



The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club
 "Celebrate Rotary"
Fairburyrotary.com

2003 - 2004 Officers

President John Strong
 Pres. Elect Mike Petersen
 Vice President
 Sec/Treas Leroy McPherson
 Editor. Leroy McPherson



DATE/TIME/
PLACE: August 31, 2004 - 12:00 Noon at McDonalds

ATTENDANCE: 29 plus Rep. Shane Cultra

SING-A-LONG: My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean - Stodola Pumpa (for Jim -birthday boy)

LOTTO: Bill Orth & Mark Steffen

ACTION ON THE AVENUES

CLUB SERVICE

Programs:

9/07 P.C.
 9/14 Bud Gerber
 9/21 P.C.
 9/28 Steve Weeks

Membership:

Birthdays

9/02 - James Roberts
 9/11 - Bud Gerber
 9/24 - Carl Borngasser

Jim Roberts is turning 83. We celebrated with cake and icecream. And . . . we sang to him! How about that!

Bits & Pieces

Making the simple complicated is commonplace;
 making the complicated simple, awesomely
 simple, that's creativity.
 Charles Mingus, Musician and composer

AREA CLUB MEETINGS

Bloomington	12:00 Noon	Thursday	Elks Club
Gibson City	6:15 p.m.	Wednesday	Bayern Stube
Gilman	6:05 p.m.	Tuesday	Gilman Lounge
Lincoln	11:50 a.m.	Wednesday	Elks Country Club
Normal	12:00 Noon	Wednesday	Bone Student Center
Piper City	6:15 p.m.	Monday	Azz Izz Tavern

Our State Representative

Shane Cultra - 105th District



Jim Roberts introduced Shane. Jim sat on the board with him with the Onarga Academy. They currently put up \$4.5 million dormitories. Jim felt Shane to be very level headed. He noted that he is also the 4th generation of the Onarga Nursery. School consolidation was the first item brought up. Shane noted last year the money for this was completely dropped out. They had to go back to Don Cross, their caucus leader, and speak with the Speaker of the House, Madigan, to try to get this resolved. This year they did not catch the cut to 1/2 until recently. There is only 40% funding left. They hope to go back into veto session and get this corrected. They have to get Mike Madigan on board and if he doesn't want it, it will not happen. They just didn't realize they didn't have full funding. This is like the prison closing... at least they have gained another year. Shane served his freshman year in the 93rd Congress. He was elected for two years. Due to redistricting, the republicans lost all control of the Senate, House & government. The Gov. pledged no income tax or sales tax increase but the State took in less money but increased spending by \$1 billion. He tried to make it up in fee increases and municipal fees and trucking rolling stock fees. Tax credits were taken away and sales tax added to machinery purchased in Illinois. Illinois became antibusiness. The Gov. comes from Chicago and they do not understand business and how to create jobs and new business. They are not bad people - just different. They are mostly on the receiving end

and we are on the paying side - very anti-business. By increasing the min. wage we are on the highest pay scale. This makes Illinois less competitive for business. They also included a surcharge on workmen compensation of 1 1/2%. Last year was a terrible year for business in Illinois. It is making it hard for businesses to remain in Illinois. They had to pass \$10 billion to fund the pension fund. People with bonds are very close to the Governor. This year there has been a different attitude amongst all. The Governor wants to spend \$26 million on send-a-book program. He wants to get rid of the Regional Supt. one year and keep the state board - now just the opposite. They were not governing - nothing got done - only a bare bones budget got through. After May 31 the law requires a super majority to pass anything as of June 1. The Republicans can now play a part. They did repeal sales tax on printing machinery, some NPDES permit fees. Sales tax on farm equipment, seed, fertilizer and chemicals was brought up. If this would have passed it would have devastated our largest industry in Illinois. The impact tax did not pass. This year's budget was 1000% better. No capital budget was passed for universities but should be done this fall. Education did gain in the increase in the Foundation level funding. This year they gave a split in Foundation and category level. Shane did vote for the Homeowners and Senior Homestead tax exemption for property tax. He explained his reasons sighting Chicago.

BITS & PIECES

A Simple Solution

For as long as Farmer Wilson could remember, a large rock had been imbedded in the middle of his field. At the start of every planting season, Wilson stomped into the field, armed with a pickax and determined to rid his land of the nuisance. But he managed only to chip away at the large stone. Every year, he plowed around the rock - cursing at it and dreaming of its demise.

Then one afternoon, as he was weeding around his house, Farmer Wilson had an idea. What if he uprooted the rock like a weed instead of attacking it head-on as he'd been doing? He took his

shovel to the field and after a bit of digging was surprised to discover that the rock was only imbedded about six inches into the ground! It didn't take him long to dig a little deeper and completely remove it from his land. He shook his head and laughed when he realized all the time he'd spent over the years trying to tackle this "problem."

The next time you're faced with a challenging problem, keep in mind that the solution you seek may have more to do with how you face the obstacle blocking your path than with the obstacle itself.

Adapted from "Obstacles? Deal with them now"
Brian Cavanaugh