JULY BIRTHDAYS AND CLUB ANNIVERSARIES were read by Secretary Ron Knight, including 30 years of service by Ron Brand. We also sang Happy Birthday.

MEETINGS: Ruth Bowers called a short meeting of Community Service chairs to follow today’s meeting. President Jacob Condon announced the Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, July 12, 5:15 p.m. at the DuKum Inn. All are welcome.

DUCK DASH: Chair Joe Vincent said sponsorships now total $5300 (ahead of the $4800 raised last year). He said we should have 4-5 teams this year for adoption sales which will begin next week.

PROFESSOR MARK HANLEY: REFLECTIONS ON THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

In Matt Eichor’s introduction, he said that the program committee asked Mark to speak on this topic since we just celebrated the Fourth of July.

Since 1991, Mark has been a professor of American History at Truman. His published works focus on the interaction of religion and politics in nineteenth century America. Mark holds a Masters degree from the University of Illinois and a PhD from Purdue University. He joined Rotary in June of 2002 and among his accomplishments since that time was updating our history for our club’s 90th anniversary celebration.

Mark said Thomas Jefferson, viewed by most as the author of the Declaration of Independence, did not create the document on his own. John Adams and Benjamin Franklin were also on the committee. The immediate purpose was to break with Britain and King George III and go in a different direction. It led to the creation of a nation in a manner that was unprecedented in the history of the world. It declared a nation united under the idea that all men are created equal. This would seem at odds with Jefferson, a 33-year-old slave owner. The Constitution of the United States written and ratified a few years later preserved slavery. For that reason, in 1861 President Abraham Lincoln based the right to keep the union together on the Declaration of Independence, not on the Constitution which was written and ratified a few years later. Mark said that the Declaration of Independence is still a viable document today. It is the document most copied by other nations in the world, not our Constitution. Pictured from left are President Jacob (holding his daughter Olivia), Mark Hanley and Matt Eichor.

50-50 DRAWING: Vern Playle did not pull the ace of spades; pot stands at $953.00

Guests:
Jim Wagner & Heather Condon (1000 Hills club); Jim Crnic (guest of Jim Harding); Yohei Norimatsu (guest of club/proposed member); Olivia Condon & Jacob Condon, Jr. (guests of President Jacob)
Make Up Meetings at 1000 Hills club - NE Regional Medical Center cafe (Thursdays at 7 a.m.) or North Star club - Wooden Nickel (Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m.)

Upcoming Programs:
July 13: Jacob Condon/Introduce the New Rotary Year
July 20: DG Kim LeSage Official Visit
July 27: D. Martin/R. Kallerud/Flats Trail Project
Aug. 3: Big Raffle Review and Club Assembly