



The Rotary Club of Elyria Ohio

# The Ramrod

1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

2009-2010

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February 2, 2010  
By Maggie Kelch

## Groundhog Day at Rotary

Did Secretary **Greg Kruszka** see his shadow today? Can we expect six more weeks of

winter? With both President **Janet Long** and President-elect **Mike Jaworski** out of town, Greg took over the podium and gavel today. In keeping with the Groundhog Day tradition, Greg quipped that he “came out of his burrow on Groundhog Day to chair the meeting.”

While Greg reported that Punxsutawney Phil had seen his shadow (forecasting more winter) and Buckeye Chuck had not (meaning an early spring), Greg did not have a prognostication for us. Guess we’ll just wait and see how the rest of the winter goes!

Greg began the meeting with the singing of “America” followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He then called upon **Clarence Wills** for our invocation. Clarence shared a “Cherokee Prayer Blessing” with us that encouraged us to “make happy tracks in the snows.”

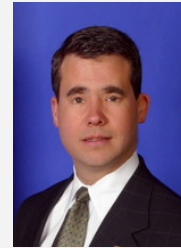
**Tim Donohue** then lead us all in the singing of “R-O-T-A-R-Y” and it was quickly apparent that some of us need to brush up on our spelling, or maybe it’s too hard to sign and spell at the same time?

## Student Guests From Elyria Catholic

We had two bright and outgoing students from Elyria Catholic High School as our guests today.

Our Next Meeting:

February 9, 2010



**Elyria Mayor Bill Grace**  
**State of the City Address**

Arrive early to ensure that you find a parking spot and a table for lunch.

**Terry Doan** introduced EC seniors Susan Reasar and Jonathon Mahilo. In addition to having impressive grade point averages, both students are active in a number of extracurricular activities. Susan is a Girl Scout and is also in the marching and concert bands at EC. She plans to attend the University of Toledo to major in exercise science. Her long-term plan is to earn her PhD in Physical Therapy.

Jonathon is captain of the bowling team at EC and has been bowling competitively since he was a youngster. He also volunteers at his church (St. Peter in North Ridgeville) where he recently helped to decorate the church for the holidays. Jon plans to attend Wright State University to study finance.



*Terry Doan introduced visiting Elyria Catholic High School students Susan Resar and Jonathon Mahilo while Ramrod Reporter Maggie Kelch gathered information for the newsletter.*

### **Announcements**

State of the City Address – Secretary Greg reminded everyone that next week’s meeting will feature Elyria Mayor Grace and his annual State of the City Address. This meeting is cosponsored with the Lorain County Chamber of Commerce. Reservations are required and may be made until Thursday at noon by contacting **Rob Demby** ([rdeby@apk.net](mailto:rdeby@apk.net)). The Chamber has reportedly said the room will be full and that they have a waiting list for tickets. So, plan to arrive early to find a parking spot and a seat for lunch. Also remember that only the full lunch will be served at a cost of \$9.00. Those who do not wish to eat lunch may attend and also need to RSVP.

Lorain County Rotary Night in Oberlin - April 9<sup>th</sup> – Secretary Greg said that sign ups will be held in a few weeks for this fun fellowship event.

### **Happy Dollars for the Jug**

**Greg Elek** was the jugster today and, he took aim at several Rotarians for recent notoriety. **Clarence Wills’** table mates had to pay his fine because the Chronicle-Telegram reported that he has been doing more with less. **Mukund Moghe** was fined for a story about light poles on Route 57 and **Jerry Skully** faces a fine for an editorial praising his integrity and fundraising efforts at the United Way.

**Joel Sinegar** made the list for bowling a 290 game and **Jim Hunt** was fined for using J.C. Penney in the “Name That Rotarian Game” when he was used only six months ago.

Kudos to **Don Sheldon!** He knew the name of this week’s “Name That Rotarian Game” subject with just one clue! Did you know that the founder of the Mayo Clinic was born in 1865 in Rochester, Minnesota? Don did!



*Jugster Greg Elek looks over his list of noted Rotarians (aka victims) prior to lampooning them.*

**Speedy Amos** had some “borrowed” Happy Dollars for the jug today. He had a box full of change that **D.C. Patel** had collected and asked him to bring to the Rotary meeting. In addition, Speedy reported that D.C. enjoys having visitors. Finally, pianist and songstress **Joan VanWormer** had a happy dollar to celebrate the anonymous donor who gave \$150,000 to the Elyria High School music program.

### **CWRU & Financing Private Institutions**

**Jeanine Donaldson** introduced our speaker today and said that she likes to have her friends speak at Rotary. Based on today’s speaker, she has some very interesting friends!

Robert Clark Brown has a background in working for both the public sector (federal and state government and the U.S. Navy) and the private sector. He is now the Treasurer for Case Western Reserve University. Noting that universities can be “big, complicated places,” Brown first gave us a snapshot of Case Western Reserve. While it is best known for its engineering and medical schools, CWRU actually has eight schools including Arts & Sciences, Law, Dental, Business, Nursing and Social Work.

CWRU currently has more graduate students (5,000) than undergraduate students (4,000). Of those, 80 of the undergrad students and 80 of the grad students are from Lorain County. And, 20 are transfers from Lorain County Community College which Brown said is a testament to the great education that they receive at LCCC.



*Robert Clark Brown was our speaker today and was introduced by Jeanine Donaldson.*

Brown discussed the high cost of attending a private university and the measures that schools take to make attendance affordable for students. The recent economic situation has been difficult because while it means that more people choose to go to college (CWRU applications increased 9% in 2009), it also means that the schools have less money. This is because universities are so dependent on their endowment funds to provide operating funds. While many universities have relied on tuition increases to help them get through this time period, he questioned whether that was truly a good solution to the problem.

While many colleges and universities have had to make cut backs in staff, CWRU has made it through this difficult time without any layoffs.

Finally, he commented on the proposal by President Obama to increase the amount of Federal Student lending and to decrease the dependence on third party lenders. This plan would actually save the Federal government money and enable them to award more Pell grants for needy students and to make more Federal subsidized loans.

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### Make Ups

**Pete Mealwitz**, 1/29/10, N. Ridgeville Rotary  
**Ed M. Stewart**, 1/22/10, MESA Bike Tour meeting

**Reminder to Committee Chairs** – you and your committee members are eligible for make up credit when you have a committee meeting. Send the list of attendees and the date of the meeting to Maggie Kelch ([mkelch@rossenvironmental.com](mailto:mkelch@rossenvironmental.com)) for inclusion in the Ramrod.

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### Upcoming Programs & Special Events

**February 9** – Elyria Mayor Bill Grace, State of the City Address, Joint meeting with the Lorain County Chamber of Commerce. Plan to arrive early to get a seat!

**February 16** – Rotarian **Ted Wallingford** will talk about using Facebook and Twitter in your business. Introduction by **Mike Jaworski**.

**February 23** – Dan Samms from Church of the Open Door will talk about volunteer efforts in the community. Introduction by **Ted Wallingford**.

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### Corn Toss Tournament Update

The Rotary Citywide Corn Toss Tournament will be offered sometime in the summer and will be held at LCCC in one of their parking lots. We are shooting for a Saturday in August probably.

This change of venue should be much better overall for the tournament. We can set up many courts without any spatial limits, we can offer beer for sale, and it should automatically draw a larger crowd just because of the location.

However, because of the change we will need a lot more help from both Rotary clubs. Tickets sales, food and beverage vending, security, ticket collection, tourney management, marketing, and public address system are just some of the subcommittees we will need to coordinate. Volunteering now will assure you of the easier jobs or the one you want to do. Contact **Ed M. Stewart** if you are interested in helping in any way. Email is best: [ed@s2ad.com](mailto:ed@s2ad.com).