



The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

"Lead The Way"

Fairburyrotary.com

2006 - 2007 Officers

President	Dave Roberts
Pres. Elect	Joan Smeltzer
Vice President	Keith Bahler
Sec/Treas	Leroy McPherson
Editor	Leroy McPherson

DATE/TIME/

PLACE: August 15, 2006 - 12:00 noon at Marchelloni's

ATTENDANCE: 23 plus Andy Schoendienst

SING-A-LONG: I've Been Workin On The Railroad & The Sidewalks of New York

LOTTO: Jim Paternoster, Mark Steffen & a Fairbury Fair Hat to Phil Hermes

ACTION ON THE AVENUES

CLUB SERVICE

Programs:

- 08-22 Ray Wilz - Rotary Foundation
- 08-29 Motorcycle Enforcement Bureau
State Police Master Sgt. Jim Howell
- 09-05 Tom Redington
- 09-12 Dist. Gov.
- 09-19 Prairie Central - Music & Fall Sports
- 09-26 Pork Producers
- 10-03 Steve Weeks
- 10-10 Prairie Central H.S. Senate
- 10-17 Carl Borngasser
- 10-24 Dean Moser
- 10-31 John Strong

Membership:

Jim read a letter to us thanking us for our support. Included were tickets for the fair, gate and night performances.

Bits & Pieces

If you worry about
yesterday's failures, then
today's successes will be few.

-Brian Tracy

AREA CLUB MEETINGS

Bloomington	12:00 Noon	Thursday	Elks Club
Gibson City	6:45 a.m.	Wednesday	The Country Kettle
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



Andy Schoendients

This is the Fair's 130th year. Andy is the President of Luehrs' Ideal Rides. This will be their third year at Fairbury. They like to feel like a part of this community. This is their 50th year and they've been at some fairs all 50 years. *"Our family takes pride in what we do! You, the people, make the fair. The more people we can draw the better for Fairbury."* They like to showcase Fairbury.

The industry has changed. They use more community leaders and sponsorships to get attendance up and have more booths for goods, etc. They are proud and happy to be in Fairbury. The Baptist Church served about 60 of their workers a meal last night and they thank them. Their industry is judged by the O.A.B.A. (Outdoor Amusement Business Association) which changed the image about 8 to 10 years ago. They have a grading system and standards. They look at the equipment, records, trucks, criminal backgrounds and your drug testing procedures. You used to get people from the community but they find 90% flunk the requirements, especially the drug testing so you tend to see more foreign people working for them. If you work for them there is no drinking and no beer tent. They do drug testing on pre-employment and at random. The last time they hired, they tested 62 people to get 2 that would pass. They do drug tests and background checks on all people employed. They start their season in March in Florida and finish in November in Indiana-Ohio. It is a lot of fun in a

fall festival in Oct. in Indiana with snow on the rides and hot chocolate. In Illinois, there are approximately 52-56 carnivals. Expenses keep going up but they cannot charge more for rides because people can't afford them then, so the secret is to get more attendance and get more riders. Their philosophy is *"rather than be the biggest, be the best!"* For the rides, they do their own inspection & maintenance since they tear them down and put them back up each week. Also the insurance company and the state inspects them. They have NARSO certified inspectors on staff same as the state certification. The Operator runs & inspects and dismantles his equipment. When they operate the ride they know if it sounds and looks right. We inspect every week because we dismantle and move each week. They had zero claims last year. People tend to do stupid things so in Ohio they passed the Rider Responsibility Act which makes it a misdemeanor if you break the rules. Illinois has not passed this Act. Safety is our #1 priority. You sometimes have to protect people from themselves. Most of the equipment is manufactured in the U.S.A., but Italy and Germany is making more and the U.S. less. Rides used to cost \$20 - \$60,000 and they would upgrade every 5 years. They are closer to \$500,000 with the Ferris Century Wheel at \$950,000. They have between \$5 & \$6 million dollars at the fair in equipment. People can and do feel safe here.

