## **SPARKS**

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 1, 2012 Guest Speaker: *District Governor Don Dykman Introduction by President Stuart Alexander* Buffet Opens: 11:30 am / Meeting Begins: 12:15 pm Kosair Shrine Club - Ballroom 812 South Second Street / Free Parking



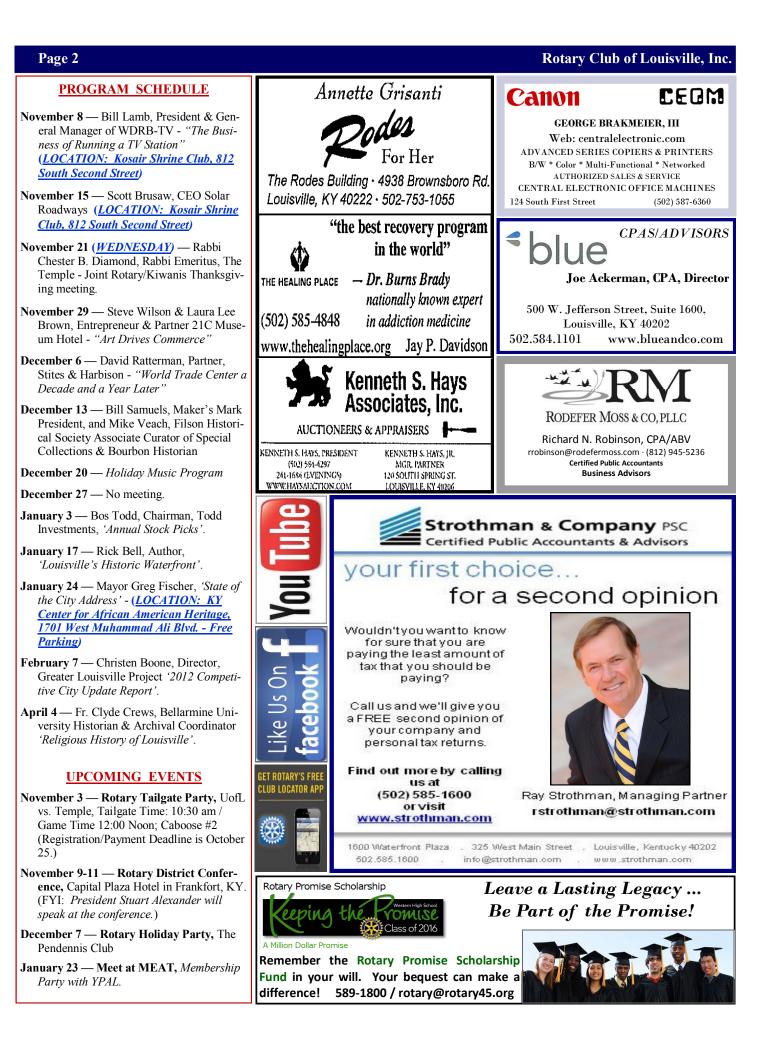


Don Dykman has been a member of the Frankfort Rotary Club since 1994. During that time he has served on various committees, as Director of Club Service, Director of Vocational Service, and as Club President in 2003-04. Don has also served multiple times on the District Conference Planning Committee as well as three years as Assistant District Governor and three years as Assistant Governor Coordinator. Don was selected to serve as the Governor of District 6710 in the 2012-13 Rotary year. He is a Paul Harris Fellow and was named Rotarian of the Year by the Frankfort Club.

Now retired after 30 years in Human Resource Management "Retailing, Manufacturing, Healthcare and Life Insurance", Don spent the last 18 years with Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Georgetown. A widower

and father of five daughters, he has nine grandchildren, and his other job is frequently taking care of his two-year-old grandson. The District website is: www.rotarydistrict6710.org.





## **Rotary Meeting - October 25, 2012**

John Hampton gave the invocation and Barbara Collins led the pledge. Our guest singer, Bob Adelberg, gave "The Star Spangled Banner" a very fine acappella treatment, which is no easy task. President Stuart welcomed a large group of visiting Rotarians and guests. Joe Ferguson hosted our birthday table and after announcements, President Stuart introduced a short video with highlights of the Western High School Job Fair held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at the school. View the video <u>HERE</u>.

President Stuart then introduced our guest speaker, U.S. Senator Rand Paul. Senator Paul received a warm welcome and began by describing what he termed "the chaos in Washington". He cited the lack of a working budget for the last three years and the manner in which legislation is drafted, circulated and voted upon. Federal law requires all proposed bills to be posted online for a minimum of 48 hours. Senator Paul revealed that "we don't obey our own rules", giving examples of important legis-



lation brought to vote on short notice. He has introduced a "read the bills" law to address the problem. He then turned the focus to economic issues.

Describing what he views as fiscal irresponsibility, Senator Paul unequivocally advocated major reforms to the Medicare and Social Security "entitlement programs". The mounting national debt was quantified at "\$50,000 per second" to support his contention that America is facing economic failure if we do not act. Foreign policy issues emerged as he cited failure in Libya as an example of Middle East challenges facing America. Senator Paul feels our foreign aid is not creating better allies and that ultimately, "Islam is going to have to police itself". Consistent with that position, he supports the 2014 timeline for troop withdrawals from Afghanistan. In response to a question about Cuba, he responded with a call for ending the economic sanctions and opening trade with the rogue nation, in order to help defeat Castro. He closed with a short discussion of the coal industry and what he called "over-zealous regulations" that do not reflect the reality that emissions have declined dramatically over the last 40 years. Senator Paul is known for his energetic and thought-provoking presentations and on this day did not disappoint. - Steven Schmidt

## **BLINDNESS**

As most of you know, October is National Disabilities Awareness Month. Members of the Disabilities Committee will be contributing articles for SPARKS about various challenging disabilities. This one deals with blindness, and was written by Paul Zurkuhlen, who plagiarized much of it from the American Printing House for the Blind's website. Paul is Vice President Development and Rotarian Dr. Tuck Tinsley is President of APH.

According to one survey, blindness is the most feared disability or disease, trumping even Alzheimer's and cancer. Today in the United States there are approximately 60,000 blind students in grades K-12. Almost every state has a residential school for the blind, although in recent decades "mainstreaming" blind students into standard schools has been growing in popularity.

Estimates of the number of adults with blindness or significant visual impairment range from one million to ten million. The definition of legally blind is visual acuity of 20/200 in the better eye, with correction, or a visual field of less than 20 degrees.

The leading causes of visual impairment are diseases common to the elderly, including age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts, and optic nerve atrophy. More than two thirds of people with visually impairment are over 65. The leading causes of visual impairment in infants and children are retinopathy of prematurity, deficits in the visual centers of the brain, and cataract and retinal abnormalities. Cortical visual impairment is a neurological visual disorder.

Several local organizations serve the blind and visually impaired: Visually Impaired Preschool Services (*headed by Rotarian Dianne Nelson*), American Printing House for the Blind, and Charles McDowell Rehabilitation Center for the Blind on Westport Road (part of the Kentucky Office of the Blind). There is also a for-profit company, *See The World*, that sells adaptive products for the blind.



The Rotary Club of Louisville Constitution states in Article 1 "Community National and International Affairs" as follows:

**Section 1** The general welfare of the community, the nation, and the world is a concern to members of this Club, and the merits of any public question involving such welfare shall be proper subjects of fair and intelligent study and discussion before a club meeting for the enlightenment of its members in forming their individual opinion. However, this Club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure.

Section 2 This Club shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office and shall not discuss at any Club meeting the merits or demerits of any such candidate.

**Section 3** (a) This Club shall neither adopt nor circulate resolutions or views, nor take corporate action, dealing with world affairs or international policies of a political nature. (b) This Club shall not direct appeals to clubs, peoples or governments, or circulate letters, speeches or proposed plans for the solution of specific international problems of a political nature.



