



Leadership News

from District Governor *Bette Lewis*



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ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH

January is a great time to make sure that people in our communities know about Rotary, what we do for humanity, and how extensive our work is. This is a good time to honor someone in your community with a Paul Harris Fellow designation. Present it at a public forum where you will have an opportunity to inform the public about Rotary and about The Rotary Foundation's significance. Let the community know about the service projects you do and how the donation made to TRF supports these projects. When others see how significant our organization is, it becomes an organization that others want to join. This month is also a good time to increase our own knowledge and awareness of our organization by educating our own club members about Rotary. All too often when asked what Rotary is all about, individual members are at a loss for words and this doesn't increase our public image. The Rotary International website, as well as *The Rotarian* magazine are great sources of information.

COLUMBIA CLUBS RECEIVE PR GRANT

A consortium of clubs in Howard County successfully submitted a proposal to RI for a \$7,000 Public Relations Matching Grant. The clubs, recognizing that their area was one of the fastest growing in the region, developed an innovative plan to create and distribute professional media releases to local publications and radio stations, purchase targeted advertising and implement direct marketing strategies. The clubs raised 100 percent of the match already and have begun telling the Rotary story to their neighbors in Howard County. Good luck!

GOVERNOR'S CITATION AWARD

Criteria for the 2008-2009 Governor's Citation Award are attached to this publication. The award will be in the form of a banner, which can be hung at club meetings and other events. The "Required" criteria are those that have been designated by Rotary International and the 2008-09 RI President. Our purpose for being is to provide service

so every club should be conducting Service Projects. While every club is not expected to have a project in each of our focus areas, three out of five will qualify for the total 20 points. Effective club leadership demands participation in District sponsored events where important Rotary information is disseminated and leadership skills are honed. Not every club will achieve 100% so there are two lesser levels of attainment. Awards Chairperson Larry Leahy is available to talk with clubs about the award. The Awards criteria may be downloaded from the district website: www.rotary7620.org.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

During the 2008-2009 Rotary year, President D. K. Lee is conducting twelve Presidential Membership Conferences throughout the world. District 7620 was chosen as one of those sites. These membership conferences are meant to continue the momentum started during the 2007-08 Rotary year when seven conferences were held. The purpose of the conferences is to explore and introduce: a vision for the future of Rotary International and its membership; how we can best impact membership at the club level; discuss how demographic and generational changes impact this vision; review pertinent regional changes and the impact on membership; and celebrate best practices at the club level. Additionally, the goal at each of these conferences is for presenters outside of Rotary to discuss volunteering trends and demographic changes within the specific region. Our conference starts on Friday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m. with a reception and remarks by President D. K. Lee. Sessions start at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 28 and end at 4:00 p.m. Our venue is the Greenbelt Marriott. A registration form, conference flyer, and invitation from President D. K. Lee can be downloaded from the district website: www.rotary7620.org. The conference is open to all Rotarians.



DISTRICT CONFERENCE

We are fortunate to have two of Rotary's fifteen Directors on our District Conference Cruise. Director Eric Adamson (Zones 33-34) will be our official RI Presidential Representative and Director Michael Colasurdo (Zones 31-32) will be a guest of Districts 7260 and 7620. This will give us an opportunity to say farewell to Zone 32 and become acquainted with our new Zone 33. Both Directors will have an opportunity to address our total joint conference, as well as our individual district celebrations.

The travel agency has been able to negotiate a slight reduction in stateroom prices due to a decrease in fuel costs recently. The new price reflects a \$25 per person reduction overall. Base price is now \$825 rather than \$850. For those who have already paid in full, there will be a refund coming to you when the final payment statements are sent out on February 1st.

A new set of District 7620 ByLaws will be forthcoming and will be voted upon at the business meeting on Sunday evening aboard the Explorer of the Seas. These will be mailed out in advance for clubs to examine and approve so that their delegate will vote as the club wishes.

To date, there are only thirty-nine free seats left on the buses to Bayonne, N. J. for the District Conference. If you want to take advantage of this transportation opportunity you need to get your reservations in as soon as possible. The District will not be able to provide additional bus transportation free. ***REMINDER: The deadline for registering is February 15th.***

WATER MINI-SUMMIT

Dirty water is the number one killer of children. Remember, President D. K. Lee has challenged us to reduce child mortality this year. If we are serious about this challenge, clubs need to start planning to get involved in a water and/or sanitation project. Our Mini-Summit on Water is a perfect way to get started. The Water Mini-Summit will be held on February 14th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the 4-H Center at the University of Maryland. Breakfast will be served and there is a small fee to cover the cost - \$15. Our featured speaker will be Paul Faeth, President and CEO of Global Water Challenge, a non-profit charged with working with a number of organizations, including WASRAG, Rotary's Water Resource Group. Paul will tell you about a "Live Earth" global event in which local Rotary Clubs can become involved. We will also feature a presentation of Glen Burnie's Central American water project and another district project in which several clubs will be involved. The latter project is being spearheaded by the Columbia-Patuxent club. Registration forms will be emailed to all club presidents soon and will be available for downloading on the District website: www.rotary7620.org.

ANNUAL ROTARY FOUNDATION DINNER

SAVE THE DATE! Our annual Foundation Dinner will be held on March 30th at the Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt. We expect Rotary International President D. K. Lee to be our featured speaker. Invitations will be mailed out in mid-February.

4-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST

Hi Fellow Rotarians. I just wanted to inform you of the key dates for the 2009 Four Way Test Speech Contest. The Semi-finals will be held on Saturday, April 4th at Glen Burnie High School. This will be an morning contest. The deadline for contestant submissions will be March 30th. The finals will be held at a luncheon following the District Assembly on April 18th at the Laurel West Holiday Inn. This year's dates had to be moved forward a couple of weeks because of the District Conference being in the form of a cruise which would not be conducive to holding the contest there. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Phennicie at 410-859-7987(office), 410-969-3866(home), or email at mphennicie@bwiairport.com.

2008-09 GOALS

The mid-year point is a good time to take a look at your club's goals for the year. In particular, Rotary has asked us to achieve certain goals in membership growth and Foundation giving. How are you doing with these? While we seem to be adding members district wide on a daily basis, retention is not what it should be. Members stay in Rotary when they become involved in meaningful service activity. Clubs have done very well in supporting PolioPlus this year, but don't forget that Annual Giving is the fuel that drives our Rotary Foundation's projects throughout the world.

GALLERY



*DG Bette inducts Divra Selvakumar to the Rotary Club of College Park.
Also pictured is Club President Anna-Mae Kobbe.*



District 7620 of Rotary International

Governor's Citation Award

CRITERIA: **POINTS**

Required:	PETS Attendance (alternate counts) Foundation Goal (Support of TRF) Membership Goal (Net increase of 10%) Planning Guide for Effective Clubs (completed) PolioPlus (\$1000 minimum contribution)	40
Service Projects:	Participation in Mini-Summits Health Project Hunger Project Water project Literacy Project (Three out of five qualifies)	20
Leadership:	District Assembly (Attendance) District Conference (Attendance) Rotary Leadership (Attendance) (Club representation at each of above)	10 20 10

LEVELS OF ATTAINMENT:

GOLD	100
SILVER	85
BRONZE	75

Awards will be presented at the District Conference and will consist of a certificate and BANNER!