



JUNE 30, 2009 – FINAL ISSUE

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A MESSAGE FROM DG BETTE

Can you believe this Rotary year has flown by so quickly? It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your District Governor this year and I want to thank each and every one of you for allowing me this privilege. As I traveled throughout the district, I met many new friends and I admire all the work you do for Rotary. As Paul Harris said when speaking at the 1912 Rotary Convention, "Friendship is a natural and willing servant. There is no reason why the great power of friendship should not be harnessed to do its part in the world's work." This is what has made Rotary become the powerful organization that it is today. This is what has made my year as District Governor such an enjoyable experience for me. As we gather together in meetings and conferences, we find friends with common interests, and we harness our energies to pursue those interests to do good throughout the world. This was never more evident than at this year's joint District Conference with D7260 as we shared our District projects and found friends supporting projects that we too would like to share.

Throughout the District I found clubs "Making Dreams Real" for children, for seniors, for communities in general. I also saw clubs reaching out to people they will never meet to support health, literacy, hunger and clean water projects in countries they will never visit, but as Rotarians who believe in "Service Above Self" doing what they could to make someone's life a little better.

It takes many volunteer hands to accomplish what we do in Rotary. I would like to leave you with this message. Continue to introduce Rotary to everyone you meet so that you can be a part of growing the finest service organization in the world. Continue to support the respected and most efficient foundation in the world, The Rotary Foundation, and by all means be a part of the reason there will soon be no active polio virus anywhere in the world.

CRUISIN' ROTARY STYLE

Our joint District Conference aboard the Explorer of the Seas was a rousing success. Our Cruise Directors, PDG Richard Angus, PDG John Murkey, PDG Andrew Baum, and DGE Paul Frey put together an outstanding program enjoyed by both Districts. The cruise was all about celebration and fun and there was plenty of both. We had terrific fellowship with District 7260 and shared several projects which have potential for becoming joint projects. DGNN Claude Morissette hosted a golf tournament at one of the deluxe courses in Bermuda and had terrific weather for their outing.

Our Rotary International President's Representative, Director Eric Adamson and his wife, Linda, were graciously hosted by Pat and John Kasuda. Eric contributed much to the overall success of our programs and we look forward to working with him as our Zone 33 Director over the next two years. Director Mike Colasurdo and Anne (Zone 32) also contributed much to our fellowship and growth in Rotary. We were honored to have two of Rotary's fifteen Directors as participants in our District Conference. The Silent Auction raised money for The Rotary Foundation and I wish to thank the following clubs for providing items for sale: Washington, D. C., Lexington Park, College Park, Annapolis,

At the District 7620 Business Meeting, the Revised Strategic Plan, The District Leadership Plan, and the proposed ByLaws were adopted by a vote of 48 - 2. These updated documents will be posted on the district website.



GOVERNOR'S CITATION AWARDS

In order to be eligible for a Governor's Citation Award, a club had to have completed the required paperwork – Foundation Goal Form, Membership Goal Form, Planning Guide for Effective Cubs, and PolioPlus Goal. Additionally, the Club President had to have attended Multi-District PETS or an authorized alternate training. After becoming eligible through the above requirements, a club could earn points to attain either Gold, Silver or Bronze Level Governor's Citation Award banners. Points could be attained by participation in Focus Area Service Projects or attendance at a mini-summit (3 out of 5 of these qualified). Points could be attained by growing club leadership by attending at the following: District Assembly, Rotary Leadership Institute, and District Conference.

GOLD LEVEL (100 points)

Annapolis
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Carroll Creek
Clarksville
College Park
Glen Burnie
Greater Severna Park
Hunt Valley
Lexington Park
Montgomery Village
Parole
Washington, D. C.

SILVER LEVEL (80 points)

Bel Air
Beltsville
Columbia
Columbia/Patuxent
Fredericktowne
Middle River
Potomac
Prince Frederick
Sykesville
Towson
Waldorf

BRONZE LEVEL (70 points)

Bladensburg
Bond's Meadow
South Anne Arundel
Wheaton/Kensington

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

President D. K. Lee challenged us to increase membership by 10% across the board this year. Any club that achieves a net increase of 10% as of May 15 of this year will receive a certificate signed by President D. K. Lee. Based upon RI's May 15 figures, the following clubs will receive a signed certificate:

Catonsville/Sunrise
Charles County/LaPlata
Clarksville
College Park
Columbia Town Center
Fredericktowne
South Anne Arundel

The following clubs will receive Rotary International Membership Awards in the category described:

Overall Growth (highest growth rate – percentage (46%) - Clarksville
Recruitment (most members inducted) - Charles County/LaPlata
Retention (highest retention rate – percentage (%)) - Charles County/LaPlata
Sponsor of new clubs (sponsor club for South Frederick) - Carroll Creek
Smaller Club Membership Growth - Clarksville

Congratulations to the above clubs who worked diligently on increasing and retaining new members. This was a major focus area of Rotary International and will continue to be a concentrated area of effort Internationally.

FUTURE VISION PLAN

District 7620 was one of the 100 Rotary International Districts (out of 534) to be selected to participate in The Rotary Foundation FUTURE VISION PLAN pilot phase. Twenty-two of the districts selected are U.S. districts. This selection enables our Foundation Committee to work through the process all clubs will eventually be required to use and to make our suggestions for any improvements or concerns we may have about the process. DGN Jayaram Kumar and Foundation Chair Robert Brown will be attending a mandatory training institute for pilot districts in January 2010. Information will be forthcoming to district clubs as Jay and Rob become trained in the pilot district processes and procedures.

POLIOPLUS HONOR ROLL

Carroll Creek - \$48,407.00
District 7620 - 7,718.00
Frederick - 7,807.00
Lexington Park - 6,950.00
Columbia - 5,361.00
Charles County/LaPlata - 4,833.34
Montgomery Village - 4,000.00

College Park - 3,760.00
Bethesda/Chevy Chase - 2,840.00
Ellicott City - 2,600.00
Parole - 2,550.00
Annapolis - 2,410.00
Towsontowne - 2,220.00
Ellicott City Sunrise - 2,194.00
Westminster - 2,050.00
Upper Marlboro - 2,047.00
Catonsville Sunrise - 2,000.00
Crofton - 2,000.00
Greenbelt - 1,976.00
Clarksville - 1,872.00
Greater Severna Park - 1,800.00
Capitol Hill - 1,780.00
Potomac - 1,750.00
Laurel - 1,700.00
Friendship Heights - 1,500.00
Glen Burnie - 1,416.00
Charlotte Hall - 1,400.00
Washington - 1,250.00
Beltsville - 1,000.00
Bonds Meadow - 1,000.00
Bowie - 1,000.00
Fredericktowne - 1,000.00
Lake Shore - 1,000.00
Mt. Airy - 1,000.00
Perry Hall/White Marsh - 1,000.00
South Anne Arundel - 1,000.00
Upper Montgomery - 500.00
Columbia/Patuxent - 370.00
Towson - 300.00
Elkridge - 233.00
Pikesville/Owings Mills - 200.00
Columbia Town Center - 156.00
Hunt Valley - 100.00
Rockville - 100.00
Downtown Towson - 50.00

TOTAL FOR DISTRICT 7620 - \$137,480.56

**IF YOUR CLUB IS ONE OF THE 25 CLUBS NOT LISTED ABOVE, NO ONE
IN YOUR CLUB HAS DONATED A CENT TO THE POLIOPLUS PROGRAM.**

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation challenged Rotary International to match their \$200m Grant during the next five years. RI President D. K. Lee challenged each of Rotary's 33,000 clubs to raise at least \$1000 for the entire six years of the challenge period. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, District 7620 is well on its way. Every club in the District enjoys Rotary's respect and admiration throughout the world for our work in eradicating polio. Every club in the District has an obligation to raise funds to help meet this challenge. By so doing in your own community, you make the community aware of the philanthropic work of Rotary International and further win the respect of your community.

BIRMINGHAM HIGHLIGHTS

It is always an affirmation of Rotary's service and power throughout the world to attend an International Convention. This year was no exception. From start to finish, Rotary's outstanding humanitarian work was evident in all regions of the world.

The convention began in the usual manner with the presentation of flags from every country and principality where Rotary exists. President D. K. Lee gave the keynote address and introduced the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Kee Moon, who said upon receiving the Polio Championship Award, "Rotarians are the heart and soul of this effort. You have worked side by side with UNICEF, World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control to pursue this." "You have faced barriers and risk to your personal safety to accomplish this." "Two billion children have been immunized, five million children are walking today because of your efforts. I am with you in this great campaign." Ban Kee Moon received this award in tribute to the volunteer workers killed by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan.

The Right Honorable Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom spoke about Britain's PolioPlus partnership with Rotary and its partners. The United Kingdom has given L100,000,000 so far and has pledged another L500,000. He reminded us that there is such a thing as being "too late."

Clarissa Brocklehurst, Chief, United Nations Water Policy and Program, reminded us that the lack of clean water, sanitation and soap (taps, toilet, soap) are the biggest influence on the spread of polio. 1916 marked the first recorded case of polio and New York City and now the world is 99% polio free. The PolioPlus partnership will make a lasting difference to people throughout the world. But we are not through yet because 1.2 billion people are still without access to toilets and proper sanitation, dirty water is still the biggest killer of children after pneumonia, and 5000 children die every day from diarrhea. Polio is a fecal/oral disease.

Tom Henderson, Founder and CEO of Shelter Box, reported that Shelter Boxes have assisted in fifty-on countries thus far and currently there are over 1 million people living under a Shelter Box roof or a blanket with a Rotary seal. This is a remarkable accomplishment started by the “dream” of a Rotarian in England.

General Secretary Ed Futa announced a quorum at the convention with 4,155 clubs represented out of 33, 164. There were approximately 22,000 Rotarians registered. Clubs are reminded that if someone from your club is attending an International Convention, you should make that individual your official voting delegate. This assures that we will have a quorum and may conduct official business.

PRIP Jonathan Majiyagbe reported on The Rotary Foundations efforts for the year. 20,000 filtration wells were installed, 4000 food distributions were made in Africa, 9000 in Nairobi received a water supply source, twenty-three schools were set up on SriLanka serving 20,000 students. The foundation received \$255m in grants from the Gates Foundation, bringing total commitment to \$555m. Jonathan indicated that our PolioPlus campaign is getting proper exposure and support from various efforts, such as those on the Ididirod sleds in Alaska. He also indicated that every penny of Challenge money will be directed towards polio eradication. He reminded us that there is no moratorium on humanitarian work throughout the world and our contributions to Annual Giving are the life blood of TRF.

In my opinion, the most inspirational speaker this year was actress Mia Farrow, who spoke on the devastation conditions in Darfur. Mia Farrow is an Ambassador for UNICEF and can relate effectively to Rotary’s polio eradication efforts because she herself spent time in an iron lung as a child. There she saw how fragile our life structure is and how true “ownership” comes only in the moment of giving. We cannot own anything – it is only ours for a while, then moves on to someone else. It is by that which is taken away that we can define ourselves. Integrity with a sense of responsibility resides above “power.” She has been witness to the failure of the peoples of the world to do something about humanitarian violations so evident in Darfur. 2.7 m people have been driven from their villages. She challenged us as human beings who serve above self to do something to serve the displaced person in Darfur.

D K. Lee awarded Membership plaques to ten districts who reached 10% increase in membership and started at least 10 new clubs. District 5000 from the US got an award.

Dr. Jane Goodall, spoke on her work on chimpanzees over the last 50 years and ways in which we can and must preserve our environment. Chimpanzees are the animals most related to man and follow a family structure and caring for each other much as human beings do. The environment in which chimpanzees live is constantly threatened by the progress made by man. We must join together not only our heads, but our hearts in order to make a difference in protecting the environment in which we live. Rotarians have the network to get things going in support of a common good.

District Governor Elect Deepa Willingham gave a moving description of poverty and what it means to each of us everywhere, and of course, it does not. Everything is relative. Quoting Aristotle, she described poverty as the parent of revolution and crime. One-half of the human population lives on less than \$2 a day and most of those are in Central and South America. In extreme poverty, children are born sick and hungry. Children do not go to school and girls are sold to go to work, most as prostitutes. 134 million children do not attend school.

These are but brief highlights of the Birmingham Rotary International Convention. The fellowship, hospitality, entertainment were outstanding. The biggest benefit from attending an International Convention is to witness the breadth and depth of Rotary International and to realize that you are personally one of 1.2m plus individuals who share the common goal of helping and serving others. I thank District 7620 for giving me the opportunity to attend two International Conferences as their representative.

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
Eleanor Roosevelt.

BIRMINGHAM SCRAPBOOK

1. A statue of Queen Victoria gazes into the town square.
2. DG Bette enjoys a moment with Past RI President Frank Devlyn and Washington DC President-Elect J.W. Arnold during PRIP Frank’s annual convention “reunion” party.
3. The opening session featured an East Meets West theme with the best of Korean culture in a tribute to President D.K. Lee and traditional British brass bands.
4. District 7620 Rotarians and spouses gather for fellowship before the City of Birmingham host evening.
5. Enthusiastic Rotarians from around the world converged at the House of Friendship.

