



## Waunakee Rotary Club

May 6, 2010  
Vol. 43 No. 37

Al Arnold of the Dean Foundation Reading Clinic believes that teaching kids to read may keep them out of jail.

Al was the speaker at the April 29 Waunakee Rotary Club meeting. With 48 years of teaching experience under his belt, he has an "unbelievable passion for helping kids and especially helping kids to read," he said.

Al said Wisconsin and the rest of the nation has a problem – about one-third of the children taking the National Assessment of Student Progress are scoring below a basic reading level for their grade.

In Wisconsin, educators have identified only about 2.5 percent of kids who need special help in reading. That leaves many children who read below their grade level without any help.

Al added that roughly 75 percent of the people incarcerated cannot read at a fourth-grade level and are classified as illiterate. And the folks who make prison beds use third-grade reading scores to predict how many such beds will be needed in the future, he said.

Al said all children can be taught to read successfully. Educators like Al now have the knowledge and technology; now they need to figure out a system of delivery.

Al deals with struggling readers who likely will not be successful if they do not receive assistance. He said the one-third of students struggling statewide fall into three categories.

Twenty-five percent struggle because of their environment – they have not been exposed to books or bedtime stories.

Another 25 percent have a general medical condition such as hearing or vision problems or have ADHD (attention deficit hyperactive disorder).

And 50 percent have a neural or anatomical learning disability – namely, dyslexia.

Al is involved mainly with children with dyslexia. He has worked with Maryanne Wolf, a literacy expert from Tufts University, on programs to help children with dyslexia read fluently. Al said this takes time and patience, but it does work. Students in the clinic can improve their reading level by two grades within six months, he said.

The Dean Foundation Reading Clinic is now looking to reach out to families who lack the money to pay for tutors. Scholarships would enable additional children to improve their reading skills.

In other news:

- Rotary Cleanup Day is May 6.
- Gordon Meffert's son has worked on the film, "Feed the Fish," and it's a good movie, Gordon said.

- The Jachin Jordan Golf Outing has 36 foursomes, Jon said. He is looking for about two more business sponsors. He said the support has been overwhelming.

Guests: Jon McKenna, guest of Bob Pulvermacher; Alan Langeteig, guest of Jim Tubbs.

### OFFICERS

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

### DIRECTORS

ELLEN SCHAAF • JOHN CULLEN • LINDA OLSON

### Calendar of Events:

- May 1, Rotary Work Day
- May 17, Jachin Jordan Golf Outing at Bishop's Bay
- May 21, District Conference in LaCrosse.

Visiting Rotarians: Kevin Pachucki, Madison South.

Birthdays: May 12, Ed Kruchten.

Anniversaries: May 6, Roxanne and Kevin Johnson; May 9, Ed and Jan Niebuhr; May 12, Brent Ziegler and Angela Schwab

Prayers: May 6, Susan Vergeront; May 13, Leonard Allen; May 20, Pat Durden.

Programs: May 6, Club Assembly; May 13, Scott Walker, Gubernatorial Candidate; May 20, Classification talks, Daren Steuart and Becky Ohan.

Greeters: May 6, Harriet Statz and Ray Statz; May 13, Sandy Taylor and Don Tierney; May 20, Luke Tierney and Jon Townley.

### 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.