Prayer/Pledge:

Following the call to order by President Ralph Cupelli, Kirksville Rotary Club member John Dungan gave the prayer and led the club members in singing our Rotary song, to honor the occasion of both our upcoming Rotary District Conference this week-end in Kirksville and the International Rotary Convention next month in New Orleans.

Announcements

* Guest of the Club, Marcy Palermo, spoke briefly of her trip to France as the GSE Exchange leader. Marcy brought banners from the Rotary Clubs she and her group had visited while in France. These included the following cities: 1) Nice (four different smaller clubs), for which the banner reads "Comté de Nice," (Translation: the county of Nice.) Marcy emphasized the kindness of the Nice Rotary Club members, particularly warm and friendly. The team leader from Nice, Nancy Ventors, will be at the District Conference; 2) Grasse for which the banner reads "Club Beausoleil" (a proper name whose literal translation is 'beautiful sun'). Marcy mentioned the lavender fields around Grasse used to make perfume; 3) Menton whose club banner reads "Beaulieu" (another proper name meaning 'beautiful place'); 4) Monaco, whose club name on the banner reads: "Club Pauline;" 5) Marcy also brought banners from the Rotary Clubs from Vannes and Solliers. Marcy will also be doing a presentation at the Rotary District Conference this week-end.

* Banquet Tickets/Tickets for Ray's New Orleans Reception at the International Rotary Convention will be on sale at the Rotary District Conference; over half have been sold. The price is $25.

* Orientation Meeting for the International Rotary Convention for attendees, will be held Wednesday night, April 27, at 7 pm, upstairs at the Dukum. We will go over what you can expect from an International Convention.

* Rotary District Conference attendees: Please note that lunches or banquets all count as a meeting. Remember that our Rotary club will credit you for $10. This is the first time in forty-one years that a Rotary District Conference has been held in Kirksville.

* Paul Harris Recognition: During the Saturday morning breakfast of the Rotary District Conference, we will present interested Paul Harris Fellows. Please let President Ralph Cupelli or Matt Eichor know if you will attend and would like your Paul Harris Fellowship awarded.
Rotary District Conference Discussion by District Conference organizers: Jeff Romine, Mark Burger, Matt Eichor, Carl Baldwin, Charles Baldwin, and Randy Smith. Jeff Romine noted that Friday night Ray would be the main speaker. He pointed out that 34 different clubs in the District have received the President's Award and that 10 of them will receive the President's Award with Distinction. Larry Lunsberg will receive the special award of service above self. There are only 150 of these awards given out in the entire world. Jeff Romine indicated that Saturday night Fred Hawn, a Rotary International Director, will be the main speaker. Jeff Romine praised Rotarians throughout the District. He pointed out that all of our own five Rotary Clubs and Rotaract are receiving Presidential Awards. Mark Burger also spoke. Mark announced that there had been an e-mail sent out the previous afternoon regarding the meeting planned at Newman Center tomorrow afternoon. Mark indicated that parking for the conference will be challenging. Try to find alternate places so that out of town attendees can use the Newman Center parking space. Conference attire mentioned and demonstrated. Registration forms are available. Matt Eichor spoke also and suggested that everyone sit with someone new to make a new acquaintance. Carl Baldwin spoke and praised the work of all those involved in organizing the Rotary District Conference. Charles Baldwin said that we need five more sergeant-at-arms and explained the function of the sergeant-at-arms as someone who guides, welcomes and assists. Randy Smith reminded us that he is responsible for audio equipment and asked people to help him. To do so, Randy asked that we meet in front lobby of library at 3:30 Friday afternoon. He needs help setting up room in OP Friday and taking it down Saturday afternoon. Jeff Romine noted all the warmth with which he was treated and how exceptional our own community is to be able to address every aspect of Rotary experience. He said that there will be 354 people coming to Kirksville and that this is an important opportunity to promote our community of Kirksville. He asked that we help to continue to promote our community by welcoming and assisting out of town attendees.

Highway Cleanup today, April 27th, at 5:15 p.m. Please meet at Westlakes and bring your own gloves if possible. Hunters should bring their orange/yellow jackets.

Maggie Herron will be the club representative to the Committee for the July 4th Joint Pancake Breakfast. We will be looking for additional help.

No Kirksville Rotary Club meeting on May 4th, nor on May 25th.

Happy Bucks was conducted by Frank Colton
Charlene Boyes: Classification Talk

Following an introduction by Matt Eichor, Charlene Boyes, Kirksville Rotary Club Member and Executive Director of Missouri Rural Enterprise and Innovation Center gave an inspiring classification talk. Charlene has been a member in our Kirksville Rotary Club for the last two years. She gave an overview of her life, career, independent business, and public service. Charlene came from a small community from one of the two peninsulas of Michigan. She grew up in a family of four children, three girls and one boy. She spoke nostalgically of a happy, relatively unsupervised childhood during which she and her siblings kept track of each other and spent a great deal of time outdoors. Charlene noted that her exposure to Rotary growing up was through relatives in Rotary who went on occasion to installations and events. She had noticed as a young child that her mother and other women were unfortunately not encouraged to participate. Charlene mentioned that she hadn't wanted to choose one of the Big Ten schools to go to college, but that family pressure encouraged her to consider them. She liked economics as a young prospective college student and unlike her high school friends, was interested in economic policy, "to right the wrongs of the world." Charlene says that she ended up going to Michigan State to college as her family had wanted, and that she later interned in a corporation in Michigan. She earned her degree in Biological Studies. Then she stopped for a while and traveled. Charlene spoke of what she considered her rough beginnings when she had started her own business and told a couple funny anecdotes including a story about difficulties in the preparation of meringue dessert and the forestalling of the disintegration of the eggs. Charlene emphasized the importance of the work ethic and values she acquired, as she learned to cope as a small businesswoman. She described how she had broken even in those early days and sold her business, which she described as "a breathtaking experience." She then went back to school to resume research in biology. She looked into the areas of health and environmental science and considered numerous projects, in order to help the world community. One particular project which she participated in was a research project in Mexico which allowed her to work with a Nobel Prize winning scientist. It was a thrilling experience, as senior prestigious scientists mingled and worked with younger groups of researchers and scientists such as herself. Each person seemed to be 'amber to total flame' and eager to help feed the world. Charlene returned to work with a Biotech company where she was engaged in continual contact with Japanese business circles in 'feast-famine' projects. She became deeply involved in helping businesses keep flowing, working with marketing and helped people get settled and established. In Missouri, she worked on a sustainability project and started a business to help home owners and business-owners. She began assisting entrepreneuring small rural businesses involved with high tech invention and research which led to her present position. Charlene was invited by Michael McManus to visit Rotary where she was struck by the sense of community in our club. The ethic of "service above self" explains, as she says, our sense of community. Charlene thus strongly believes in this ethic. Serving entrepreneurs above self is her definition of herself within her classification as 'Business entrepreneur director.
Drawing:  Three of Clubs drawn.

Guests:  1) Marcy Palermo, guest of Club, proposed member
2) Sheila Pruett, guest of Dondi Bates
3) Greg Capranica, guest of Club, working towards induction.

Upcoming events:
   Kirksville District Conference: April 29 to April 30th
   International Rotary Convention: mid-May in New Orleans