a consulting firm. There she worked for a small firm where the work was intense.

During times of stress, she would call her father, who said she could return home to Iowa anytime. Faced with that alternative, she persevered.

Amy then went on to work for Mayor Daley and was assigned to the Department of Revenue.

Amy describes her work as project management – taking a concept and bringing it to reality. She also works on operations improvement through process re-engineering. She rolls up her sleeves and ensures that plans are actualized.

Amy came to Waunakee because of the school district. She has two sons enrolled, who are now "Green Bean" Packer fans.

Now, as an independent consultant, Amy has been hired by Meriter and St. Mary's hospitals and Edgewood College to help develop a mock hospital for nurses to train. While 50 percent of the state's nurses are set to retire, those training to start careers as nurses have nowhere to practice their skills, Amy said.

Susan Hedrick was born in Wausau and escaped, she said. She began her college career at the UW-Marathon campus, and after two years, secretly applied to UW-Madison rather than UW-Stevens

Point to finish her bachelor's degree.

Susan graduated with a bachelor's degree in history but had no idea what to do with it, so she spent about seven months in Europe working at various jobs before enrolling at UW-Madison's Library School.

Just after graduating, Susan took a job at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., but found she and Muncie didn't get along.

So she returned to Madison and began working as a branch manager at the Madison Public Library. From there, Susan became director of the Lake Mills Library, which is housed in a beautiful building that is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Soon after Susan was hired, she discovered part of the job entailed leading tours of the historic building one Saturday every year for the library's garden tour. That first year was tough because the previous library director had the talk memorized, so Susan had to research the building's history on her own.

Susan said old library buildings tend to have interesting visitors, critters like bats, chipmunks and birds. But ironically, when Susan wanted to bring a dog in for a program, she faced a pile of paperwork to fill out.

Susan came to Waunakee when Louise Bauer, the previous library director, retired.

Susan's favorite thing about her job is ordering new books. That's what keeps her in a smaller town library, she said. She appreciates the staff members in Waunakee, and they have adapted well to changes she's made since taking over, she added.

Susan said the library staff is hoping to expand into a new building in 2013 or 2014.

Susan is married and has three young children.

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

DAN MUXFELD • JOHN CULLEN • LINDA OLSON

Calendar of Events:

• Sept. 26-27, *Wauktoberfest*

Other news:

• President Tom Reis sent kudos out to Pat Durden and Gene Smith, who have been repairing bicycles for the Waunakee Neighborhood Connection. He also thanked Rex and staff for the wonderful catering (good food, too) at the club's picnic Sept. 3.

• Bird, the club's exchange student from Thailand, introduced himself and said he is settling into school here. He started soccer this week.

Guests: Daren Steuart, guest of ???; Ben Peckham (Baker Tilly), guest of Rex Endres.

Visiting Rotarians: David Underwood, Elgin, Ill.; Matt Wahoske, Downtown Madison; John Olsen, West Towne.

Birthdays: Sept. 17, Dan Miller; Sept. 19, Neil Kruschek; Sept. 21, David Kennedy; Sept. 22, Mike Ableidinger.

Anniversaries: Sept. 17, Ken and Mary Pesik; Sept. 20, Neil and Sharon Kruschek; Sept. 22, Rex and Brenda Endres

Prayers: Sept. 17, Pat Durden; Sept. 24, Susan Vergeront; Oct. 1, Leonard Allen.

Programs: Sept. 17, Denis Collins on the Business Ethics Revolution; Sept. 24, Dr. Jim Starling on goiter surgery in Palestine; Oct. 1, club assembly.

Greeters: Sept. 17, Mike Ableidinger and Peggy Acker-Farber; Sept. 24, Leonard Allen and Bob Arntz; Oct. 1, Ken Ballweg and Roberta Baumann.