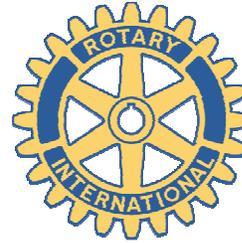


JULY 2008

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SEE THE STARS – REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The theme of this year's Rotary International Conference was "See the Stars" and, indeed, we did see Hollywood stars, both during Plenary sessions and Host Hospitality events. But the real "stars" and "heroes" of the conference were the outstanding presenters during Plenary and Breakout sessions. In true Rotary fashion we celebrated our successes with polio, honoring the three great heroes – Salk, Sabin, and Rotary International – all responsible for our 99% reduction in polio cases. First, Dr. Tadataka Yamada, President, Global Health Program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, described their foundation as having invested in a "winner" in Rotary International. There were rumors floating around that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation may make Rotary International a permanent partner.

One of the most outstanding Plenary Sessions was #3 when the world's great leaders in polio eradication spoke most eloquently about Rotary International's pledge to eradicate polio. Trustee Chair Robert Scott declared PolioPlus our number one priority this year, but reminded us that we must not lose our Annual Giving commitment. The Rotary Foundation had a 14% increase in Annual Giving this past year (\$115m) and there are indications that this will continue to grow as the world recognizes our contributions to humanity (2008-09 goal is to reach \$125m). Featured speakers during Plenary Session 3 included Ann Veneman, Executive Director of UNICEF, Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director, U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General, World Health Organization. They each spoke about the tremendous benefit and involvement of Rotary in being primarily responsible for the progress of eradication of this most difficult disease. Dr. Chan spoke of the power of Rotary's vision and described us as the world's "largest and most humanitarian organization." Highlight of the morning occurred when President Wilf Wilkinson announced that the Canadian Government had just awarded \$60m to The Rotary Foundation to help with polio eradication. Prediction: more world governments will follow suit!

Important business took place in Plenary Session 4, when DGE Paul Frey, and 33,000 others, were elected and confirmed as District Governors for 2009-10. Congratulations Paul! You are now officially the District 7620 District Governor for 2009-10. We also elected John Kenny from Edinborough, Scotland as Rotary International President for 2009-10. Directors were also elected, including Zone 31-32 Director, Michael Colasurdo, and Zone 33-34 Director Eric Adams.

District 7620 had seventy-nine attendees at this International Conference. Your District Governors continue to be proud of the accomplishments of our district and the support we show for Rotary International. PDG Richard Angus hosted a wonderful reception for me as incoming District Governor and my colleagues from other districts were dutifully impressed with the support I receive from our district. DG Rich Carson arranged venues for many of the attendees from our district (as well as some from other districts) to meet for breakfast and dinner, as well as an evening night cap. Every Rotarian should have the opportunity to attend an International Conference. This is where you get the world perspective of Rotary. This was my fourth International Conference and I continue to be impressed by Rotarians from around the world who share common goals with all of us.

INSTALLATIONS

District Governor Bette Lewis was installed on June 27, 2008 by Past District Governor Richard Angus, both from the Rotary Club of College Park. A celebration was hosted by Bette's home club at the University of Maryland Inn and Conference Center, in the very room where Bette became a Rotarian seventeen years ago. Attendees enjoyed dinner music by a Native American flutist and a power point presentation of photos of Bette from birth until now. We were honored to have Past Rotary International President Frank Devlyn and his lovely wife, Gloria Rita, present, along with fifteen Past District Governors.





Club installations have also been taking place these past few weeks in District 7620, as well as all over the world in nearly 33,000 Rotary Clubs. Rotary's tradition of changing leadership every twelve months, both at Rotary International and worldwide clubs, continues. This practice provides training and leadership opportunities and stimulates enthusiasm and creativity with each new year.

DISTRICT 7620'S CLUB PRESIDENTS ARE EXCEPTIONALLY WELL TRAINED THIS YEAR WITH ALL BUT FOUR HAVING ATTENDED CHESAPEAKE PETS OR AN ALTERNATE. A big thanks to all the clubs for supporting their leadership by covering the costs for their training. Beginning with the 2008-09 Rotary year, the District will cover \$100 of the cost for PETS training, so clubs should include \$300 in their club budgets to cover this cost next year.

GALLAUDET SCHOLARS – MEET RICCARDO FERRACUTI

Let me introduce you to one of District 7620's Gallaudet Scholars. Riccardo Ferracuti from Rome, Italy, is a second year student in Gallaudet's master's of arts in interpretation program and expects to graduate next year. Riccardo grew up attending deaf schools in various cities in Italy, where the sub-par skills in Italian Sign Language of many of his teachers often left him unhappy with the level of education he was receiving.

Despite his disappointment with the teaching, Ferracuti graduated from high school. Although he was not motivated to continue his education, he eventually received a degree in sociology, then degrees in linguistics and philosophy. His negative views of education changed when he was accepted into the master's of interpretation program at Gallaudet. During his first semester, Ferracuti studied in the English Language International Program to learn English, before beginning courses in the master's program. He was impressed with his professors' teaching styles and their mastery of ASL (American Sign Language). Sign Language is a universal language understood by most deaf people the world over.

CATCH A DREAM

Clubs are actively "Catching a Dream" already! As I travel to individual clubs making my official visits, many are presenting checks for \$1000 to meet their obligation to raise one-thousand dollars or more this year for PolioPlus. The creative use of each club's "Catch a Dream" is evident. How about this? Southern Anne Arundel chooses one person to "wear the hat" each week and fines are collected from other members by the hat wearer to go into the PolioPlus fund. Creative, fun and successful in raising funds for PolioPlus. Thus far, DG Bette has received checks or statements from the following clubs for PolioPlus:

College Park -- \$6500
Fredericktowne -- \$1000
Carroll Creek -- \$1000
Aberdeen -- \$1000

We are "on our way" toward that \$70,000 goal for this Rotary year. Remember, we have an obligation to raise on average \$1000 per club for the next three years. Watch Leadership News next month to see how many more clubs have met their obligation!



South Anne Arundel's Blair Smith, Ginny Meerman and Lee Derrick "catch" the spirit.



UPPER MONTGOMERY CHARTERS

Our newest District 7620 Rotary Club, Upper Montgomery, chartered on June 10, 2008 with twenty-three active members. Past District Governor and District Membership/Extension Chair, Ray Streib, conducted the chartering ceremony and induction of the members. Ray was assisted by Past District Governors Pat Kasuda, Morris Gevinson, Raj Saini and Bob Nelson. District Governor Elect, Bette Lewis, installed the new officers. Upper Montgomery meets on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m., at Café Miletto Restaurant in Germantown. Please welcome our newest club and if your club would like to contribute a gift of Rotary paraphernalia or cash, you may do so by contacting President Andrew Einstein at 301-351-1717 or drewster711@gmail.com.



Vijay Khetarpal, right, presents a bell to Upper Montgomery Rotary Club's charter president, Andrew Einsmann. Upper Montgomery is the newest club in District 7620.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR IOWA

The Rotary Club of Greenbelt has been spearheading an effort to provide relief to flood stricken districts in Iowa. DG Bette Lewis has been in contact with the District Governors of Districts 5970 and 6000 in Iowa and learned first hand of the dire circumstances of people in those Districts. District 6000, which contains Cedar Rapids, was particularly hard hit. Donations of goods and cash have been pouring in to the Greenbelt Club's collection site at S. K. Motors in Lanham. Rotarian Steve Kemp is coordinating the collection efforts and can be reached at 301-237-8098.

District Governor Bette Lewis will be initiating a Disaster Relief Task Force this year to develop a District Plan for addressing these needs in the future. If you would be interested in serving on this task force, please contact the District Office and give your name and contact information. We would like to see representation from all areas of the District.

FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

We are currently in the process of announcing applications for The Rotary Foundation programs: Group Study Exchange and University Teacher Fellowship Grants. Club Presidents should watch for these announcements in both e-mail and U. S. mail and forward these to your club members who may be interested.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2008-09 LEADERSHIP

Sept. 2-7 – Zone 31/32 Institute, King of Prussia, PA
Sept. 8 - Literacy Day
Sept. 13 - Membership Development Seminar, BWI Ramada
Oct. 25 – Rotary Leadership Institute, Frederick
Nov. 1 – Pre-PETS I

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL VISIT SCHEDULE (July – August)

15 - Bowie, Northern Montgomery County
17 - Bladensburg
18 - Columbia-Patuxent
21 - St. Mary's County-Lexington Park
22 - Capitol Hill
23 - Charles County-La Plata, Havre de Grace
24 - South Harford County, Glen Burnie
25 - North Bethesda
28 - Middle River
29 - Clarksville, Wheaton-Kensington
30 - Upper Marlboro
31 - Ellicott City Sunrise

August

4 - Prince Frederick
5 - Baltimore
6 - Montgomery Village
7 - South Anne Arundel, Rockville
12 - Parole, Olney
13 - Central Prince George's, Lake Shore
14 - Ellicott City
19 - Charlotte Hall, Columbia
20 - Bel Air
21 - Metro-Bethesda, Towson
26 - Bond's Meadow
27 - Towsontowne, Elkridge
28 - Owings Mills-Reisterstown