



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**

**Jan. 8, 2008
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When disaster hits, Wisconsin Emergency Management is called to action.

Bob Klinger of that agency described how Wisconsin Emergency Management, or WEM, was activated to help deal with flooding last spring. After record snowfall last winter, the ground was saturated, creating an opportunity for the perfect storm.

Between June 1-15, between 8 and 12 inches of rain fell, and there was nowhere for it to go. Gov. Jim Doyle issued a State of Emergency declaration on June 8, and the flooding ended up to be the worst disaster in terms of cost since 1993, Bob said.

WEM was on call 24/7, and Bob went to seven different counties to help provide preliminary disaster relief assistance. Bob remembers shortly after going to Milwaukee, the Interstate was closed, and it took him 2.5 hours to return with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Administration to Madison.

WEM provided 700,000 sandbags to communities and helped to coordinate meals and shelter with help from the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Some 2,500 wells were tested, and 28 percent were contaminated. It was surprising that the flood caused only three deaths, Bob said. In all, 31 counties were involved, all eligible for hazard mitigation. While the incident period lasted from June 5-June 25, there is still ongoing individual and public assistance.

Among the key concerns through the disaster were the evacuation and safety of residents, the

safety of wells and road closings.

Thousands of homes and roads were flooded.

"I said we would have been better off to see a tornado go through rather than to see all the damage the flood caused," Bob said.

Many agencies worked around the clock, among them the Department of Transportation, the Department of Corrections whose prisoners provided sandbagging, the Department of Trade and Consumer Protection, the Department of National Resources and the National Guard.

In all, \$54 million became available for individual assistance – temporary homes, home repairs and disaster unemployment. Another \$88 million in public assistance went to public infrastructure and the cost of repairs.

Gays Mills was flooded for the second time, and that community is still attempting to mitigate the damage by having the town moved.

Bob said WEM conducts exercise drills for communities' emergency operating plans so when disasters such as last spring's flooding occurs, responders are ready.

Other items:

- Greg Garton thanked the club for its generous donation to the Lake Melvin Yacht Club, which will allow Lake Melvin to serve a record number of families this year.

- Someone is needed to work at the Rotary in Lights display Dec. 22, if only for a few hours. If you can do it, give Dan Statz a call.

Guests: Jeanette Erickson, guest of Bill Erickson; Lori Hadfield, guest of Bud Zander; Roman

OFFICERS

DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT • TOM REIS, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

DAN MUXFELD • BILL ERICKSON

Calendar of Events:

•Jan. 8, Rotary Club Holiday dinner

Bukolt, guest of Susan Vergeront; Vincent Schaaf, guest of Ellen Schaaf.

Birthdays: Jan. 9, Bob Pulvermacher; Jan. 11, Greg Garton.

Anniversaries: Jan. 12, Ken and Diane Ballweg.

Prayers: Jan. 8, Pat Durden; Jan. 15, Susan Vergeront; Jan. 22, Leonard Allen.

Programs: Wisconsin Emergency Management; Dec. 25, Christmas Day, no meeting; Jan. 1, New Year's Day, no meeting; Jan. 8, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Jan. 8, Gene Smith and Lynne Spielman; Jan. 15, Jim Starling and Harriet Statz; Jan. 22, Ray Statz and Sandy Taylor.

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!!*

**Make up
meetings online**

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