

# S P R O C K E T

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Award Winning Internationally Read Bulletin of the Carnegie Rotary Club Editor: John T. Mendenhall, Jr.

Celebrating 85 years of "Service Above Self" on February 14, 2009

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## Abe Lincoln Visits Carnegie-Collier Rotary Club

With a joint meeting schedules with the Bridgeville-South Fayette Rotary Club scheduled for today, our program director Rich Meyer went to great lengths to bring us a fascinating program. Although he will be 200 years old in February, 2009, Abe Lincoln looked extremely fit of mind and body for one so old! You say Abe Lincoln Impersonator and the response from Rick Miller of Cranberry Township is "not an impersonator but a Presenter" As one of over 100 members of the Association of Lincoln Presenters, Rick is one of many Abraham look-alikes who uphold the 100 year old tradition of portraying Lincoln to their generation. Donning their respective frock coats and stovepipe hats, they bring history to life at school, churches, parades, banquets, trade shows, conventions, and Rotary meetings. Our Abe talked about the 16<sup>th</sup> President and answered numerous questions. Did you know that over 8,000 books have been written about Abe Lincoln and his life before and during his presidency! Our Abe felt that off all the speeches that Abe gave, the two most important ones are engraved on the stone walls of the Lincoln Memorial. These are his 2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Address and the famous Gettysburg Address. Rick told us that although Abe let his wife Sarah, his private secretaries, and values members of the Cabinet pre-read his speeches and offer advice, Abe Lincoln was in fact the author of all his works (no political speech writers in his world). On July 4, 1863, over 7,500 dead soldiers and several thousand horses littered the battlefield around the town of Gettysburg, PA (population 2,400). You can only imagine the stench of these rotting bodies produced in the hot humid mid-summer air of south-central Pennsylvania. The townspeople put forward the plan to buy land to honorably intern these dead and then ask the soldier's families to pay for their burial. But David Wills, a 32 year old wealthy local attorney objected to this idea and contacted the governor of PA, Andrew Curtin, and suggested a National Cemetery funded by the states. Wills was successful and was instructed to purchase 17 acres for this purpose at a cost of \$2,475.87. He originally planned to dedicate this new cemetery on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and invited Edward Everett, who has served as Secretary of State, US Senator, US Representative, Governor of Massachusetts, president of Harvard University, and Vice Presidential candidate, to be the main speaker. At the time Everett was a highly sought after orator who replied that he would accept the offer but needed more time to prepare appropriate remarks. Therefore the date for the dedication was postponed until November 19, 1863. Almost as an afterthought, Wills and the event committee invited President Lincoln to participate. His letter stated "It is the desire that, after the Oration, you, as Chief Executive of the nation, formally set apart these grounds to their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks." Records show that Lincoln received his invitation to speak only 17 days before the November 19<sup>th</sup> date which was particularly short notice. One must understand that Lincoln only received 40% of the popular vote in the 1860 election and that by August 1863 over 250,000 casualties had mounted up since the war had started. Despite the significance of the Union victory at Gettysburg, there was a significant swelling of anti-war and anti-Lincoln sentiment in the North and he was to be running for re-election in a year! Politically he needed to re-energize the North to complete the task of re-uniting the nation. About 15,000 people attended the ceremony and heard Everett read his 13,607 word speech which took 2 hours to complete. Lincoln followed that with a 10 sentence 272 word speech, which contrary to historical myth, he did not write on the train up to Gettysburg or read off the back of an envelope. The speech was not immediately considered a great success with eye-witness reports saying there was little or no applause and the newspaper reports varied from indifference to predictable partisan praise of condemnation. But as they say, the rest is history and most of us are of the age that at one time in our early days of school had to memorize those 272 words! Thank you Rich and President Lincoln for bringing a touch of reality to our history!!!



Current Rotary Youth Exchange Student **Jose Arteaga** from **Lecherias Venezuela** visited the Club today and said a few words. He is 17 years old and is being sponsored by the Bridgeville-South Fayette Rotary Club (our visiting Club today). Jose is attending South Fayette High School and is being hosted by the Huwe family from McDonald PA. He says he is having a great time here so far but his biggest



**October: Vocational Service Month**



**President David Brosky**

**RI, 2008-2009 Theme**

adjustment has been to the weather. Coming from an area that is 90 degrees everyday, this cold weather is something very new to him. Jose, we welcome you to the Pittsburgh area, hope you have a great year, and if you think this is cold, you haven't seen anything yet!!!

**Announcements:**

Project Bundle-Up was held last Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and **Sue Kelly** said that everything went well. She wanted to thank all the Rotarians who participated for their help in this most valuable event for our local underprivileged youth.

Monday night the 20<sup>th</sup> our Club hosted the **GSE Team Leader Rich Meyer** and the GSE Team at a cocktail reception at Wright's Seafood Inn. **DG Jim** was there as well at a number of other District past and future District Governors. **Ed Grimes** from the Greentree Club, also the District GSE Committee Chair, was instrumental in making sure the evening came off well. 3 of the 4 members of the team were present and all told about their experiences and their favorite memories. The overall impression was most favorable with all saying they were treated "like royalty" and that they wish to be involved when the Norwegian team makes their visit in the spring. Thanks to **Ed Grimes** and **Sue Kelly** for helping to organize this fun event.

**Fund Raisers and Benefit Activities:**

The Pittsburgh East Rotary Club is having their Pancake Breakfast & Auction on Saturday, November 1 from 8 AM to 12 PM at the Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 250 N. Highland Avenue. Cost is \$7.00

Don't Forget the District 7300 annual Foundation Dinner to support the Rotary International Foundation. It will be held on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Station Square. Cash bar from 6 to 7 PM and dinner at 7:30. Entertainment by Pure Gold and there will be a Silent Auction. See **Sue Kelly** if interested!

**Visiting Rotarians:**

- Dick Rothrock (Greentree)
- Bob Brindley (Forest Hills)
- Brian Sohill (USC-BP)
- Bill Shaw (Dormont Mt. Lebanon)
- 15 Bridgeville-South Fayette Rotarians

**Guests:**

Current Exchange Student **Jose Arteaga** who is hosted by the **Bridgeville-South Fayette Rotary Club** with our Club  
**Suzie Gieger** with sister **Marci Petkovich**  
**Bev Overand** with **Bob Brindley**

**You Were Missed:**

Jack Abriola, Eileen Dombrowski, Jeremy Guthrie, Rick Hess, Cindia Hewitt, Ray Losego, Bob Schuler, Joe Trompeter, Adrian Van Balen, Scott Venetti, Ollie Weiss, Dan Westphal, Leigh White, & Larry Wind

**PLEASE BRING IN THOSE MAKE UPS!!!**

**Make-Ups:**

None

**Birthdays in October:**

- Rich Meyer – 10/10/57 (51 years old)
- Marci Petkovich – 10/18/49 (59 years old)
- Larry Wind – 10/20/42 (66 years old)
- Mary Ann Paff – 10/22/57 (51 years old)

**Rotary Anniversary in October:**

- Adrienne Jellison – 10/10/06 (2 years)
- David Brosky – 10/11/05 (3 years)
- Chris Green – 10/15/93 (15 years)
- Eileen Dombrowski – 10/18/07 (1 year)
- Diane Heburn – 10/18/07 (1 year)
- Mark Brilmyer – 10/25/80 (28 years)
- Rick Iorio – 10/25/90 (18 years)

**Wedding Anniversary in October:**

- Mark & Kathy Tamilia – 10/6/79 (29 years)
- Chris & Kathy Green – 10/14/72 (36 years)
- Dave & Nancy Brosky – 10/18/01 (7 years)

**Future Greeters -**

- October 30 – LaBruna, Phanse
- November 6 – LaBruna, Phanse
- November 13 – LaBruna, Phanse

**The 50-50 Raffle:**

**WEEK 10:** Curt Henry won and pulled a NINE winning \$9.00 The Kitty got \$6.00 The Pot is \$165.00 with 34 cards left plus the Joker

**WEEK 15:** John Mendenhall won and pulled a SEVEN winning \$7.00. The Kitty got \$21.00. The Pot is \$219.00 with 33 cards left plus the Joker!

**GREETERS (& 50/50 Ticket Sellers)**

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Ed LaBruna**
- Kay Phanse**

**Calendar of Events -**

- October 28 – District Interact Conference
- November 11 – World Affairs Council on what the new administration might bring
- November 19 – District Rotary Foundation Dinner
- December 11 – Joint Holiday Meeting with Bridgeville-South Fayette and Greentree Rotary Clubs at Nevillewood
- December 12 – Holiday Party at Nevillewood
- April 29, 2009 - Ethics Symposium
- May 14-17, 2009 – District Conference, Erie Area
- June 21-24, 2009 – RI Convention, Birmingham, England

**Future Programs -**

- October 30 –
- November 6 –
- November 13 – Club Assembly/Board Meeting/Food Bank Donation Day (\$ and/or food items)