



Members Hear McAlester High School Steel Drum Band

Club members heard music from the Steel Drums of Trinidad last week, courtesy of the volunteer Steel Drum Band of McAlester High School.

Director Sean DeNike and 10 students performed five songs on the hand-made instruments, which DeNike explained.

Four schools in the state have such bands and McAlester was the first, he said.

The first Steel Drum Band was started in Trinidad, with used cans left by a U.S. Navy Base during World War II.

The band played "St. Thomas" and "Matilda," then DeNike showed the various types of instruments the group uses.

The last three songs were, "Under the Boardwalk," "Deserted Island," and "Suzie."

Students volunteer to be in the band, and practice before school. They do not get grades for their work.

The band performed Tuesday night for the "Prime Time 2006" program of the McAlester Chamber of Commerce special social event for new members.

Rural Enterprises Supporting Employer-Assisted Housing



Kenneth Norris

An official of the Rural Enterprises office in Durant told us Sept. 12, about a program for "Employer-Assisted Housing."

Kenneth Norris, a certified economic development official, said the program assists businesses with 25 to 40 employees, when an employer helps them buy their own homes.

When an employer creates a customized housing benefit program, the program provides matching funds as an incentive.

This encourages development of the "EAH benefit plans" while reducing recruitment, turnover and training costs for the employer. Matching funds cannot exceed \$2,500 per family, but it gives the employee a "three-year forgivable loan," to use toward a home purchase.

The program also helps the community and stabilizes the work force, Norris said.

He also talked about the industries in "Business Incubator Programs," in this part of the state, which include metal fabrication, guitar manufacturing, software development and tractor manufacturing.

Rural Enterprises does marketing finance, and tax exemptions.

Matching Foundation Points Available for New EFT Enrollees

Our Rotary Foundation touches lives in our local communities and throughout the world. We can do this only through the generous donations of dedicated Rotarians. District 6110 has a rich history of our leaders' generous giving to the Rotary Foundation. However, we have not yet achieved the vision of Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY). The need for funding of Rotary projects in our local communities through District Simplified Grants and for projects throughout the world through Matching Grants exceeds the resources of Rotary Foundation. To close that gap, we need every Rotarian in District 6110 to contribute to our Foundation every

year. The simplest, surest method to accomplish this goal is through electronic funds transfer (EFT.) This allows us to make substantial gifts by giving a little at a time at regular intervals. As little as \$10 per month giving by every member will achieve, even surpass, our \$100 Every Rotarian Every Year District goal.

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Peggy George
District Governor

Club Gets Update On Caring Hands Healthcare Centers



Shelia Means

Brad Stanton and Shelia Means gave us an update Sept. 5, on plans for a Community Health Center in McAlester and Hartshorne.

The "Healthcare Centers" will offer a discount on medical bills, based on the federal poverty level.

Stanton and Means have moved their offices into the free space offered them at the Shared Blessings building on South Main.

The center has received a \$250,000 state grant, but a federal grant has not been announced yet. "The level we're going to do

depends on the federal grant," Stanton explained.

The center here will be open at least 32 hours a week. We "will adjust" depending on the patient volume, he said.

The centers take Medicare and Medicaid "to cover our costs."

Ms. Means said 25 percent of area residents do not have medical insurance. "We won't turn them away," she said.

She said the new office is "already getting calls."



Brad Stanton

Matching Foundation Points from Page 1

And we have a great incentive plan to jump-start your giving! Our very generous Past District Governor, Gerald Harp, has once again contributed 50,000 matching Foundation recognition points, which are available in the District 6110 2006-07 Rotary year. Every Rotarian in District 6110 who signs up for the first time for EFT will receive Foundation recognition points in the amount of their total yearly gift, accruing as each debit is entered. These Foundation recognition points, along with the Rotarian's gift, can be used to name a Paul Harris Fellow when the total reaches \$1,000.

A brand-new EFT enrollment flyer will be available at District Conference September 14 - 17 with your registration packet. Please join me in giving to your Foundation through EFT. Sign up before the matching Foundation points are gone! Be sure to send your information through District 6110 Administrator Terri Pollmiller so that we can say "thank you" by providing the matching recognition points.

EFT enrollment flyers will be available from your assistant governor if you do not plan to attend District Conference. Our aim is to have these available to all clubs at the same time to give equal opportunities to all our members.

Attendance, Visitors, and Handshakers

Last week there were 48 present at the meeting. Guests were Cris Smith, guest of Steve Brock; Jeff Maddox, guest of Roy Bynum; and Katy Peters, guest of Iva Due.

At the Sept. 12 meeting there were no guests, other than the speaker, from Rural Enterprises at Durant.

On Sept. 5, there were 47 in attendance.

The women got back in the money game Sept. 5, when Shirley Fleming gave the dollar to retired banker Wayne Milner. Banker Greg McNall gave the cash to school Superintendent Jim Northcutt. And last week, Judge Jim Bland made a copy of the transaction for his file, and gave the dollar to Phil Brenner. (His grand jury file.)

Rotary-UN Day is 4 November

Rotary International's representatives to the United Nations in New York have announced 4 November as the date for the 2006 Rotary-UN Day.

The annual event at UN headquarters in New York City helps educate Rotarians, their friends, and their families about the complementary roles the UN and Rotary play in supporting humanitarian initiatives and promoting international understanding and peace.

This year, presentations and panel discussions will address humanitarian issues such as hunger, water, health, and literacy based on the theme "The Unfinished Business of Rotary." RI leaders, UN officials, representatives from UN-affiliated nongovernmental organizations, and other invited guests will be among featured speakers at the event.

For the third consecutive year, there will be a separate program for Interact, Youth Exchange students, and other attendees of high school age.

Attendees may also reserve tickets for a UN tour and combine their celebration of the Rotary-UN Day with a visit to New York's many cultural and tourist activities, such as Broadway shows.

Seating at the event is limited, so participants are advised to send their completed application forms to the registrar by 21 October. Due to UN security requirements, on-site registration is not available.

Questions may be directed to Brad Jenkins, RI alternate representative to the UN in New York (phone: 908-766-4790; e-mail: bradjenkins@att.net).