



## ROTARY NOTARY

EAST WICHITA ROTARY CLUB: WE PEEK AT OUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

DECEMBER 16 2009

## Program: Learn and Hope

After trudging through the dangerous jungles of Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, Col. Gary LaGrange discovered his most lethal weapon: school supplies. By befriending the area children and helping those kids with their education, the American troops created trust and lasting relationships.

A Vietnamese village chief said, "Good things will come not only for my children but for you."

Using that experience, Col. LaGrange two years ago founded a non-profit organization to help educate kids in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"You can make a difference," Col. LaGrange said, "while helping our country achieve its objectives in Iraq and Afghani-

stan."

One Afghanistan child, not desiring money, said simply, "If you would help us learn, you would give us hope."

Col. LaGrange has determined that those education systems are declining. The illiteracy rate in those countries is as high as 90%.

"The program enables soldiers to win hearts and minds by focusing on children," Col. LaGrange said.

So the process starts with people such as us donating school supplies, and those supplies are distributed by soldiers to the children. In some cases, the soldiers become the teachers.

"Education is the greatest hope for the future and the stability we seek," Col. LaGrange said.

As the soldiers enter villages, their priority is closed schools. The soldiers then ready those schools for the kids.

What's needed?

- Money for shipping.
- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, erasers.
- Notebooks, coloring books.
- Crayons, glue, scissors, rulers.
- Back bags or book bags.



Col. Gary LaGrange is the former commander at Ft. Riley

Call 785-537-7493 to help.

## It pays to study

An elementary school teacher decided that if the kids could answer questions, they could leave early. That excited Johnny, who was eager to depart. The first question, "Four score and 20 years ago.." Suzy screamed "Abe

Lincoln!" The teacher said, "Suzy you can go." The next question, "I had a dream..." Mary yelled, "Martin Luther King!" So Mary went home.

The teacher turned to get the next question from her desk.

Johnny said, "I wish the girls would keep their mouths shut."

The teacher responded, "Who said that?!"

Johnny said, "Tiger Woods. Now, can I go home?"

## CALENDAR

- DEC. 23-No Meeting
- DEC. 30-No meeting
- JAN. 6-Meeting at the Marriott
- JAN. 13-Meeting at the Marriott

## BIRTHDAYS

YUKIKO HENDRICH	12/17
JOHN MCKENZIE	12/18
JOHN MCEWEN	12/29
SCHOEN FITZGERALD	12/31
KEITH LESHER	1/2
MIKE SMITH	1/4
JERRY BURNELL	1/5



## What smells most in a chimney? Santa's nose!

**Elton Parsons** introduced our 2010 Polio Plus Challenge. The Bill & Melina Gates foundation awarded Rotary a \$350 million grant. Rotary has until 2012 to raise \$200 million to earn the grant. Rotary clubs throughout the country have been asked to help.

Elton has divided our club into three groups, Wichita State, Kansas State, and the best group, the University of Kansas.

Our assignment is not to donate our money but to ask our friends/family/acquaintances to help each of us



contribute \$20 per month. Elton said if we get 70% participation

in our club, the \$20 per member per month will yield \$25,000 by the end of the year.

Elton will have another fund-raising plan for 2011.

Since 1985, more than two billion kids have received the oral polio vaccine. Reported polio cases have dropped to 99.8% and four countries—Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan—remain endemic. Due to the efforts of Rotary and its global partners, the world is on the threshold of eradicating the wild poliovirus.

## Why does Santa like to work in his garden? Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe!

**Greeter-Cathy McClain**

**Prayer-Jim Remsberg**

**Guests-**We had two veterans of our current conflicts, Iraq and Afghanistan, one of whom was **Elton Parsons'** grandson.

**Announcements-Britt Fulmer** said **Noel Anderson** was featured in

What do you call Santa when he has no money? Saint "Nickel"-less!

*Splurge magazine.* "Noel will be like Tiger (Woods)," Britt said, "and go into hiding." **George Fahnestock** and son Eric, finished 7th out of 200 teams in a fund-raising golf tourney in California. The *Fahnestocks* raised \$4000 for the Wichita Children's Home...**Brian Burrus** recently returned from the tropical paradise of

St. Lucia where it was 80 degrees warmer than Wichita. Brian said there are three Rotary clubs on the island and one club began the meeting with an open bar. (**President Polly**, could the Board consider this at its next meeting?)

Noel gave **Cindy Johnston** a Christmas present for the great work that Cindy does for our club.

## Why does Santa always go down the chimney? Because it soots him!

**Kevin Rathert** returned to Rotary for the first time today after undergoing a heart and liver transplant. "It's great to be back," Kevin said. "I appreciate everyone's support. I'm just truly humbled."

**Denise Bandemer** introduced new member Shirley Harrold Albright of Armstrong Shank advertising. Shirley graduated from the University of Kan-

sas, is a golfer and member of Terradyne Country Club, and is a former Downtown Rotarian.

**Noel Anderson** delivered a Rotary Minute. His boss was a Downtown Rotarian and encouraged Noel to join the best group in town, ours! Now, "I find Rotary in all parts of my



*Kevin Rathert looked great, though wouldn't advise you to follow his weight loss plan*

life," Noel said. "**George Fahnestock** personally comes out each winter and fixes my furnace. My wife even gets into the act." Noel said his wife constantly damages her car and gives the repair business to **Jaden Randle** of AutoCraft.