

05/16/2006 Vol. XXIX No. 35

Meeting Notes, 5-09-06.

Amidst an unusually vibrant atmosphere of lively conversation, greetings for visitors and the expectation of a meeting with very special International significance, President Larry Tubbs, called the meeting to order, and the Denton-South Rotary Club began its host meeting for the Group Study Exchange team from Siberia, Russia. At the request of President-Elect Darhyl Ramsey, Harry Phillips led the pledge of allegiance, Leon Davis the Four-Way Test and Sarah Stone the Rotary Prayer.

Robert Leith, Sgt.-at-arms, introduced visiting Rotarians Bob Nelson, John Christensen, and Carolyn Ishee, all of the noon club. Other visitors included Mary Saunders, a possible candidate for membership and Sterling Smith, candidate for DISD School Board. The GSE team was recognized, each member to be re-introduced as they present our program.

Program

Brian Glenn, Director of the International Avenue of Service, introduced the Rotarian Leader of our visiting Group Study Exchange team from Siberia, Vladislav Nisynov. Brian's introductory remarks included complimentary descriptions of the team's activities since their arrival Sunday.

Vladislav Nisynov is president of the Rotary Club of Irkutsk. He spoke in English with ease and his presentation was delivered with an engaging mixture of sincerity and humor. A well-organized power-point visual-aid supported his presentation. He gave a visual and aural description of the geography of Siberia, emphasizing the cold weather and the presence of old traditions in buildings and culture. He said that Russia has 70 Rotary Clubs with an active membership of over a thousand, most of which are youthful. He attributes the growing convivial relationship between Russians and Americans to such Rotarian endeavors as the exchange programs: GSE, student, teacher, club-to-club partnerships in service and the eradication of polio. Vladislav is an artist by profession and serves

as Dean of fine-arts at Irkutsk State Technical University. He showed pictures of his family, of beautiful scenery and local costumes. He expressed his personal thanks to our club for our hosting expertise and person-to-person caring.

Marium Sherchensko is a teacher of English and German in Durham. She expressed the honor she felt to represent her country and the Irkutsk Region. Her presentation was supported by beautiful pictures of old houses, costumes, Russian orthodox churches, details of her school and the breath-taking countryside. She spoke of missing her family (husband, daughter and a cute dog). She, too, was sincere in declaring that this exchange trip supports coming to the conclusion that people are people, no matter what nationality or where we reside.

Elena Dvornikova is in a career engaged in the study of Economics. She loves her work and her country, Russia. She described details of her area as photos were shown of her family and their enjoyment of outdoor activities in cold weather

Kenstantin Sverkounov representing Buryat, has employment as a Boiler Turbine specialist. His interests follow that of his father. He talked mostly about his hobbies; skiing, traveling, and especially cars. The photos showed him as energetic and curious about the world around him.

Ruslan Ishmukhametov took us through a tour of the Chita region, which he reported as having over 400,000 persons. His vocational interests are business and teacher of Psychology at the State Pedagogical College. He, also, enjoys the hobbies of outdoors, diving and hunting. Car tuning expertise and study of electronics reveal him as a man of many interests. Ruslan expressed his thanks to Texan Rotarians for their interest in Russian people and concluded: "I'm happy to be here."

Following this presentation, President Larry called upon the team members to come forward for flag exchanges: Denton-South receiving

Rotary club flags from Siberian clubs and team members and their leader presented the Denton-South flag. In addition, Vladislav presented an art-work to us in appreciation for hosting the five-day visit.

Announcements and business.

President Tubbs: A reception for the Siberian GSE Team and their hosts will be held at the UNT Alumni Center from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2006. Rotarians from the Denton-South club are encouraged to attend. Noon club members have been invited as are members of the Gainsville club.

May 25th, Larry Tubbs will host an appreciation evening on the occasion of member John Thornton's leaving Denton after 24 years as a member of Denton-South Rotary. Larry's residence is 404 Santiago Place and the reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. Members are cordially invited to share in this reception; Rotary partners are welcome. Expect an e-mail with specifics.

Robert Lieth announced that we had not held the weekly drawing. Ralph Wiley's ticket was drawn, but his choice of card from the deck was not a winner.

Bob Pettit announced that we have 579 subscriptions to our American Flag Program. There are solicitation packets available to any members who may think of prospective subscribers.

Darhyl Ramsey reminded us of the Walk-a-Thon for Teens on Friday, May 12th at the Argyle High School track from 2:30-6:30 p.m. He will e-mail specifics. He also reported a visit with Ed Velayos, who has been under physician care. Darhyl reported slow, but steady progress and that Ed's spirit is high.

Sarah Stone will host a reception for Antonio Padilla and his parents on Sunday, May 14th,

3:00-5:00 p.m. The address is 2000 N. Lariat Road, Denton.

Marvin Pollard asked members to join him in extending our thanks and appreciation to the Denton hosts who have opened their homes, provided meals and transportation, and offered Texan-Rotarian hospitality to the Siberian GSE Team. Hosting were: John and Mimi Christensen (Vladislav); Yesi and John Byard (Mariana and Elena); Ed and Mary Ann Velayos (Konstantin) and Brian and Linda Glenn (Ruslan). Carolyn Ishee was also an active participant in the hosting activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55, but Rotarians and guests lingered in fellowship for several minutes.

Important Dates:

May 7th GSE Team from Siberia

May 13th Walkathon-Argyle Interact Noon

May 20th District Assembly in Weatherford

May 25th, 404 Santiago Place

June 11-14 RI Conference in Copenhagen.

Speaker Responsibility List:

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| May 16 Daryl Ramsey | |
| May 23 Marion Scott | |
| May 30 Charles King | |

Congratulations Antonio!

