VOCA TIONAL MINUTE: Innovation Center Director Dan Hamlet, a self-described “entrepreneur coach,” said that only a third of family-owned small businesses successfully transfer to the next generation. He said small business owners should begin preparing three years before exiting their business. He plans to offer exit strategies in a program beginning next month.

BELL RINGING 12/14: Chair Dana Delaware <ddelawar@Truman.edu> still has slots to fill. Consider asking family members to join you. He promises us good weather (keep our fingers crossed)!

50-50 DRAWING: Wade Coorts did not pick a winning card today; pot now up to $1,816.

RO TARY REMEMBERS: In 1964-65, The Rotary Foundation organized the Group Study Exchange (GSE) which provided for the exchange of teams between Rotary districts in different countries between 1-2 months in duration over a two-year period. Today we will learn about VTTs (Vocational Training Teams) - the next step and natural outgrowth from our GSE contacts and connections. President Bob also asked for and received memories of 1995-96 President Mark Burger.

VO CA TIONAL TRAINING TEAMS (VTT): PDG Jeff Romine first introduced Bill Cosgrove, who along with his wife, Debbie, chair Rotary’s VTT Program for District 6040. Bill was able to use his training as a police officer with the Kansas City Police Department for 38 years when he was part of a 2009 GSE program working with South African police. He said VTT differs from GSE in many ways; there is no maximum size, no age restrictions, no set time frame and there is more flexibility. Rather than being a cultural exchange, VTT is project oriented. The project must be sustainable (continue without Rotary funds) and measurable. District Designated Funds can be used for a major part of funding. PDG Jeff then introduced Cassy Venters, who will be District Governor 2014-15. She came today to issue a special invitation to the Kirksville area clubs to participate and coordinate a Vocational Training Team with Romania. Cassy’s career was with the Univ. of MO Outreach and Extension, helping to start and expand businesses. A Kansas City resident, her Rotary leadership positions have included GSE. If you have an interest in this VTT program with a goal of uplifting Romanian agriculture, please express your interest by year end. The project would be implemented in Rotary year 2014/15. For more information, contact Bill at <bcosgrove@comcast.net>, Debbie at <ddccicosgrove@comcast.net> or Cassy at <dcventers@me.com>.

[pictured above are (l. to r.) PDG Jeff Romine, Bill Cosgrove and District Governor-Elect Cassy Venters.]