



## Noon News

*The Weekly Newsletter of the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club*

P.O. Box 504 – Ripon, WI 54971 – [www.riponnoonkiwanis.org](http://www.riponnoonkiwanis.org)

Weekly Meetings Tuesdays at Noon at Ripon College's Pickard Commons

*Serving the Children of the World*

## NOON NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

December 1, 2009

### Attendance

20 Members and 2 Guests

### Guests

Ripon High School Student Kiwanian Rachael Studt, and Ripon Commonwealth publisher Tim Lyke were our guests today.

### Program: The Evolution of the Commonwealth-Press

The Ripon Commonwealth is one of Ripon's oldest businesses, first published in 1863. Prior to that, Ripon's newspaper was called The Ripon Herald. The Ripon Commonwealth Press is an award-winning weekly paper, historically known for its photos. In the 1960s, when Doug and Audrey Lyke purchased the paper, it was located in the current "Accurate Controls" building. Ripon Printers has grown through the years to a \$40 million per year business and employs 295 people. On October 12, 2009, the newspaper launched its online edition: "RiponPress.com"

Mission: Linking the business decision makers to the community. Goal: "Stoke the Fire" -- We get people to care and express their opinions.

Some Stories through the years:

The newspaper was made aware of a woman claiming to have cancer and financially struggling. Tim wrote an editorial about her circumstances and asked for donations. The following week, donations of items and money poured in to the newspaper office. Her parole officer called Tim and reported her to be a cancer-free fraud. When the paper announced the scam, not one person who had dropped off a donation asked for their gift back. As Tim put it, ‘not only are Riponites generous, they are forgiving.’

A man was arrested for embezzling from Green Lake State Bank. The paper’s policy is to withhold publishing anything until the person is charged in court. The radio station announced the embezzlement before the legal charges were formally pressed, but the Commonwealth chose not to. The man was later found guilty. Tim, having served on the Green Lake Chamber of Commerce alongside the man when he was the chamber president, wrote a character witness letter for the man, which put him into a precarious situation with the man’s former employer, who was also an advertiser in the Commonwealth. Tim indicated that in a small town, sometimes business and personal issues don’t mix well, but he did some soul searching and made a choice to support the man, knowing full well that he risked losing the advertiser’s account.

Years ago, Ripon police planned a drug raid on a Ripon home and invited a reporter from the Commonwealth to tag along. The owners filed a civil lawsuit, alleging that the newspaper reporter was trespassing. The case went all the way to the state Supreme Court, whereby the plaintiffs won. The defendants were charged a \$5 penalty plus court costs. Tim stated that it was a landmark case in Wisconsin.

In 1992, 10-year-old Ronnie Eichstedt was kidnapped and brutally raped and murdered, and her body subsequently discovered in Iowa County. The Commonwealth struggled with how to interview the family after her body was found for an article. The decision was made not to interview the family. When she was found dead, the paper printed an article and accidentally accused the Ripon High School Principal, Bob Spanbauer

as the murderer, making an error in the name of the real killer, Gerald Spanbauer.

A local car dealer threatened to cease advertising if the Commonwealth ran a story about one of their employees receiving a Driving Under the Influence citation. The Commonwealth struggled with reporting the facts versus potentially losing a paying customer, and decided to publish the story. Tim indicated that thankfully there were no repercussions.

Tim's most controversial editorial that did NOT get published was about Prince Charles and Princess Diana. Tim read several paragraphs of his tongue-in-cheek fun-poking at the Royal Windsors. He added that he wrote the editorial on a Friday night and that Sunday, Diana was killed in a tunnel in Paris. What was intended to be good-natured fun ended up in his unpublished files. As Tim said, "timing is everything".

Tim then expressed high praise for Ian Stepleton as the editor of the paper, indicating that Ian remains completely neutral in his reporting, rarely reflecting his own personal opinions in his reporting. One example given by Tim is that he has no idea where Ian stands politically, because that information has never landed in Ian's reporting. "He is a person to look up to," Tim stated.

Tim ended with this quote: "WE LOVE RIPON!"

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Chris Gatzke** will be celebrating a birthday on December 12th.  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHRIS!

**Mary Avery** has been a Noon Kiwanian for 26 years this month and **Don Amsden** has been a Noon Kiwanian for two years.

## Help Fight Cancer and Save \$25

**Marge Burling** reports that we can save \$25 in our Relay for Life admission fee next year if we sign up by the end of the month. We will add it to the agenda for Monday's board meeting.

## Board Meets next Monday, December 7

**Tonya Alling** reports that our board will meet next Monday, December 7 at 12 noon in Pickard Commons. She asks for any agenda items by this Wednesday so that the agenda can be emailed by Friday.

## A Trio of Giving Opportunities

Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis is selling nuts. Please contact Div. 12 Lt. Gov. **Stu Kindschuh** at [kindschuhs@jwspeaker.com](mailto:kindschuhs@jwspeaker.com) if you would like to order some. Orders placed on Fridays are available for pick-up the following Wednesday. This fundraiser runs for several more weeks. The Lakeside club purchased 10 boxes of cheese from us, so let's get a little nutty and return the favor.

There will be a chili supper to benefit **Cookie Daze** this Thursday night at Millers Tavern from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Ripon Rotary** is selling fruit. Orders are due Friday. Contact Tim Lyke (748-3017) if you'd like to place an order.

## Cheese Sale Update

One week from today we will be **packing cheese** baskets and boxes. Three Kiwanians are needed at Ripon Printers at 3:30 to set-up. We need all hands on deck at 4:30 to do the main packing. Go to door 41 in the rear of the Printers near the loading docks.

## Interclubbing

The interclub with **Ripon High School's Key Club** last week was attended by Rick, Barb, Tonya and Rich. They are very efficient with their meeting, which was over in six minutes (I'm not kidding)!

## **Dave Scherer is Doing Well**

Nooners **Helga Ridders**, **Norm Loomer**, and **Paul Nulton** all visited former Nooner **Dave Scherer** at Bethany Home in Waupaca and found him to be in excellent spirits and ready to regale visitors with his broad repertoire of stories. He is recuperating from a severe bout of congestive heart failure suffered about six weeks ago. He has been working hard at rehab and expects to be returning home this week. You can send him cards and letters there: 508 S Washington, Waupaca WI 54981-1733. While he is still at Bethany you can call him at (715) 258-5521. At home, call (715) 258-2241.

## **It'll Be a Dickens of a Chorus**

We are caroling in front of Diedrich Jewelers on Friday evening. Aktion Club members will be passing out event agendas while we are singing and bell ringing. Please arrive at 6:30 p.m. Friday night in front of Diedrich's -- we will sing until we get cold.

## **Bells are About to Ring**

Head Ringer **Rich Scamehorn** reports that Bell ringers are needed from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday night at Pick n Save during Dickens of a Christmas. Tom Keuler volunteered to fill the slot. He also indicated that Circle K needs volunteers on Friday morning at Save-A-Lot. Kristy volunteered to take a slot. Two or three other slots need to be filled. Contact Rich if you can help.

## **Happy Bucks!**

**Jack Christ** is happy to have change, he is happy to be here and he is happy that his son is coming home to visit from Indonesia.

**Marge Burling:** "If you want to grow dope – plant a man"

**Kristy Sadlon** is “just very happy today!”

**Andy Lyke:** “What is the difference in Bonds and Men? – Bonds mature”

**Tim Lyke’s** family bought a dog on Sunday. He took the dog out at 2 a.m. in his bath robe, promptly demonstrated what he wanted the dog to do, and gave Lucy her first shower, turning her from a border collie into a golden collie.

**Barb Evensen** is happy about the Dickens of a Quilt Show and all the beautiful quilts in it. Stop by Horicon Bank during Dickens to see them all.

## **Queen of Spades 50-50 Raffle**

The pot grew to \$117 today and with 44 cards in the deck, Key Club Student Kiwanian **Rachael Studt** pulled **Tim Lyke’s** ticket. Tim selected the five of spades which won him \$5. CONGRATULATIONS TIM! Next week’s pot starts at \$112!

## **Who Is Sick?**

If you know of anyone who is ill or injured, please contact **Steve Sorenson, Helga Ridders, or Marge Burling.**

## **Service Hours Anyone?**

Please keep track of your service hours and e-mail them to **Kristy Sadlon** at [ksadlon3606@charter.net](mailto:ksadlon3606@charter.net) .

## **On the Agenda**

**Dec. 4**

Dickens of a Christmas **caroling** and **bell ringing** in front of Diedrich Jewelers from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**Dec. 4-5**

Salvation Army **Bell Ringing** at Pick 'n' Save

**Dec. 8**

Program: **Danelle Phillips** of Ripon Medical Center: "Lighten Your Load, Focus on Wellness."

**Dec. 8**

**Cheese pack** from 4:30 until 7:30 or so at Ripon Printers, Door 41.

**Dec. 16 (Wednesday)**

We'll have a joint meeting with Early Birds and Rotary for a Christmas program by the **Ripon High School Jazz Band**. The meeting will be at Royal Ridges at noon.

**Dec. 22**

Scoutmaster **Dave Schoff** and members of Troop 735 will present "100 Years of Scouting." **We will need a head count for Sodexo so Sarge knows how much food to prepare.** The College is closed for a month but will keep the commons open for us all but December 29th.

**Dec. 29**

We'll meet at **Immanuel United Methodist Church** for pizza and salad.