



RIB

December 6, 2005

The Rotary Club of Bloomington Noon

Weekly Meetings

**12 noon
Tuesdays
Thunderbird
Hotel**

Mission

An organization of leaders working together to make a difference in our community and the world.

The Rotary Club of Bloomington Noon

President: John Swaney
Pres Elect: Diann Kirby
Vice Pres: Don Stiles
Secretary: Karyn Arazi
Treasurer: Brett McMahon
Past Pres: Larry Lee
Dist Gov: Dan Barnett
Sgt in Arms: Rick Sitek
Exec Sec: Kathy Koehler
Directors: Marcia Gerdin,
Carol Hoeft, Adam
Johnston, Carolyn Pratt,
Dave Senness, Laura
Bjorgo, Dave Walock

Next Week's Program

**President's Advisory Panel on Tax Reform
Guest: Bill Frenzel**



Having served as a member of the President's Advisory Panel on Tax Reform, Bill Frenzel will join us to review some of the findings of this Panel. The panel's report has recently been released. The report begins by making the case for reform of the tax code. Rosanne Altshuler states, "The current system is complex, it's unfair and it's inefficient." The panel worked with a few constraints: it focused only on income tax reform, corporate and individual; distribution of the tax was to be in an appropriately progressive manner; and it was to be simple.

Bill Frenzel served as a House tax writer and Budget Committee member during his tenure as a Republican House member from Minnesota during the years 1971 to 1991. He is a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution on Economic Studies. Frenzel is also co-chair of the Committee for Strategic Tax Reform, a group that proposed simplifying the code in "five easy pieces" -- a road map to a more consumption-based system through lower marginal income tax rates; eliminating taxes on dividends; increasing expensing; expanding Roth individual retirement accounts to all personal saving; and excluding export and other foreign trade income of American companies from taxation.

Frenzel has been quoted as saying, "The need for major surgery on the U.S. tax code has been obvious for years." He had the chance to do something about it. Let's hear how. Taxes always make for a great discussion.

This Week's Program

STRIVE Luncheon

**Guests: STRIVE students from Bloomington High Schools
Speaker: Troy Walden, Teen Challenge**

50 STRIVE students and their teachers, principals, and mentors were our guests today for a great interactive program discussing career opportunities with Rotary members and hearing an inspiring speaker, Troy Walden, from Teen Challenge, speak on methamphetamine addictions and their consequences.

December Birthdays

- 3 Carolyn Pratt
- 7 Laura Bjorgo
- 10 Charlie Pokladnik
- 17 LuAnn Baker
- 23 Jim Lucas

**December
Anniversaries**

- 23 Lori Nelson, 2 yrs
- 29 Bob Bogen, 35 yrs

Greeter Schedule

- Dec. 13: Dick Young
- Dec. 20 Terry Stirewalt
- Dec. 27: NO MEETING
- Jan. 3: Marcia Gerdin
- Jan 10: Gary Prest
- Jan 17: Skipp Saaf
- Jan 24: Meals on Wheels

This week's program continued: STRIVE

Ron Simmons and Steve Hill, principals of Kennedy High School and Jefferson High School respectively, thanked Bloomington Noon and Bloomington Daymakers Rotaries for the work that they both do to help the STRIVE students build self-esteem, and confidence during their senior year. Through their participation in STRIVE, many students receive scholarships from our Rotary



Clubs, and matching scholarships from Normandale Community College or Hennepin Technical College to continue their education. Pictured here: *Diann Kirby and two STRIVE students, Pauline Foss and Gretchen Doolittle share information about their interest in communications, animation, and graphic design.*

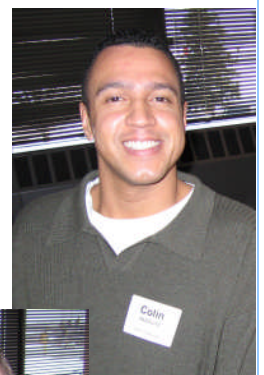
Our featured speakers were Troy Walden and Colin Akehurst, young men who in their teens became addicted to drugs and were able to turn their lives around through the help of Minnesota Teen Challenge. Sharing his story, Troy told us of an addiction to methamphetamine that lasted over 10 years. At age 11, he began innocently with cigarettes and alcohol and believes that seeking an ever higher "high", he escalated through a variety of drugs until in his 20's he began using Meth. Meth took away a full 10 years of his life that he will never be able to reclaim. He lost all the important times with his family, missing his daughter's birth and early childhood, funerals, weddings, and holidays as his relationships were all affected.

Using, selling, and even assisting his own sister in her addiction, Troy says of drug addictions that they take you further into the addiction than you want to go; keep you longer that you want to stay; and cost you far more than you ever want to pay. He attests that you can be haunted by the feelings and the memories of use for the rest of your life. Signs of use can be sleeping changes, eating changes, and erratic behaviors.

Teen Challenge, a faith based organization saved him by giving him hope and faith in a higher power that he can turn to in his time of need. Today, he has turned his relationships around and is soon to be married.

Colin shared his story with us last year and is currently working with Metro Hope Ministries. Both gentlemen say that "stepping into service" and helping others to change their lives is a significant part of their success.

Troy (lower) and Colin (upper) are both featured here in our photos.



Bloomington Rotary
Youth Exchange

Youth Exchange
Officer: Mark Bellestri
(612) 481-0406

2005-2006 Student:
Leonardo Cordeiro
(Leo)

Host Family:
Britta & Curtis Nelson
4515 Sedum Lane
Edina, MN 55435

Phone:
952-920-9357

E-mail:

leocordeiro182@hotmail.com



Rays of Sunshine

Carolyn Pratt is honored to be the featured soloist in Handel's Messiah, presented by the Bloomington Chorale and Orchestra this Sunday, December 11th, 3:00 PM at the Church of the Visitation (45th & Lyndale) in Minneapolis and next Sunday, December 18th, 3:00 PM at the Bloomington Center for the Arts (98th and Logan). Tickets are \$10.00 (\$7 for seniors and students). BCT Box Office: (952) 563-8575

Adam Johnston and his wife just returned from a three day cruise in the Bahamas. Adam, did you bring some of that warm weather back with you?

Continued prayers are with **Wally Neal** and wife Marcia as Wally makes his treatment choices relating to his cancer.

Dan Barnett, District 5950 Governor, wanted to express his surprise and thanks for the great honor in receiving the 2005 "Service Above Self" award at the Harold Larson Party.

Guests and Visitors

Rotarian Char Dennhardt, Burnsville Rotary, Personnel Services

Rotarian Debbie Belfry, Bloomington Daymakers Rotary, Education Admin

Rotarian Greg Marquart, Bloomington Daymakers Rotary, Accounting

Rotarian Gary Huusko, Eagan Rotary, Attorney

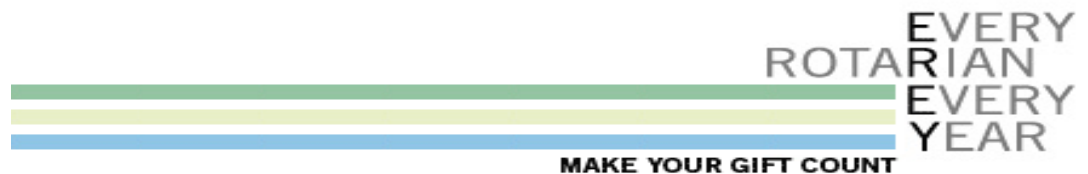
Rotarian Jeff Meacham, Bloomington Daymakers rotary, Project Staffing

Colin Evenson, New Member to be inducted soon, Guest of Dave Waloch

Nancy Stevens, Guest of John Swaney, potential new member

Ben Hur, guest of Frank Grazzini, potential new member

Michelle Hanson, Guest of Lori Nelson, new employee of Friends of MN Valley



The Rotary Foundation – Rotary International

There are thousands of charitable organizations working throughout the world that make a positive impact on those in need. But, your Rotary Foundation is the only charitable organization funded by **contributions from Rotarians**, for programs and **projects identified by Rotarians**, and **administered by Rotarians** at the project site. **The Rotary Foundation is YOU -- Every Rotarian Every Year.**

The 4-Way Test

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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Volunteer Opportunity

Meals on Wheels, Tuesday, January 17th, Gideon Pond Center, more information at upcoming meetings.

Upcoming Meetings

December 20: **Holiday FUN Fest – Music and Readings, Featuring Carolyn Pratt – time to get out your twinkling light bow ties and jewelry.**

December 27: **NO MEETING**

December 30: **Friday AM, join the Bloomington Daymakers at their meeting**

January 3: To be announced

January 17: **Meals on Wheels – note change of date**

February 7: **President Teddy Roosevelt**

Calendar of Events

April 21-22: **District 5950 Conference**, Airport Hilton, Bloomington

June 11-14: **Rotary International Convention**, Malmo/Copenhagen Register at:

<http://www.rotary.org/events/conventions/malmo-copenhagen/index.html>

Housing at: <http://www.congresscopenhagen.dk/>

Rotary Information

Bloomington Noon Rotary

www.bloomingtonrotarymn.org

Rotary International

www.rotary.org

Rotary District 5950

www.rotary5950.org

Meeting Make-ups

http://www.rotary5950.org/where_meet.html

Rotary on Bloomington Cable, Channel 14:

Veterans Day Program

Thursday, December 8, 9:00 PM

Friday, December 9, 3:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 3:00 PM

Tuesday, December 13, 10:30 PM

Wednesday, December 14, 4:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 4:30 PM

Thursday, December 15, 9:00 PM

Friday, December 16, 3:00 AM, 9:00 AM