



APRIL 13, 2009

APRIL IS ROTARY MAGAZINE MONTH!

Each monthly issue of The Rotarian magazine features an important topic – such as the March issue focused on Literacy. The magazine is a wonderful resource for ideas for projects and the place you can find the latest RI stats. Also, when you need to know what your Rotary ID number is, you can find it on the label of your magazine.

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PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

Rotary International President D. K. Lee and Young Ja honored District 7620 with an official visit on March 28 – 31. While here, President D. K. Lee spoke at our Annual Foundation Dinner at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland. The Ambassador of Korea invited President D. K. to lunch on Sunday and Doris Margolis of the Washington, D. C. Rotary Club



President D.K. Lee and Mrs. Lee enjoy the district foundation dinner with major donors, including new major donors George Hurlburt (facing) and Gus Gallagher (far right)

arranged a "Newsmaker" speaking engagement at the National Press Club. With 535 Districts throughout the world, this was a unique experience for District 7620, with President Lee spending

five days total in our district. Past District Governor, Robert Grill, who served as President Lee's Aide during the time he officially visited our district has been appointed RI President's Representative to a District in Italy. Thanks to those people who helped to make his visit an outstanding one: PDG Richard Angus, DC President Monica Boner, Rotarian Doris Margolis, PDG and Foundation Chair Robert Brown, PDG Morris Gevinson and Executive Secretary Denise Patterson.

APRIL 18TH, A RED LETTER DAY!:

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE TEAM ARRIVES FROM GREECE

The Group Study Exchange Team from District 2470 in Greece arrived on Saturday, April 4th. A packed schedule has been arranged by Inbound Chair, Barbara Bellack, and her Regional Coordinators. The Team is led by Rotarian Birtsas Vassilos, Medical Technician from the Rotary Club of Amaroussion, Athens. His Team members are: Alexandros Primentas (Hotel Management and Tourism), Athina Voudouri (Lawyer, European Law), Panagiota Polimeropoulou (Archaeologist), and Efstratios Skarlatos (Optician). The Team will visit Southern Maryland, Annapolis, Baltimore, Columbia, Frederick and Washington, D. C. One of the highlights of their visit here will be a reception at the Embassy of Greece on April 7th.

Another highlight will be their presentation to our District at the Luncheon in their honor on April 18th at the Holiday Inn in Laurel. Flyers went out to all clubs and this will be an opportunity for all Rotarians in District 7620 to meet and here the presentation by the team from District 2470 in Greece. **THIS WILL ALSO BE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE PRESENTATION THAT DISTRICT 7620'S GSE TEAM WILL TAKE TO GREECE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEK!**



District 7620 Group Study Exchange Team to Greece: Laura Thomas, Anastasia Mukhina (alternate), Demetria Tobias, Ellen Goldkind, Rachel Blair (alternate Team Leader), John McGann, and Bob Martin, Team Leader

FOUR WAY TEST LUNCHEON/GSE PRESENTATIONS – APRIL 18

Our Annual 4-Way Test Speech Contest will also occur on April 18th at the Holiday Inn in Laurel. A flyer went out to all club presidents regarding registration for this event. Chairman Mike Phennicie has coordinated this

effort and individual clubs have held their contests and named their winners, who will have competed in a preliminary District contest. The four outstanding students from all of those competing will present their speeches at the luncheon and all Rotarians present will have an opportunity to vote on the speakers. All four contestants will receive a scholarship, with graduated amounts from best to least. This is always a gratifying experience to hear our youth interpret the ethics of Rotary through their essays on the 4-Way Test. Come out to the luncheon and support our youth while also learning something about Greece.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY – APRIL 18

The District Assembly, held for incoming club officers of the 2009-10 Rotary year will also be held on April 18th. The purpose of the District Assembly is to train the incoming club officers, specifically the Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, Foundation Chair, Membership Chair, Service Projects Chair, Club Administration Chair (usually a VP or PE), and Fellowship Chair. It is a worthwhile experience, especially for those entering into their particular job for the first time. It is an opportunity for you to learn what the expectations are for you in your role within your club. When possible, clubs should submit their registrants names together and underwrite the cost for the training of your officers and chairs.

The guest speaker will be Michael Angelo Caruso, a motivational speaker who has given more than 1500 presentations to groups such as ours around the world. Here is an excerpt from his speech, "Five Cool Ideas for Building Better Relationships":

When we build good relationships, we psychologically help others move closer to us. There are 15 words that will help get the job done. Presented as 5 Cool Ideas for building better relationships, here are the five most important words, the four most important words, the three most important words...:

1. People want to hear "I am proud of you."
2. "What is your opinion?" shows you care.
3. "Would you, please" is still good etiquette.
4. Saying "Thank you" says a lot.
5. My name is my favorite word.

To learn more from Michael, be sure to attend the District Assembly on April 18.

CRUISING ROTARY STYLE

Plans are in the final stages for the District Conference Cruise occurring from May 9 – 14th. Letters from Hamden Rotary Tours will be mailed out to all participants shortly with travel tips and information regarding dress, passports, and online check-in with Royal Caribbean Cruise lines. Our Cruise Directors, PDG Richard Angus, PDG Andrew Baum, PDG John Murkey and DGE Paul Frey have arranged a

program filled with fun and interaction – yes even the Plenary Sessions. Golf Tournament Chair Claude Morissette has arranged for an afternoon of golf on a beautiful golf course in Bermuda. Paul Frey has scheduled a service activity to be conducted in the Kings Wharf area. Denise Patterson and Anna Mae Kobbe will organize a Silent Auction which will be conducted with both D7260 and D7620. The cruise is an excellent opportunity for District 7620 Rotarians to meet their new Zone Director, Eric Adams, Zone 33, who will also become Rotary International Vice President during the 2009-2010 Rotary year. Director Eric Adamson will be our official Rotary International President's Representative. DG Bette Lewis still has four staterooms available for any last minute registrations. Any one else who finds they can attend should contact Bette directly to reserve one of these remaining rooms.



PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

The Presidential Citation recognizes a club for having a well-rounded year in Rotary. This year President D. K. Lee has a requirement on reducing child mortality and increasing membership in order to qualify for a Presidential Citation. To earn a Presidential Citation, clubs need to have a net increase of at least one member by March 31 and clubs must initiate a local or international service project that reduces child mortality. Presidential Citation Certification forms are due from club presidents to Governor Bette no later than April 15th. Club presidents, please take the time to complete this certification form and forward it to the District Governor.

GOVERNOR'S CITATION

Thus far, eight clubs have qualified for the Governor's Citation at the "Gold" level by submitting the required forms, participating in District events, sending at least one member to Rotary Leadership Institute, and conducting service activities in Rotary's focus groups. Some clubs will receive the silver award and some will receive the bronze award. The banners for the Governor's Citation will be presented to club members present at the District Conference. The Club Projects Survey Form must be completed and forwarded to DG Bette to verify your activities in the Focus Areas. These forms must be received by April 30th in order to qualify at any level. The Governor's Citation Award criteria is available on the District website.

TRF – THE FUTURE VISION PLAN

The Rotary Foundation Trustees have approved the far-reaching Future Vision Plan, designed to simplify Foundation operations and focus resources more strategically. The plan will be launched worldwide in 2013-2014. Some districts will be given the opportunity to pilot the plan and offer feedback to RI on its effectiveness. All club presidents will receive shortly a letter from District Governor Bette asking for your support for District 7620 to be one of the pilot districts. The Foundation Committee's belief is that if we have a chance to pilot this plan, we will be in a position to offer The Rotary Foundation our feedback and suggestions for its use. We believe the Future Vision Plan will greatly simplify the grant procedure, but we would like to find out first hand. Please take the time to review the future Vision Plan information at www.rotary.org/futurevision. Your vote will be time sensitive so please review this and decide expeditiously.

WORLD PEACE FELLOWS

PDG Robert Brown (District Foundation Chair), Peter Kyle (Peace Fellows Chair) and DG Bette Lewis attended the Sixth Annual Spring Conference presented by the Rotary World Peace Fellows of the Duke-UNC Rotary Center on April 3-4. Eight Fellows from Class VI presented their Capstone Projects, which focused on peace and conflict resolution issues. Each year, Rotary selects up to 60 fellows to study at one of the six Rotary Centers worldwide. The selected fellows begin Master's level degree programs in fields related to conflict resolution, peace studies and international relations. This year District 7620 had four Peace Fellows selected. The centers have graduated over 400 fellows thus far. This is an example of your Rotary Foundation contributions at work.

CALENDAR

April 5 – GSE Team from Greece Arrives
April 15 – Deadline for the Presidential Citation Submission
April 18 – District Assembly, Four-Way Test Speech Contest/GSE Luncheon
April 21 – District 7620 GSE Team to Greece Departs
April 30 – Deadline for Governor's Citation Submission
May 2 – D2470 GSE Team Departs for Athens
May 9-14 – District Conference Cruise

DISTRICT SCRAPBOOK



Thirty-three first, second and third graders were honored as Howard County Library Bumblebee Award Winners March 9 at the awards ceremony. Winners received a dictionary from Howard County Rotary Clubs plus a T-shirt, personalized trophy, and certificate. Howard County's Rotary Clubs sponsored the Bumblebee events, which promote spelling and literacy. Standing in rear is Nancy Szlasa, Rotary Assistant Governor for District 7620.

Photo credit: Fritzi Newton, Miller Branch, Howard County Library