Upcoming Programs/Events:

- Feb. 22/23 - Rotary Birthday Party
- Feb. 24-28 - Reading Program
- Feb. 26 - Classification Talk
- March 5 - Mark Loughlin/YMCA
- March 20 - Youth Recognition Banquet
- April 4 - Social
- April 26 - Jt. Rotary/Rotaract/Interact Picnic/Scavenger Hunt
- May 1 - Ray K. Distinguished Service Award Dinner

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD MEETING: Matt Eichor reported on Agriculture VTT, $225 approved for Girl’s State and review of Presidential Citation goals reviewed (on our way to Presidential Citation with Distinction qualification).

SHOES FOR ORPHAN SOULS: Chair Jason Hunsicker is seeking donations to reimburse himself for the $500 he has put into the campaign. David Nichols said donations by check to Rotary Club of Kirksville Charitable Fund are tax deductible.

NEW MEMBER WELCOMED: Ruth Bowers, real estate leasing manager with U.S. Cellular was inducted today by President Bob. She is pictured with him and her Rotary sponsor, Ralph Cupelli (right).

RALPH CUPELLI CLASSIFICATION TALK: Ralph was born and raised in Point Marion, PA, just north of Morgantown, WV. His father served in the Army during WWII in the European Theater from 1942-1945. His father’s family came from Italy and his mother had German and French ancestry. Ralph had two careers, over 23 years with the Army, then 22 years at TSU. In 1964 he attended the University of Michigan and joined ROTC. He was commissioned a Regular Army Second Lieutenant of Infantry in June, 1969 and headed to Ft. Benning, GA, where he went to Ranger School. Later, at Ft. Knox, he attended an infantry officers basic course, airborne school and motor vehicles school. Then he was off to Ft. Carson, CO as scout platoon leader, XO, and quickly became Alpha Co. commander. He served in Vietnam in the 101st Airborne and later was a headquarters company commander in Heidelberg, Germany. After earning a Masters in Business degree at Indiana University of PA (still in ROTC), he taught ROTC courses at Ft. Benning, GA. On returning to Ft. Carson, his boss was Colin Powell, who addressed him by his first name (as in, shut up, Ralph!). He had wanted to extend his service in Germany but was told to get on a secure phone. He was told to report to the Pentagon to what he termed “the black world” serving as head of an anti-terrorism group. He had dealings with Norman Swartzkoff. Ralph was responsible for security at an Army/Navy game and at George H.W. Bush’s inauguration. For his last military assignment, he came to Kirksville as commander of the ROTC group. After military retirement he accepted a position with Truman State University. [Ralph is pictured above with David Nichols (left) who introduced him.]

50-50 DRAWING: Sandy Fleak did not pull the ace of spades; pot now at $273.00.