



The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

Fairburyrotary.com



2008 - 2009 Officers

President Josh Clemons
 Pres. Elect Charlie McDonald
 Vice President
 Sec/Treas/Editor Leroy McPherson

DATE/TIME/ PLACE: Aug 26, 2008 - 12 noon at Marchelloni's

ATTENDANCE: 20 plus Ann Galassi and TOBY

LOTTO: B. Gerber and R. Stevens

ACTION ON THE AVENUES

CLUB SERVICE

Programs:

9/02 - Pending Program 9/23 - UE/JH/HS Music
 9/09 - Bill Fugate 9/30 - Steak Fry
 9/16 - H.S. Fall Athletics

Membership:

Josh is a resident of Fairbury now!
 Sharon is doing well!

Josh read from an article naming Ray Klinginsmith of the Rotary Club of Kirksville, MO as the selection of the Nominating committee for RI President in 2010-11. What an honor to be President of Rotary International.

Quips & Quotes

A dog is smarter than most people. It wags it's tail and not its tongue

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



Steak Fry

September 30th

Knoll Lodge

Time to be determined

Dwight Correctional Center Helping Paws Program

Speaker: Ann Galassi, Helping Paws Instructor

Ann has a degree in Zoology and has studied Animal Medicine. Her experience in training has been "on the job". Dwight is a maximum security female correctional facility. Dogs that have been selected for specialized training are placed with select inmates chosen for this program. The inmate is responsible for grooming, walking, training 24/7. This is the only program in the state. Presently, they have eight dogs and eight trainers and are looking to up that number. It's a perfect combination of needs since the dogs take a lot of time and the inmates have a lot of time.



The program has 3 main goals:

- 1) Getting the dogs.** The dogs come from breeders, Humane Society, pounds, etc. Ann "shops" for a dog. She said in looking at a litter of puppies, it is easy for her to make a selection. She always picks the calmest of the litter.
- 2) Education for the inmates involved.** Inmates learn patience, responsibility. There is a very low rate of return. It is difficult however, for them to give the dog up after the 1-2 year training period. They become attached to the dog emotionally, but learn coping skills by being able to give the dog up. A certificate is received at the end of the training program which helps them secure a position after leaving Dwight. They earn a certificate from Lake Land College, showing they have completed the program and are skilled in animal care and training. Inmates have gone on to find jobs.
- 3) Providing an assistant dog to a disabled recipient.** Ann works with the dog and recipient to make sure it's a good match.

Illinois Correctional Industries funds the program. They provide inmates to provide services. The clothes they wear are made there. They make the food that is served. They also groom dogs as a source of income back to the prison. People in the community bring in their dogs to be groomed at a reasonable price. This helps offset costs. Dogs are also brought in from four shelters to be groomed.

Labs and Golden Retrievers are the best dogs for this type of service. They are very social. Pit Bulls, Boxers, German Shepherds could be given this type of training but they are not socially acceptable. People consider them to be menacing.

Dogs are trained for children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, etc. They can also be trained to assist someone who is deaf. The dog can alert the person to emergency vehicles when driving, doorbell, phone, etc. Ann sees Toby going to a man confined to a wheelchair - perhaps a Veteran of the war. Toby is a bit on the spunky side. He could best help a disabled man who has strong upper body strength.

Dogs are also trained for use in airports, drug sniffing, etc. A high energy dog is best for this type of service. Toby would also be a good match for this type of training.

This is Toby's third time out of the prison. They need six months of socialization outside the prison before they can be adopted out. You can check out a dog for the weekend to give them a chance to socialize with families.



Some of the dogs that start the training program fail to make the grade. Those dogs are then adopted out. They have an adoption list of people waiting for a good pet.

The program does accept donations of dog food, baby pools for hot weather, etc. Anyone interested in getting a dog like Toby, call (815)584-2806, Ext. 2354



Toby demonstrated one of his learned skills - turning the light switch on and off.