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CROSSROADS



Orrville Rotary

RYLA – Teaching Our Future Leaders



Rotary Youth Leadership Award recipients Evan Brest and Kati Venshine are joined at the Orrville Rotary podium by OHS principal Phil Hatten as they shared their experiences at the RYLA conference with Orrville Rotarians on March 18.

Each year the Orrville Rotary Club sponsors two Orrville High School students to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). This year Orrville was well represented when they sent juniors Kati Venshine and Evan Brest. This weekend of leadership training and fellowship was February 22–24 at the Timberlands Hotel in Salem, OH. There were participants from across Ohio representing many different schools with a good cross section of society.

In follow up to the weekend, Venshine and Brest reported to the Orrville Rotary Club about their experiences during the March 18 weekly Rotary meeting. The highlight for Venshine was the entire experience of meeting all the other students and all the different personalities coming together. Brest's highlight was very similar in that he just enjoyed meeting so many different students. Venshine and Brest gained a new appreciation for leadership and came away from the weekend with a new definition. They now define leadership as a personal trait that everyone possesses. Personal leadership is how you approach a task and let your own leadership be visible.

The weekend was spent doing a wide variety of leadership training including lectures, group activities, and individual training. Both participants would participate again and would encourage future participation from Orrville students.

Remembering our History

Wilma Raynor, club historian and one of the first women members of the Rotary Club of Orrville, spent time reviewing the history of the club on January 29th. A member since 1988, Wilma was appointed historian by the late Hollis Auble. She has held the position since.

The Orrville Rotary Club was organized on April 30, 1923. On May 26, 1923 with 15 members, the club was assigned Rotary Charter #1488. The original enthusiasm for the ideals and principles of Rotary prompted not only a larger and stronger group in Orrville, but also spread to neighboring communities. By 1930, Orrville Rotary Club had sponsored Rotary clubs in Rittman, Dalton and New London, as well as co-sponsoring the organization of clubs in Barberton, Dennison, Wadsworth, Lodi, Sugar Creek, and Lorain. In early years, Orrville Rotarians participated in so many projects of notice to the District that in 1938, Orrville Rotarian Fr. Charles Hoot was Governor for our District 665.

Some of early contributions the club made to the community include; assisting in the purchase of the first band uniforms for Orrville High School, was one of four area clubs to form the Wayne County Committee for Crippled Children and Adults, sponsoring the original Orrville Park board and later the first Recreation Commission and building a picnic pavilion, the fireplace in Heller Hall, and the original Scout cabin all in Orr Park.

In 1970, the club began its ongoing involvement with the Rotary Youth Exchange program, and over the years, has supported numerous inbound students and outbound students, as well. The club has hosted international visitors as part of Rotary International's Group Study Exchange Program.



Orrville Rotary Club
Historian, Wilma Raynor

Orrville Rotary Club has taken the "international" in Rotary International to heart. The club has adopted Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO) as a worthy channel of our endeavors. In 1998, CAMO founder (and Orrville Rotarian) Kathy Tschiegg, gave us the opportunity to be the guiding force behind the Honduran Laundry Project. We pledged our support, and enlisted the support of District 6650 Rotary Clubs, to raise funds to build a laundry at the Hospital Regional de Occidente in Santa Rosa de Copan in Honduras. In recent years the club has continued to support CAMO with the funds to purchase equipment and start new programs.

There are now over 1.2 million Rotary members world-wide with the Orrville club at over 50 members strong. The Rotary Club of Orrville will continue to reflect on the rich history and tradition that has flourished over the years with the overriding goal for future endeavors "Service Above Self".

Batter Practice



Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen? Orrville Rotarians (left to right) Rod Steiger, Justin Haislip, Tom Troyer and Mark Zook demonstrate the teamwork needed to serve pancakes and sausage for 500. Don't try this at home!

Orrville Rotary's annual Pancakes Days weekend served up all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage to 546 hungry diners on March 15 and 16 at Schmid Hall in Orr Park. This event has been a tradition since the 1960's and has grown into one of the club's major fundraisers. This year, Orrville Rotary will donate all profits from Pancake Days to the Wayne County Committee for Crippled Children & Adults, a non-profit organization founded over 50 years ago by area Rotary clubs. According to event chair Dr. John Chiofalo, some of the big keys to the success of this year's Pancake Days were the generous donations of Shoup Farms, the JM Smucker Co., and Imhoff Construction as well as the dedication of Rotarian volunteers, spouses and family members. Members of Orrville High School's National Honor Society also helped serve during the event. If you missed out, though, take heart. This year Pancake Days will have a special encore presentation as Rotarians fire up the griddles again on June 27 to welcome the 3000 cyclists camping overnight in in Orrville as part of the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA). Watch for upcoming details on times and prices.

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