

GROSSE ILE ROTARY CLUB

Box 125, Grosse Ile, MI 48138

website: www.gircweb.org

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FOR MEETING OF: 11/08/2007

Board Members 2007 – 2008

President	Alan Hickman
President Elect	Ted Aller
Secretary	Dale Klemans
Treasurer	Ron Peltier
Past President	Bill Krauss



Board Members At Large 2007 – 2008

Bob Lawrence
Dave Sims
Roberto Sanchez

WHAT'S GOING ON.....

MEETING 11/08/2007:

FIELD TRIP! The Grosse Ile Rotary is taking a field trip on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH**
(This **WILL** be the weekly meeting)

The field trip will be to: **GROSSE ILE HIGH SCHOOL** to see
THE BUTLER DID IT

PRESENTED BY GROSSE ILE HIGH SCHOOL THESPIANS

This will be a **DINNER THEATER**. A wonderful meal will be prepared by Grosse Ile Food Service Department and served in our newly opened Café. A tour of the new facilities is at 6:00 PM, the meal will be served at 6:30 PM and the play will begin at 7:30 PM. Please consider this your invitation to attend and bring a spouse or friend. Refreshments will be served during intermission.

RSVP to Ted Aller by signing up on sheet prior to 11/26.

COST: \$12/pp for dinner and \$5/\$7*pp for Theater
*\$5 for students and Senior Citizens

COME ONE COME ALL

GROSSE ILE ROTARY

Saturday, Dec 8th, 2007
Big Bear Lodge



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2007

Favors, Music Entertainment
Telegraph Rd, Brownstown Twp

- Champagne Punch Bowl, Hors D Oeuvres, Fellowship, Fun, Good Food
- Entrée choice: BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Chicken Marsala, NY Strip Steak, or Seafood Medley
- Dessert choice: Cranberry Bread Pudding or Crème Brule
- Full Bar by Subscription

Noel,
Bill Swasey, Chair

REMEMBER: NO MEETING 11/22/07 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

“THE SCHEDULE” AKA UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

11/15 TBD
11/22 No Meeting – Thanksgiving
11/29 Eat at GIHS, join the audience for High School play



SAVE THE DATES!!!!...



UPCOMING G.I. ROTARY & DISTRICT EVENTS.....

- 12/08/2007: GI Rotary Christmas Party
- 4/25 – 4/28/2008: Rotary International Peace Summit, Windsor, Ontario

PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOT PUBLISHED ROTARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 7-12-07

Called to order @ 5:05 pm; Adjourned @ 6:05 pm

In attendance: Aller, Hickman, Klemans, Krauss, Peltier

- Treasurer Peltier presented the June financial report
- President-Elect Aller reviewed scheduled meeting programs and other events
- President Hickman provided a documented presentation:
 - GI Rotary Structure (Officers, Board Members at Large, Club Support personnel and Committees)
 - 2007 Humanity Projects
 - A current summary of the Club's select Finances
 - A Draft of Long Range Plans and Goals (discussed by those in attendance; Hickman to revise and present at a future meeting)

Dale Klemans
Secretary

FEATURED PROGRAM:

RICHARD WITHEY & WILLIS LEADER DOG SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Richard, a Woodhaven Rotarian, has been blind since 1986 when during a murder attempt he was shot in the head. He currently is on the Woodhaven Council and is past-Mayor for Woodhaven. Being blind has not slowed him down. After about 6 months of being blind, Richard decided it would be best for him to be paired with a Seeing Eye dog. This has enabled him to become independent, and live a full life. Willis, his current Seeing Eye dog has been with him for 13 years. Due to Willis' age, he soon will have to retire Willis (but don't tell him that) and be paired up with another dog.

About Leader Dog

Founded in 1939 by Lions Club members, Charles Nutting, Don Schuur and S.A. Dodge, Leader Dog has successfully matched and graduated over 13,000 person / dog teams since its inception. The dream of these men became vision and independence for thousands.

The dedicated staff at Leader Dog is over 100 strong. The facilities, located on the original 14 acres first purchased by the founders, have morphed from a farm with numerous outbuildings to a superb residence center, a stellar kennel, and well manicured grounds. This complex is home to our students, dogs, all services departments and the support staff that enable Leader Dog to enhance the lives of blind and visually impaired individuals from all over the world.

As the second dog guide school founded in the U.S., we are proud of our programs offered, our graduates who live our mission each year and the thousands of lives that have been touched directly from the services provided by Leader Dog. To maintain the high standard of excellence we expect of ourselves, we are members of the U.S. Council of Dog Guide Schools and the International Guide Dog Federation. These bodies keep dog guide schools accountable for their actions, program additions and modifications. The International Guide Dog Federation reassesses members every five years. The last assessment conducted reflected the great efforts of our staff and volunteers. The veteran assessor with 36 years in the field had only positive comments. He impressed upon the management and staff that Leader Dog was among the best he had ever seen.

The stories affirming the impact of Leader Dog services are endless. As the wheels of time continue to turn, so do the advancements of Leader Dog. Services to assist in job skills and living skills education are on the immediate agenda. Our ultimate goal is to be recognized as a full service resource center for individuals who are blind and visually impaired. Our vision is to become the most innovative and forward thinking organization in the profession. With consistent support and expansion of our services, we are well on our way.

History

It was 1938 when Don Schuur, along with fellow Lions from the Uptown Detroit Club, broached the idea of assisting their friend, Doc Glenn Wheeler, in obtaining a dog guide. Unfortunately, the only existing school at the time was unable to provide one to Doc. Although the reasons were not quite clear, in general, the wait to receive such a service was several years. So, the Lions began their own quest. With the objective of helping their friend, this journey culminated in 1939 with the founding of Lions Leader Dog Foundation. Lions became an integral part of the organization. The service club, Lions International, concentrates its efforts to "be the knights of the blind and deaf" - a challenge by none other than Helen Keller. The fit of members founding a dog guide school was perfect.

The first class graduated four students, including Doc Wheeler. Through the years of trials and triumph, the founders, who are recognized as Schuur, Charles Nutting and S.A. Dodge, began to establish a world class organization. Little did they know that eventually Lions Leader Dog Foundation would not only change names, but also become an internationally recognized school for serving the blind community.

In 1952, upon absorbing another dog guide school, Path-Finder, the school in Rochester, Michigan became known as Leader Dogs for the Blind. By this time, the trainers who had used many different breeds of dogs, including Doberman Pinschers and Boxers, had narrowed the scope of breed down to primarily German Shepherd Dogs. They were found to fare better health wise and seemed to enjoy the work. Thus, the birth of the Leader Dog logo.

Today, Leader Dogs for the Blind is proud to have assisted over 13,000 people in achieving the freedom of safe and independent travel. Graduating approximately 300 teams a year, the school serves individuals from all areas of the globe. Leader Dog is one of only two schools in the world to offer dog guides to persons who are both deaf and blind. Certainly Schuur, Nutting, and Dodge would be very proud of their dream and the opportunity it has offered to so many.