



## Waunakee Rotary Club

Aug. 23, 2007  
Vol. 41 No. 6

Rotarians can help combat preventable blindness and save a person's eyesight for just \$20, said Boris Frank of the Combat Blindness Foundation, who spoke at the Aug. 23 Waunakee Rotary meeting.

Boris is the president and CEO of the Combat Blindness Foundation, which is sponsoring eye care in developing countries.

Currently there are 45 million blind people in the world, and 90 percent of them are in developing countries. Eighty percent of the blindness is treatable or preventable, and over half of all blindness is caused by cataracts.

Cataracts can be cured with a 20-minute surgery for only \$20, Boris said.

Boris showed a DVD about the work being done to prevent blindness. In the past 20 to 25 years, cases of avoidable blindness doubled around the world. In 2020, it is estimated that if nothing is done, 70 million people will be blind worldwide.

Dr. Suresh Chandra of the UW founded Combat Blindness. Since 1984, one half million patients have been screened for cataracts surgery.

In the film, Dr. Chandra said after a cataract surgery, the most incredible moment is when the bandages are taken off. Some people had not been able to see their children or grandchildren for many years.

People with cataracts could not be productive members; they could not farm or work. But after the surgery, they became productive once again.

Dr. Chandra said the goal is to eliminate preventable or treatable blindness by the year 2020. The

goal is to build a medical center where people can be trained to treat blindness and to perform 1 million cataract surgeries over the next 10 years.

Rotary International is doing its part, using the Polio Plus model. Project 2020 is a Combat Blindness Initiative in partnership with Wisconsin Rotary Clubs.

Rotary Clubs will pledge \$20 per year per club member for five years. With matches from the Districts and Rotary International, one Rotarian's \$20 contribution can equal \$70. And with another \$20 match from Combat Blindness, each individual's contribution will total \$90.

There is a Sight Walk planned for Sept. 8 to raise funds for Combat Blindness that will start at the Library Mall in Madison. For information, see the Web site, [www.combatblindness.com](http://www.combatblindness.com).

Diane Ballweg, who introduced Boris, said the Endres Manufacturing Foundation had provided a grant to Combat Blindness.

#### Other items:

• President Lynne Spielman said the current Rotarian magazine has a story about 20 years of women in Rotary. That's when women were first invited to join Rotary clubs. It also has a section about the Rotary Basics with a good overview about Rotary International, Lynne said.

Guests: Fred Caywood, guest of Lynne Spielman; Diane Ballweg, guest of the club; Gregory Mode, visiting Rotary, guest of Roberta Baumann; Kelly Cefalu, guest of Kathy Cefalu; Ben Ballweg, guest of Ron Ballweg.

### OFFICERS

LYNNE SPIELMAN, PRESIDENT • DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT ELECT  
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY  
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • KIM LENGFELD, TREASURER

### DIRECTORS

TOM REIS • LORI DERAUF • BILL ERICKSON

### Calendar of Events:

Sept. 6, Golf outing at the Meadows

Sept. 8, Sight Walk in Madison

Oct. 6-7, Oktoberfest

Oct. 14, Rotary Rustic Road Rally

Visiting Rotarians: Boris Frank, Madison Downtown; Matt Wahoske, Madison Downtown.

Birthdays: None this week.

Anniversaries: Aug. 26, Lori and Peter Derauf; Aug. 26, John and Debbie Cullen; Aug. 27, Dan and Joyce Muxfeld; Aug. 27, Danny and Lori Miller; Aug. 28, Connie and Marjorie Blau.

Prayers: Aug. 23, Leonard Allen; Aug. 30, Kim Wilde.

Programs: Aug. 23, Attorney John Mitby, mediation and arbitration; Aug. 30, Madison Audubon; Sept. 6, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Aug. 23, Peggy Acker-Farber, Leonard Allen; Aug. 30, Bob Arntz, Ken Ballweg; Sept. 6, Ron Ballweg, Connie Blau.

### Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org). Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.