



Leadership News

from District Governor *Bette Lewis*



FEBRUARY 22, 2009

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WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

February is World Understanding Month! What does this mean to Rotarians around the world? The Fourth Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service. We are a fellowship of volunteers. With 1.2 million Rotarians in over 200 countries and principalities, structured in 33,000+ clubs, we have the ability to partner with each other in many ways. First, we have worked cooperatively throughout the world to end polio, providing cash and volunteer hours. Second, we provide scholarships for college graduates to study in a foreign country, understand the culture, and share with the folks back home. We are training non-Rotarians in peace and conflict resolution studies, establishing a network that can make tremendous progress toward peace in all corners of the world. We send a Group Study Exchange Team to another country and receive that country's team to further develop cultural and professional understanding. This year our GSE Team is preparing to go to Greece for a professional/cultural exchange and we will receive a team from D2470 in return. Third, we sponsor a Youth Exchange program where high school students may study abroad for a year and stay with a Rotarian family, living in the culture and gaining understanding of common values amongst all peoples. Fourth, every club has the ability to develop a World Community Service project (International Service) to further our object of world peace and understanding. Rotary's goal this year is to REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY and an International Service Project in health, hunger, water or literacy can do just that. Throughout the district we have many clubs participating in International service projects. Our District Grants Committee is just waiting for your applications to provide a World Community Service project. Project LINK is

a searchable database that lists Rotary Club and district community service projects in need of funding, volunteers, donated goods and partners for a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

It is not news that the future of Rotary depends upon increasing and retaining members. The district has a unique opportunity to participate in a conference to provide ideas and support for membership growth. RI President D. K. Lee will be holding a membership conference in District 7620 at the Greenbelt Marriott on March 27-28, 2009. Every club in the District should have members in attendance at this event, and especially Presidents and Membership Chairs. District 7620 is lagging behind in membership growth. What does this mean? The World's and our community's needs for service is growing. If our membership growth is not keeping pace with this need, we will be unable to provide the service that we have traditionally delivered. Diversity is one key to membership growth. Clubs need to reach out to people who are different from the members currently in the club. This will help you become a stronger club. If one travels throughout the district visiting clubs, one will still notice an unbalanced membership that does not reflect current American society. Also, we are not bringing in those individuals whom we have supported financially as mentioned in the article above – our Rotary alumni. When our GSE Team returns from Greece invite them to speak at your club and extend an invitation to membership. These are outstanding professionals in their fields and will make outstanding Rotarians.



The Registration Form for the Presidential Membership Conference is attached to this newsletter and can also be downloaded from [the District website](#).

CRUISIN' ROTARY STYLE

The 2008-09 District Conference is fast approaching on May 9 through May 14. We have over three hundred Rotarians registered thus far for this joint D7260-7620 conference. The program, under the leadership of PDGs Andy Baum (D7620) and PDG Aaron Stein (D7260), is full of informative sessions and relaxing after hours fun. Hospitality aboard our busses to Bayonne, N. J. will be plentiful. The truly exciting news is that we will have two of Rotary's fifteen International Directors participating in our conference. D7620's official RI President's Representative will be Director Eric Adamson, Zone 33-34 Director. District 7620 will be joining this Zone on July 1st of this year so this is an excellent opportunity to meet your new Zone Director. Bel Air Rotarian Duke Thompson is composing a special Rotary song and promises a great time singing around the piano in one of the lounges. Potomac Rotarian Claude Morissette has chosen one of Bermuda's outstanding golf courses to hold a tournament for those interested in participating. There will also be a putting contest aboard the Explorer of the Seas.

Good news abounds. The cruise line has reduced the fares by \$25 for each category because they could remove the fuel surcharge and have extended our registration deadline to March 1st. You still have time to get those registrations in! Go to www.rotary7620.org and download your registration form now if you have not already done so.



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Wanted! Club Annual Giving Goals! Twenty-seven of District 7620's sixty eight clubs have not yet submitted their Foundation Goals Form. These were due on July 1, 2008. Club goal setting is vital to the Every Rotarian, Every Year effort and it is actually the key tool for measuring a club's progress in achieving TRF fundraising goals. Submission of the Foundation Goal Form is a requirement for any level of the Governor's Citation Award. Goal setting is a way to help every Rotarian understand how vital his or her support is to carrying out Rotary's mission of improving health, supporting education, providing clean water and alleviating hunger, all of which will reduce poverty throughout the world. The Rotary Foundation has been recognized by the Gates Foundation as an outstanding volunteer organization doing good throughout the world;

consequently, they have contributed another \$255m dollars to our PolioPlus eradication program. Germany and the United Kingdom have also recognized TRF's successful efforts and have recognized them with additional millions of dollars.

A recent Zone 31/32 report shows that District 7620 leads the Zone in contributions to the PolioPlus Challenge with \$123,470 as of December 31st. I thank all the clubs who have contribute thus far for their generosity and genuine partnerships in this effort. Clubs who have not yet contributed still have time to get their \$1000 in. Together we can accomplish so20much more than we do alone, but it takes effort on the part of all Rotarians. Rotary's International strength lies in its 1.2m members who are all focused on "Making Dreams Real" by reducing child mortality.

FOCUS – MINI-SUMMITS

REDUCING CHILD MORTALITY is Rotary's mission this year. The number one killer of children is dirty water – the carrier of malaria which still claims 900,000 lives a year, mostly children and pregnant women. A Mini-Summit on Water was held on February 14th at the UMD 4-H Center in College Park. Speakers from two non-profit organizations who are working on the global water and sanitation issues delivered dynamic speeches describing ways clubs can be involved on many levels. Two clubs presented outstanding water projects which they are just beginning – Glen Burnie and Capitol Hill. Those clubs in attendance left with fresh ideas and concepts to share with their membership. Together we can make a difference in the lives of children.

REDUCING CHILD MORTALITY is possible through education programs that provide individuals and families with the tools and information they need to lead productive lives. The district will be holding a Literacy Mini-Summit at the UMD 4-H Center on March 14 to explore the many ways clubs and individual Rotarians can become involved in reducing illiteracy amongst the 800,000,000 people who can neither read nor write, the majority of whom are women and girls. Chairperson Eolia Sibila is organizing the Literacy Mini-Summit. Eolia has been commended by the Regional Literacy Coordinator for her leadership in promoting Literacy projects throughout our district. Make plans to attend this event now. You may register with Executive Secretary Denise Paterson at rotary@district7620.org.

RYLA (ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS)

When it comes to a focus on youth, Rotary is an outstanding organization. Not only do we provide academic scholarships, peace fellow programs, youth exchange between countries, Interact and Rotaract clubs, but we focus on training young people to become leaders in a diverse world, where initiative, persuasion, and diplomacy are the key ingredients to making a difference. The RYLA program under the direction of Bladensburg Rotarian Judy Cappucilli is an outstanding experience for 160 high school students and approximately 40

Rotaractors who serve as Counselors. This experience takes place at Camp Letts over the Presidents Day week end and the young people leave invigorated and informed about how they can make a difference.

CELEBRATE ROTARY – 104 YEARS

The simple beginning of the world's first service club took shape on February 23, 1905 in Chicago, 104 years ago. Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Hiram Shorey, and Silvester Schiele met to talk about their personal experiences in their respective businesses. Paul Harris wished to recreate the same friendly spirit he had experienced in the small towns of his youth. The name Rotary derived from their practice of rotating meetings amongst their offices. As Rotarians, we continue to take pride in our history. Celebrate Rotary during the week of February 23 by sharing your Rotary experience with someone you believe would enjoy the same experience.

THEME FOR ROTARY 2009-2010

The 2009-10 RI theme acknowledges the important role individual Rotary clubs will play in shaping the Future of Rotary. RI President-Elect unveiled the theme, The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands, at the International Assembly on January 19.



CALENDAR

February

23 - Perry Hall/Whitemarsh and Middle River Membership Recruitment Event, Bayou Restaurant White Marsh

March

14 - Mini-Summit on Literacy, 4-H Center

27-28 - Presidential Membership Conference, Greenbelt Marriott

30 - Annual Foundation Dinner, Martin's Crosswinds



**Presidential
Membership Conference
Baltimore, MD
March 27-28, 2009**



The Purpose

The purpose of these 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 impacts 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.

Suggested Conference attendees:

- Club presidents and officers
- Club membership committee chairs and members
- District membership committee chairs and members
- District extension committee chairs and members
- Other district leadership and past RI officers
- All Rotarians interested in helping Rotary grow!

Agenda

Friday March 27	6:00 PM	Reception & Mixer
	7:30 PM	Remarks by RI President DK Lee & photos
Saturday, March 28	8:30 AM	Opening Remarks
	9:30 - 12:00PM	Break Out Sessions
	1:30 - 3:00 PM	Break Out Sessions
	3:15 - 4:00 PM	Closing Plenary

Registration Fee: \$99.00 before March 12, 2009
\$110.00 after March 12, 2009

Includes Reception Friday (1 drink included) / Sat. Breaks / plated Sat. Lunch

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Name	Title	
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Rotary Club		
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District #	Club or District Position	
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Registration Due: March 12, 2009

- I am paying by check:
*Make Checks payable to:
RI Zones 31-32 08-10*
- I would like to pay by Credit Card
 MasterCard Visa



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**Michael Colasurdo, Sr, RID, Convener
Toni McAndrew, PDG, General Chair**

**Make Hotel Reservations Directly
Hotel--Marriott Greenbelt
6400 Ivy Lane
Greenbelt, MD, 20770**

Reservation # 1-800-228-9290 or 301-441-3700

**Direct hotel website reservation site:
www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasgb-greenbelt-marriott**

**Rooms Single ---\$129.00 Doubles---\$129.00
Suites---\$329.00**

Mention "Rotary Membership Conference"

Please Make Hotel reservation by 02/15/09

**Complimentary on site parking
Indoor pool and fitness center**

**NOTE: 20 minutes from Baltimore-
Washington (BWI) airport**

Mail or fax Registration Forms to: PDG, Ron Smith, Registration Chair c/o Materials Resources International, 811 W. Fifth Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
Email: rsmith@materialsresources.com / Fax: 215-831-7115 / Ph: 215-831-7111 x 102 Zone Website : www.rotaryzones31-32.org
CANCELLATION POLICY: After March 12th there are no refunds.