

# THE HOPTARIAN



ROTARY CLUB OF HOPKINS, MINNESOTA

Raspberry Capital of the World



## Meeting of February 18, 2010

Invocation was done today by **Gunnar Carlson**. He had an outstanding prayer of thanks and gratitude.

Our Greeter was **Paul Slaton**. He wore a dashing hat that had no significance ... except that it matched his jacket. Regardless, he was a great greeter and welcomed the Crew of Opportunity Partners. More on them to come.....

### Announcements:

- ▶ Gary Hoffman, who was our speaker a few weeks ago, wrote a thank-you note to the Club for allowing him to share his story about his journey down the Mississippi.
- ▶ **Sean Latterner** resigned from our Club and will be joining a club closer to his work/home. Sad for us.
- ▶ **Dr. Block** presented **Dennis Kim** with his Paul Harris pin, his third one! Congratulations.
- ▶ Next Thursday is our "Fast for Hope" fundraiser. While we won't be skipping a meal, we will be passing the hat for an extra contribution.
- ▶ April 10 is the magic date for Rotary Taste West. It will be at the Hopkins Center for the Arts and will be a great event. However, our chairs, **Judy Elling** and **Dave Krueger**, need YOUR help. They are looking for people to sub-chair committees. Judy threatened if she doesn't hear from us, we WILL hear from them. So, pony up and sign up now. There will be some new Social Media ideas and links that they will be passing information on to us as well. Tickets remain at \$40 and we are expected to sell 10 each ... or more.
- ▶ Our illustrious City Manager, **Rick Getschow**, reminded us that the Taste of Hopkins, State of the City address is next Tuesday, February 23 from 5 – 7 p.m. AND, there is FREE FOOD and he loves when Rotary shows up for these meetings.

**Josh Kruse** conducted Recognition for the first time ... he is not a newbie any longer. And I have to say that he turned the Rotarians upside down and emptied their pockets with a series of happy bucks and Olympic questions. A few highlights:

◇ **Suzanne** is a first time aunt as of Monday (which also happened to be **Judy's** birthday).

◇ **Dennis Kim** had some great news and gave \$2.50 for each piece. His son Peter is home from Iraq. Peter was the top of the class in a training exercise he did in Fort Louis, Washington. His wife

### MEETINGS

Thursdays at 12 noon  
Hopkins Center for the Arts  
1111 Mainstreet  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
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**Ron Johnson** Feb. 24  
**Bob Petersen** Feb. 27  
**John Anderson** Feb. 28

is cancer free, after kidney removal and it was contained (yeah!). And, he bought trip insurance and is getting his money back for a trip he couldn't take (wow, that does really happen huh?).

◇ **Gunnar** won \$500 in cigars through his cigar club SuperBowl thing he was in. I'm sure the winnings will go up in smoke ...

◇ **Jerre Miller** was referred to by **Greg Palmer** as "sardonic." After Jerre looked it up in the dictionary, he was insulted and surprised. Insulted because it means "disdainfully sarcastically witty." Surprised because Greg knew what the word was and used it correctly.

◇ **Block** and **Dillon** have been making headlines for the Go-Girl movement out there.

◇ And many other great pieces of news that Rotarians shared with us.

Our speakers today were from Opportunity Partners (OP). Jon Thompson is the Rotarian from Wayzata who was introduced to us by the lovely Kayla Ebert. Jon is the President and CEO of OP. Kayla is a participant at the center, and he also had Sue Hayes and Julie Peters from Opportunity Partners.

Kayla gave a lovely introduction and also shared her experiences about OP and what it means to her. She is working on the floor; is learning sign language to be an interpreter. She expressed how she feels strong and supported and is also a leader for her peers. It was awesome to see her so strong and comfortable in the front of the room.

The goal of OP is to "take the 'dis' out of disability." OP started in 1953 and the primary goal was to help teenage children with disabilities focus on their abilities. In the 50+ year growth, the organization has grown to 600 participants who have added talent and work ethic to 200+ businesses in the community. There are approximately 400 people who are working on the floor sharing production skills and helping businesses outsource their needs.

They have a "school to work program" and a commercial cleaning team. They have and are still partnering heavily with Dunwoody to develop Certified Learning Platforms. So, workers have a given skill set that is measurable and proven.

There are many opportunities to help at all levels for OP:

- Attend events that they have (A spaghetti dinner is coming up).
- Volunteer
- Donate money!
- Hire workers
- Outsource work to them
- Be part of an Advisory Group.

For more information, go to [www.opportunitypartners.org](http://www.opportunitypartners.org) for the full scoop on how you can help.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Angela Schatz*

**Next Meeting: February 25, 2010**

**Program: Tom Laughlin of Caravela, Inc. – "Leadership"**

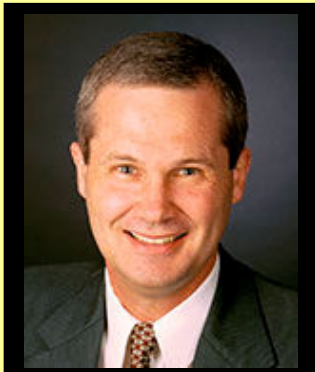
**February 25, 2010**

**Presiding:** Tim Dillon  
**Invocation:** Nelson Berg  
**Greeter:** Gunnar Carlson  
**Recognition:** Rick Getschow  
**Hop. Reporter:** Open  
**Back Table:** Roger Struthers



**March 4, 2010**

**Presiding:** Tim Dillon  
**Invocation:** Ben Withhart  
**Greeter:** Patrick Williams  
**Recognition:** Nelson Berg  
**Hop. Reporter:** Open  
**Back Table:** Ron Johnson



Tom is the president and principal consultant at Caravela Inc, a consulting firm that provides executive coaching, leadership training courses and other leadership development programs to leaders and their organizations. Tom also teaches business and leadership at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and is a faculty member of the Minneapolis Rotary Leadership Academy, delivering presentations and workshops on leadership principles and practices to the Twin Cities community