

Greensburg is in the Rotary Club spotlight

BY WALT GORIN
PUBLISHER

Evansville, Knoxville, Louisville, Bowling Green, Danville, Elizabethtown, Frankfort, Murray, Paducah, Scottsville, Columbia, LaGrange, Mayfield, Prospect, Russellville, Lexington and Georgetown.

Longhunters Coffee and Tea Co. was packed Tuesday night July 2 with one or more Rotarians from each of these locations.

All had the Rotary motto “Service Above Self” in mind.

All were in Greensburg for the installation of Otha Ray Stearman as District 6710 Governor.

To realize the significance of this event, consider that District Governors usually come from the largest of the 55 clubs in the district. The last four have come from Elizabethtown, Paducah and two from the 400 plus member Louisville club which is the 14th largest club in the nation.

Stearman is only the second District Governor from the Greensburg Club. John H. Ewing, Jr. held that position in 1974.

As District Governor, Otha Ray and wife Nancy will be ambassadors for Greensburg while visiting all 55 Rotary Clubs in the western half of Kentucky.

Stearman is on a mission to “Grow Rotary” by increasing the 2,700 members in the district to 3,000 and establish three new clubs.

No one doubts that will happen.

Six months after he became president of the Greensburg club, membership went from 20 to 46 members.



Photo by Walt Gorin

Past District 6710 Governor Michael Owsley, right, congratulates Otha Ray Stearman after installing him as District Governor July 2. Stearman is wearing the heavy metal neckwear which features the names of all Past District Governors, including John H Ewing, Jr. who served in 1974.

He credited the Record-Herald for raising market awareness for Rotary and the local club.

“When you are a small community, the newspaper can make a big difference,” he said. “Coming from a small town has given me a different dynamic.

“When a club gets up to 40-50 members in a town the size of Greensburg, it isn’t just the size of the town, it is the heart of your people.”

In his introductory remarks, Joe Shuffett recalled the ups and downs since he joined Rotary in 1967.

“In 2004 when we met in the Greensburg Fire Dept building,” Shuffett said, “attendance was often in the single digits.”

Gradually attendance increased and after Stearman became President a new enthusiasm more than doubled the membership.

“People enjoyed coming and participating,” Shuffett recalled. “We won three awards and were the Rotary Club of the year. District personnel also noted the enthusiasm and

put Otha Ray in line to be District Governor.”

Greensburg Mayor John Shuffett was among the many Stearman singled out that night.

“You have to have the Mayor on board,” he said. “Since John Shuffett was elected he has done a great job and he has boosted Rotary. I want to thank him for being here tonight. In fact, I want to thank everyone for being here.”

He called attention to many in the crowd, especially those who had driven from places as far away as Knoxville.

“I wouldn’t drive that far to hear me!” he said with a chuckle.

While describing the recent trip he and Nancy made to attend Rotary functions in Germany and adjoining countries, he noted how Rotarians develop friendships worldwide.

“The new vision is,” he said, “Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change-across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”

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Grab some love, America



Photo by Tom Mills

Saturday’s unsettled atmospheric conditions, with intermittent rain bracketing the 2019 Thunder Over Grab fireworks display, set the scene for a serendipitous artistic moment as skyward-bound fireworks backlit the American flag with a heart-shaped fireball, a fitting illustration of Kate Smith’s “God Bless America,” a song that defines America’s Independence Day celebration.

Democrat leader passes

BY GARRY BAGBY
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

The community is in mourning this week as we lost another community leader.

Sam Thompson, 86, passed away July 4. Thompson held many positions and jobs during his lifetime and was a family man who loved his wife and children very much. He contributed a lot of time to things that he thought was a benefit to the community.

Thompson was a true-blue Democrat. He may have voted for a few Republicans during his lifetime, but he never told anyone if he



Sam Thompson

did.

He served on the County Executive Committee for as long as anyone can remember and was always ready to help with any event

or activity the party was putting on. He also served as county chairman for many governor candidates.

As the Democrat representative on the county election board for many years, he was helpful in recruiting workers for the polls and certifying election results.

If he ever ran across anyone who was undecided about the way they were going to vote, Sam was always ready to give them advice. You can ask the members of the country club breakfast group about that.

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12U All Stars win District; 10U State begins today

Green to host 10U Cal Ripken State

ANGELINA ALCOTT
SPORTS WRITER

It was a busy week for the Green County Cal Ripken All Star teams last week. In between fireworks, food family and friends, both 10U and 12U All Star teams advanced the their respected Championship Games.

The 10U Dragons played in Munfordville and after battling back from a mid-tournament loss, they faced-off against Barren County in the Championship game. The 10U team fell to

Barren 4-7, and were named runners-up.

Green County 12U All-Stars traveled to Edmonson County for the District Tournament last week. The young 12U team dominated on defense and outscored the opponents 37-11 in runs. The tournament ran July 2-6.

In the first match-up, after multiple weather delays, the 12U Dragons played late into the night July 3 and run-ruled Allen County, 11-1. Pitcher Andrew Houk hit a two-run homer against the Patriots. He has enjoyed his final year of Cal Ripken and has made some great friends and memories along the way.

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Photo submitted

The Green County 12U Cal Ripken All Stars were named District Champions Saturday. They will head to the State Tournament in Scottsville at a later date.