



Rotary Club of Ann Arbor for 2005-2006

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Meetings: Wednesday at noon
U-M Union, 530 S. State St.

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor sponsors the U-M Rotaract Club and the Interact Clubs at [Huron](#) and [Pioneer](#) High Schools
"Harpoon" is the weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor. Contact the club to subscribe by email.

The Program for March 8, 2006

Special Event: "New Members Induction, Rotary Club of Ann Arbor"

Presiding: Norman G. Herbert, Club President, 2005-2006

In keeping with a rich tradition of our Club, this is a meeting you will not want to miss! On this day, another new class will be formally introduced to you as fellow Rotarians. Each of our new colleagues brings to Rotary -past, present and future- a robust set of life experiences, and an indelible record of leadership and community service successes. So, do join in as we all extend the warmest of welcomes to each of our new fellow Rotarians who proudly will wear the banner of "Service Above Self."

Hosts/Introducers: New Member Sponsors, the Membership Development Committee and its chair, John Eman

Song Leader: Don Devine **Accompanist:** Deanna Relyea

Looking Ahead

March 15 (Wednesday) – Interact Club Members at Huron and Pioneer High Schools and Members of University of Michigan Rotaract Club will address us with the theme, "Interact with Rotaract"

March 22 (Wednesday) - Ellen Augustine, Productivity Enhancement Program [PEP], San Francisco will speak on, "Building Business, Building Friendship"

March 29 (Wednesday) - Stephen Goldstein, Ph.D., Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, U-M will present, "New Horizons in Joint Replacement"

Brief descriptions of each of the above programs are available on the club website at <http://annarborrotary.org/march.htm>

News from the Meeting of March 1

President Norman is off skiing in deep powder, which is better than being in deep trouble, therefore Nishta Bhatia presided at our meeting today.

During the news portion, Bill Stegath showed us some tricks with a \$5 bill. He'll be happy to demonstrate again...with your money!

Notes from the Program of March 1

Paul Wright introduced Marge Wright, his wife and director of the Common Chords Hand Chimes Choir, who rang in March

as a prelude to spring. Common Chords is a group for developmentally disabled young adults. There are about 15 participants from various Washtenaw County communities. Their mission: to provide an opportunity to grow socially, educationally and to develop self-esteem through musical performance.

The group's repertoire includes hymns, show tunes and country & western. They've played all over the state, including the Capitol Rotunda in Lansing. Most of the members have jobs and a core of caregivers is responsible for bringing them to rehearsals and to concerts.



Begun about 15 years ago, Common Chords focuses on ability and the message, "I can." The happy faces of the members showed their love of making music. They started out by playing "The Victors" and followed up with "Your Cheating Heart," "Let there be peace," the theme from "Cats" and "You are my sunshine."



The photo at top left shows several members of the Common Chords Hand Chime Choir. Marge Wright, at top right, is shown with the unique music format used to lead the group. The lower photos show some Rotarians who volunteered to give it a try. As a result of their performance, all of us learned that playing the hand chimes is not as easy as it may appear.

Two are visually impaired and one is blind; the latter knows when to play when tapped on the shoulder by one of the caregivers who also does the prompting.

"You have to concentrate and work hard to play hand chimes," said Marge Wright, who then called several Rotarians to the concert platform to learn for themselves. Carolyn Shear conducted Common Chords in a rendition of "Happy Birthday" for the March birthday people. Other Rotarians had great fun playing their particular chimes (it's a three octave group) when following along with the director.

Common Chords gives 10-12 performances a year. For more information, call Sue Carr at (734) 994-8100 x1515 or Marge Wright, (734) 971-6677 or chimeladyone@aol.com. Rotarians gave the Chords a fine ovation at the end of the performance.

Meeting Statistics: Our reported attendance at this day's meeting was only 114 members, surely the result of mid-winter break for both U-M and the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Compounding this unusually low count was the fact that we had no visiting Rotarians nor any guests. Six members of the International Committee met before the meeting.

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: March 5- Maurita Holland, Mathwon Howard and Sang Nam; March 7 – Bob Bachteal and David Milling; March 8 – Ray Rabidoux; March 9 – John Hieftje; March 10 – Victor Stoeffler

Make-up Cards: Beth and Joe Fitzsimmons (Naples FL on February 15), Hal Flynn (Ann Arbor North on February 16 and Milan on February 7).

Visiting Rotarians: None today



In the March Rotarian Magazine: Each member should have received their March issue early this month. With our Interact/Rotaract program coming up during Rotaract Week (March 13-19), one article of special interest to us is, "Tracing the Roots of Rotaract." It includes interviews with several of the 21 founding members of the first Rotaract Club in 1968 at the University of North Carolina – Charlotte. Today, Rotaract has grown to more than 186,000 members in about 8,100 clubs in nearly 140 countries. Another feature article is an interview with 2006-2007 RI President William B. Boyd from Pakuranga, New Zealand. The theme for his year will be "Lead the Way."

District 6380 News: The District website is on-line at <http://www.rotary6380.org>. The latest posting is information on the 2006 Group Study Exchange. District 6380's team of five will be leaving later in March to spend a month in Peru's District 4300 as part of a Rotary program that promotes a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity. The group has created a website at <http://www.lamphere.k12.mi.us/education/projects/projects.php?sectionid=2003> and will be updating it during their trip. They will return in time to present their experiences at the District Conference in May. The March issue of the District 6380 News contains more information on their adventure as well as a calendar and other articles of interest. It should be posted on the website shortly.

Note: Last year, our club hosted the 2005 delegation from Peru during part of the time they spent in our district. In addition, one of our weekly programs was composed of presentations from each of its members, including a demonstration of traditional dance.

2006 Community Allocations Grant Program Announced: The In Brief column of the Ann Arbor News contained the following article on Saturday, March 4.

"Area nonprofit organizations are invited to submit applications to the Ann Arbor Rotary Club's 2006 Community Allocations Grant Program. The club will award grants up to \$3,000 to organizations whose proposals align with the theme of helping children succeed. Applications must be postmarked by March 31. The awards will be announced in May. For forms, email ceolson@umich.edu."

Last year, this program awarded a total of \$41,875 to 21 local nonprofits. This year, the limit for individual grants has been increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000. The funds used to support this program, and others such as scholarships and tree replacement, come from our annual Community Service Assessments, distributions from our endowment fund and proceeds from fund-raisers, notably the Golf Outing and Family Fun Day.



New Meeting Table for Larger Committees: Perhaps you have noticed the unusual table arrangement in the northeast corner of the Anderson Room. These three rectangular tables are placed together to form a single table that will comfortably seat 14 persons. This area is designed to better accommodate some of our larger committees that meet on Wednesdays before lunch. If you have a committee meeting involving ten or fewer members, please use one of the round tables, at least until you see that the big one will not be used. Thanks.

Rotary in the News: An article in the Sunday Ann Arbor News featured Dave Cole, Chairman of the Center for Automotive Research, as the "Ultimate Car Guy." In citing the wide range of his activities, they noted. "He's frequently the guest speaker at events near and far, from the Rotary Club to a convention of Midas store operators." As you may recall, Dave was our speaker at a weekly meeting last year.

The Historical Oracle Recalls a "Worst Program" Nominee: The best candidate for our Club's "worst program ever" was this man whose topic was "Audiovisuals." It happened in the 1970s. During lunchtime, the speaker and his assistant secretly videotaped members enjoying fellowship at the tables. Then he began the program with an introduction about how video tape could capture candid moments for future enjoyment. The problem started when the speaker began to use disparaging remarks about the members shown on the screen. He made comments like, "Watch this guy stuffing his face," or, "See how we can pick up the sound of that guy blowing his nose." It wasn't long before the members had enough. Almost to a man, they got up and left the Anderson room. Our president was embarrassed but had the presence of mind to demand that the speaker turn over the tapes to him at once. The tapes were later destroyed in the presence of our President and two Board members.

----- "Service above Self" -----