WATERLOO TECHNICAL SOCIETY

7 FEBRUARY 2001 MEETING MINUTES

The 7 February 2001 meeting of the Waterloo Technical Society was held at the Holiday Inn Greenstreets Restaurant in Cedar Falls, IA with 23 members and 9 guests present. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Charles Angel at 7:10 PM. Past Presidents and Honorary Members were recognized. Minutes of the 10 January 2001 meeting were read, corrected, and approved.

Gordon Licht presented the Treasurer's report with the transactions that had taken place between 9 January 2001 to 7 February 2001. The ending balance was $506.06.

Vice-President Angel asked if the meal change was satisfactory. The Greenstreets Chef had changed the menu from our normal steak/baked potato meal to one of roast beef/mashed potatoes and was inquiring if the meal was satisfactory. There were no negative comments.

Gene Hunck, our Program chairperson, introduced our speaker for the evening, Dr. Richard Mauer, from the Mauer Eye Center, who spoke on Eye Technologies.

Dr. Richard Mauer is an Iowa native. He attended the University of Iowa and got his BS degree in 1981 and his M.D. degree in 1984. His internship was completed at Iowa Internal Medicine in Des Moines in 1985 and his residency was at Kresgei Institute, in Detroit, MI, from 1986 to 1989. He has spent the last 12 years in Waterloo at the Mauer Eye Center.

Dr. Mauer's presentation was on new technologies in the field of eye care and in particular, on LASIK procedures for the correction of myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness), and astigmatism. He uses the Excimer laser, which removes microscopic layers of corneal tissue to change its shape, allowing light rays to focus more directly on the retina. The Excimer laser is a machine that removes tissue with up to 0.25 microns of accuracy. Only a maximum of 50 microns is removed. The machine is built in 3 countries, the U.S., Germany and Japan. It is owned by the hospital and the doctors rent it. It costs $80,000 per year just to maintain the LASIK machine. The effect of the surgery is immediate, with only a slight discomfort that usually goes away in 12 to 24 hours. There are limitations and not every person achieves 20/20 vision, i.e. it does not always eliminate the wearing of glasses. The success rate is that 90% achieve at least 20/40 vision or better. About 75% do get to the level of 20/20 vision. The cost of the procedure is $1495 per eye.

Dr. Mauer also touched on future technology.

Questions were answered at the end of the presentation.

Vice-President Angel announced that the next meeting would be held on March 13th with the speaker being an Iowa Public Television Engineer from Des Monies, speaking on HDTV.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Mohling, CO-Secretary