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Annual meeting packed with people, laughs, and the chance to chat with Neil Armstrong

By Hap Cawood



Neil Armstrong got a laugh at Amanda Wright Lane's remarks when she presented him a numbered copy of Orville Wright's Pilot's Certificate #1. (Photo by Dick Palmer)

With Neil Armstrong as the cordial and friendly guest at the cocktail hour, and the entertaining speaker at the after-dinner program, the Club's annual meeting June 5 was packed (sold-out seating for dinner), lively, fun and memorable.

A number of club members and their guests took the opportunity to chat with and in some instances have their photo taken with the former naval aviator and test pilot who commanded the Apollo 11 mission and relieved a tense nation on July 16, 1969 with his first transmission from the moon: "The Eagle has landed."

Though history still vibrates in the background of those who make it, Armstrong's talk back here on earth, in the club auditorium some 38 years later, was a down-home mix of humor and insight. He offered anecdotes and quips about the nature of the engineer - not always great communicators, but with a mindset to make things better. The laughter made the occasion just right, and the standing ovations at the beginning and end of his 25-minute

presentation came from the heart - not for simple celebrity, which he eschews, but in appreciation of the epic effort he represented and the life-or-death skill he brought to it.

Another notable guest included philanthropist **Oscar Boonshoft**, there to witness the presentation of the Wilson Charbonneau Award to the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery.

In the program run by Master of Ceremonies **Bill Vaughn**, a former president of the club, outgoing president **Ben Graham** listed a number of accomplishments by members and staff - some of them, like the gala celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force, dramatic; and others, like \$657,087 budget revenues that



(Photo by Dick Palmer)

barely squeaked into the red, worth a round of applause and chuckles because it was so close.

U. S. Federal District Judge **Walter Rice**, who seems to have had as much impact on the community from his civic efforts as from his judicial power and sensibility, swore in **Harry Seifert** as the next club president. Seifert then laid out a vision of what was being achieved in Dayton, how the club can be a partner in this, and how this effort had already started.

Check inside for more details and photos.

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