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Waunakee Rotary Club

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Republican Scott Walker hopes his experience as Milwaukee County Executive and his success at keeping taxes down there will help him win the gubernatorial primary and oust Gov. Jim Doyle.

"What the voters of this state want more than anything is someone who knows what's right and what's wrong," Walker told members of the Waunakee Rotary Club last week.

Walker was the speaker at the club's March 9 meeting.

As Milwaukee County Executive, Walker oversees a \$1.2 billion budget and 6,100 employees.

Walker points to that executive experience as an advantage over his Republican rival in the primary, U.S. Rep. Mark Green. Walker also said his name recognition and political success in the populous Milwaukee County area could be key to the Republicans' hopes in November.

As county executive, Walker said he has turned around a dysfunctional political culture and kept taxes down.

Walker said he has developed four budgets in which there were freezes or cuts in the tax levy. Those savings were accomplished without program cuts, although there were cuts in the work force, he said.

Wisconsin is headed in a good direction, despite Gov. Doyle's failures, Walker said. Among those failures are continued high local and state taxes, the state's low ranking as a desirable place to retire and vetoes of property tax freeze proposals.

He also said Doyle is presiding over an "out of control, corrupt government."

"We can't afford to trust the gov-

ernor for four more years," he said.

An Iowa native, Walker grew up in Delavan and attended Marquette University. He was elected to the state Assembly in 1993 and became Milwaukee County Executive in 2002 – the first Republican to hold that office.

He lives in Wauwatosa with his wife and two children.

Other items:

- At Thursday's meeting, someone raised the idea of giving Gordy Meicher a \$5 we-miss-you fine to support him. The idea being that that would provide other Rotarians relief from fines and foster more attendance. The idea won enthusiastic support among Rotarians, who always want to fine Gordy anyway.

- Rex Endres reports that the Whitetails Unlimited event was the best ever, and Rotary should take in about \$5,000 for helping there.

- The deadline is coming up for the cheaper registration at the district conference. You can register via the Internet by going to Waunakee Rotary's web site and following the links to the district site.

- Phil Brereton stopped by with information on the Lodi Rotary Club's smelt fry, beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, and Wednesday, April 5 at the City Limits Restaurant, Lodi.

- Greg Garton has information for people who would be interested in traveling to India for the polio eradication program there.

- Wisconsin Rapids Rotary has a raffle going, and Greg has tickets for them as well.

Guests: Ellen Schaaf, guest of Lisa Pertzborn-Whiting; Walt Bilsky, guest of Bill Erickson; Margie Blau and Dennis O'Loughlin, guests of

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Calendar of Events:

March 15, Super Raffle
May 19-21, District Celebration
June, golf outing
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Oktoberfest

Connie Blau; Sara Toijala, guest of Ken Pesik; Ken Dziak, guest of Don Tierney; Dale Hatfield, guest of Jim Tubbs; Liz Orella and John Rudig.

Visiting Rotarians: Phil Brereton, Lodi.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: March 16, Leonard Allen; March 23, Bruce Engebretson, March 30, Kim Wilde; April 6, Pat Durden.

Programs: March 16, handbells, Susan Udell; March 23, Safe Harbor Arise, Lou King; March 30, Dr. Phil from Genetic Savings and Clone; April 6, Club Assembly; April 13, Mark Green, candidate for governor; April 20, International Crane Foundation; April 27, Wisconsin Sports Development Corp, Ron Vincent; May 4, Club Assembly; May 11, International committee; May 18, Collector's Choice, John Kreuger.

Greeters: March 16, Kevin Fischer and Betsy Flanagan; March 23, Amy Gile-Engel and Jeremiah Gollon; March 30, Wendy Grunewald-Fahlgren and Rich Harris; April 6, Paul Hermanson and Bob Hoskins.