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NEWS

Blind River Rotary Club welcomes six new members

By KELLY JAMES, For The Standard
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District governor Al Bonney (center, back), assistant governor Roger Boyer and Rotary Club of Blind River president Terry Fryer welcomed new local service club members Ross Jensen, Kim Tambeau-Funk, Tammy Olsen,

Sue Jensen, Connie Horton and Erik Jokinen at last week's meeting. Photo by KELLY JAMES/FOR THE STANDARD

Some creative thinking has enabled the Rotary Club of Blind River to attract six new members to the ranks of the local service club.

After several years of providing service to the community with the same core group of Rotarians, two members of the local club came up with a unique method to help attract new members. With the idea hatched by Rotarians Bea Jensen and Roger Boyer to form a breakfast club as an alternative to the traditional evening club, the local Rotary Club soon had a plethora of excellent candidates waiting in line to become members.

"We realized that just because our club traditionally has met in the evening, that may not be convenient for everyone," Roger Boyer explained as the club gathered last week to hear an address from Rotary District governor Al Bonney of Traverse City, Michigan. "By offering a different meeting time, we suddenly opened our club to a host of great people to join us."

Bonney was mightily impressed by the influx of new members to the local club. He pointed out that, "These people were chosen to become Rotarians because they are leaders in the community and they have made a commitment to make this an even better place to live."

The newest members of the Rotary Club of Blind River are: Connie Horton, Erik Jokinen, Sue Jensen, Tammy Olsen, Kim Tambeau-Funk and Ross Jensen. Many of the new members will attend the club's new morning meeting to be held each Tuesday at 7 a.m. at the 17 Restaurant, while other club members will continue to meet each Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at the 17 Restaurant.

Local club president Terry Fryer emphasized that although the Rotary Club of Blind River has two separate meeting times, it is still one club working together for the good of the local community. The local club sponsors numerous local projects such as the summer concert series (held each Thursday evening at the gazebo along the river), awards scholarships to local students and provides support to numerous local groups and individuals.

Bonney praised the work of the local club, noting that the Rotary Club of Blind River has been a strong and vibrant club for many years. He challenged the new Rotarians to continue in this tradition, pointing out that, "Rotary has changed my life, and I hope that it will be equally rewarding for you."

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