



D6690

FEB  
2012



## DG BRENT'S BRIEFS

### Thoughts on World Understanding Month

***What do you consider Rotary's greatest contribution to the world?***

Is it the near eradication of polio? Certainly eliminating a killing and crippling disease – so close to achievement – is a staggering achievement that will rank with humankind's greatest accomplishments. Is it the many lives saved through Rotary sponsored medical missions? Our promotion of literacy throughout the world? How about our many water projects designed to provide this most basic resource to the 1.1 billion people who lack it? Is it our scholarship and education programs? Economic development projects? Youth oriented activities, such as youth exchange? What about our ethical contributions, such as the Four Way Test or even the whole concept of Service Above Self?

Certainly Rotary has improved the world through all of these, and much more. But perhaps the greatest contribution Rotary has made to the world is international understanding and goodwill. Promoting peace and understanding has always been a purposeful and important part of Rotary International, not an incidental byproduct. For that reason, February is World Understanding Month on the Rotary calendar. All of the projects we do are designed to improve lives, give hope and opportunity, and further world peace and understanding. In the words of last year's theme, when we serve, we not only build communities, we bridge continents. And in fact, next year's Rotary theme, Peace Through Service, underscores this idea perfectly.

There is a Rotarian in our District who at each of my visits to his club over the years has gone out of his way to tell me he believes Rotary should only address local problems and not spend our money overseas. I always tell him I agree that Rotary should utilize its resources to make our local communities better in every way we can – and indeed 95% of what Rotary clubs do and spend worldwide is directed at local activities. But Rotary – Rotary *International* – was never intended to be purely a civic association. International Service is one of Rotary's Five Avenues of Service and without it, we simply wouldn't be Rotary. Every club needs an international service component to be a fully functioning – and fully effective – Rotary club. To be blunt, if you think Rotary shouldn't pursue international service, you are in the wrong organization, because it is central to who we are!

It is surprisingly simple to promote world understanding – every club of every size can participate. Your club doesn't need to send teams of doctors to far off places or raise money to build water wells. One of the most effective tools we have is our Youth Exchange program. When we host inbound youth exchange students, or sponsor outbounds, we allow young people to connect with people from other countries. They learn how much we all have in common and they learn to appreciate how our "differences" make a beautiful mosaic out of all the world's peoples and races. Through Youth Exchange, Rotary promotes peace and understanding, one young person at a time, and we "pay forward" to help the next generation overcome the gaps and divides the world faces today.

The more I read the daily news the more I realize how important this mission of Rotary to increase world understanding and peace is to the whole world. Take time to consider how you can help Rotary and your club use our resources to promote this critical and most noble goal.

Youth Exchange is a one of Rotary's most effective tools for promoting world peace, bringing together youth from all countries in fellowship and fun.



## FEBRUARY WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Rotary's 107th anniversary
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Music in the Round (Capitol Square)

## MARCH LITERACY MONTH

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Interact/Rotaract Change Maker Award Form DUE
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Pancake Breakfast (Whitehall-Bexley)
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Centennial Luncheon (Columbus)
- 9-10<sup>th</sup> - All Ohio PETS
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Semi-Annual Health Testing (West Lafayette)
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Fish Fry and Bake (Westerville)
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Ethics and Leadership Conference (Granville)

See [www.district6690.org](http://www.district6690.org) for details on these events and to add yours!



## FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST

The D6690 Four-Way Test Speech Contest will be held on **April 21** in conjunction with the 2012 District Assembly at Westerville North High School.

As part of the contest this year, we will again offer a DVD copy of the competition. We have, however, lost our DVD producer since Horizon Technology of Chillicothe, who so graciously provided the service last year, will be unable to do so this year. We can contract with a company to do this but it would be more cost effective if any Rotarian has access to such a service for free or at a reduced cost. **Let us know right away if you have any suggestions or if you can help!**

The first place prize this year will be \$500; second place \$250; and third place \$100. This is an ideal way to involve local schools and can be done in conjunction with Interact, the Ethics Seminar and Mentoring programs. Please contact us if you need any assistance at your local level or if you would like more details and forms.

*Nelson Coleman, D6690 Four-Way Test Speech Contest Chair*  
fourwaytest6690@bright.net



## DOES THIS SERVICE PROJECT FIT YOU? ZANESVILLE ROTARY'S "PHOENIX AWARD"

The Zanesville Rotary "Phoenix Award" is presented to one Muskingum County senior high school student in each of the seven county high schools each year. This student is selected because he or she most exemplifies the outstanding characteristics of strength of character, courage and integrity, the very characteristics which have enabled that student to triumph in adversity. This student will have triumphed in extreme difficulties, will have risen above what seem to be insurmountable odds, and by doing so, becomes an example for other young people to follow. In effect, this student becomes a role model, a "heroic" figure in their midst to inspire other Muskingum County young people to take positive action in their own lives.

The adversity each student has overcome may be a major health problem while succeeding in school, rising from being a weak student to attaining scholastic success in spite of family or health difficulties, or in some other way demonstrating the qualities of character and determination. These qualities make Phoenix students examples of what can be achieved by young people who set admirable goals and through hard work and determination achieve those goals. This award is intended to promote and reward good student citizenship.

Want to replicate this project? Contact Marion Gilliland at [Gilliland@ee.net](mailto:Gilliland@ee.net) for more details!



## VOCATIONAL SERVICE... WHAT ROAD ARE YOU ON?

It's hard to believe that the 2011-12 Rotary year is more than half gone. But there is still time to engage in new life-changing Rotary Vocational Service (RVS) projects. First, I would like to draw your attention to the upcoming **D6690 High School Ethics and Leadership Conference, Wednesday, March 21, at the Reese Center, OSU Newark campus.** Hosted by the Rotary Club of Granville, Rotarians Connie Hawk and Leigh Ann Miller have put together a powerful vocational learning program for students and Rotarians alike. Please plan to have your club participate. Club Rotarians should also attend to establish continuity and follow-up with the students. Consider inviting the student participants to a club meeting to give a program on their experiences. You can enroll online at the D6690 website.

The second featured project, which is *highly recommended* for your club **is to provide a current high school curriculum** to your local high school(s). The D6690 RVS menu of projects features this as one of the 20+ vocational service opportunities that your club could consider. High school educators and administrators generally agree that providing students with a way to stay current and informed about today's fast-paced world is to offer a curriculum within the established course

structure. Students are so focused on texting, Facebook, Twitter, etc., that they seem to be losing interest and knowledge about the world around them. Typically, government, social studies or history are preferred classroom venues. We have searched the web for program offerings. More than 60 curriculae options have been identified. Most of these can be ruled out because they focus on religious, political or other causes and are probably not well-suited for public education. Several offerings that appear to be suitable include "Time in the Classroom," PBS' "New Classroom," Knowledge Unlimited, Inc.'s "News Currents and "The Week in the Classroom" from The Week Magazine. Of these programs, "The Week in the Classroom" is the newest and appears to be the most full-featured.

We are in discussions with Granville High School to pilot a current events classroom curriculum for the balance of the 2011-12 school year. The plan is for the school to select and implement the curriculum from a short list of offerings and for the Granville Rotary Foundation or interested Rotarians to provide the funding. We would like to complete the pilot study in time for your club to consider participating in the 2012-13 academic year. Stay tuned for more news about this exciting Vocational Service opportunity. - *Doug Barno, D6690 Vocational Service Chair, [dsbgroup@windstream.net](mailto:dsbgroup@windstream.net)*

DG Brent and First Lady Sylvia with Past RI President Frank Devlyn and Gloria Rita



District 6690 Invites You to  
**Embrace Rotary!**  
at the  
2012 District Conference

# SPECIAL INVITATION FROM GOVERNOR BRENT

## Save the Date – D6690 Conference, May 18-19

I cordially invite all District 6690 Rotarians and your spouses or partners to our annual District Conference which will be held on May 18 and 19 at the Northpointe Conference Center in Columbus (US Route 23 at Polaris Parkway). This is going to be a great **and fun** event you aren't going to want to miss. This will **not** be your grandfather's boring old District Conference – we are going to **celebrate** YOU and all your accomplishments. No boring "how to" lectures – we are going to have a party!! We are also going to honor our Rotarians and clubs for their accomplishments – Presidential Citation, Governor's Award, outstanding accomplishments in service projects, membership, Foundation support, and other areas. You are going to want to be there to support your club!

Did I mention we would have a "hospitality" area open for most of the event? It will be a great place to meet up with old friends and make new ones while sharing snacks and beverages.

Past Rotary International President Frank Devlyn of Mexico City will be our very special guest and will speak at Friday's dinner. Frank is a true superstar in Rotary, a dynamic and engaging person and a great speaker. We are incredibly lucky to have Frank as he is in huge demand all over the world. You will not want to miss the chance to hear and meet him.

So plan now to be there and sign up early when online registration goes onto our website, [www.district6690.org](http://www.district6690.org). I am looking forward to seeing all of you there!

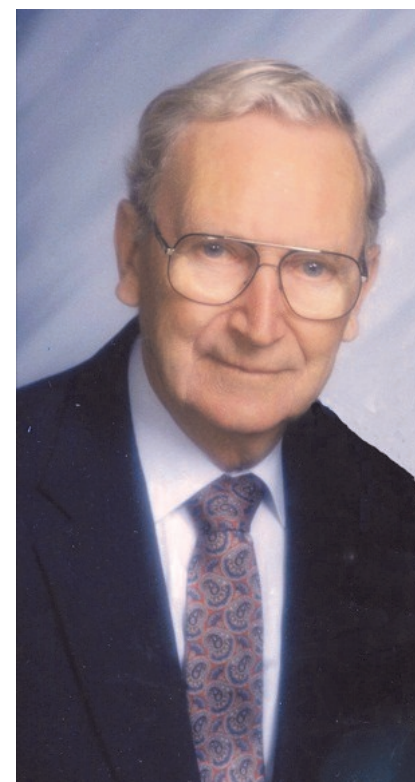


### FOUNDATION FACT

The Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship program will end in 2013. This program promotes international understanding and friendly relations among people of different parts of the world. Beginning in 2013-14, The Foundation will offer scholarship opportunities through district and global grants. This new grant structure gives Rotarians greater flexibility in sponsoring the next generation of leaders.

The 2010-11 class of Ambassadorial Scholars received \$9.6 million through individual grants of \$25,000. Since 1947, a total of \$532 million has been awarded to 41,000 men and women. The scholarships sponsor undergraduate and graduate students, as well as qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as goodwill ambassadors to the country where they study and give presentations about their own culture to Rotary clubs and other groups. Back home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that deepened their understanding of another culture.

Through their generous contributions, Rotarians worldwide show a continued faith that today's scholars will be tomorrow's community and world leaders. - Tara L. Craaybeek, D6690 Rotary Foundation Chair



### D6690 LOSES PDG

Past District Governor Carl Dahlberg passed away earlier this month at the age of 93. He served our district as Governor in 1983-84 and hailed from the Rotary Club of Wellston, where he was a member for over 50 years. He owned and operated the Wellston Auto Parts business for many years before accepting the position of Vice President for Development at Rio Grande College. While at Rio Grande, he worked to help found the Rio Grande Community College and for many years served on its

Board of Trustees. In World War II he received the Bronze Star for his service behind enemy lines as a forward artillery observer during the Battle of the Bulge. His outstanding Rotary reputation and unwavering commitment to Service Above Self will never be forgotten.



## WHAT IS ROTARY?

- ♦ Rotary is fellowship and friendship.
- ♦ Rotary is breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- ♦ Rotary is education, learning, teaching, and reading, books, dictionaries, pencils and paper.
- ♦ Rotary is technology in the classroom, scholars and scholarships.
- ♦ Rotary is fighting poverty.
- ♦ Rotary is shoes and socks, coats, pants, shirts, hats and mittens.
- ♦ Rotary is health.
- ♦ Rotary is food, feeding the hungry and the poor.
- ♦ Rotary is Special Needs.
- ♦ Rotary is accessible playgrounds, Special Olympics, wheelchairs, prosthetics, crutches and braces.
- ♦ Rotary is free enterprise.
- ♦ Rotary is your business, my business, small business and big business.
- ♦ Rotary is International.
- ♦ Rotary is clean water, fighting starvation, Malaria and AIDS.
- ♦ Rotary is the eradication of Polio.
- ♦ Rotary is Community.
- ♦ Rotary is peace. Rotary is love. Rotary is hope.
- ♦ Rotary is you and me, living a life dedicated to service.

Service Above Self

Gary Baker, President, Newark Rotary Club 2011-12

## THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON: PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR JIM FLAHERTY (Westerville Sunrise)

PDG Jim served as our District Governor in 2007-08. That year, the RI President was Wilfred Wilkinson of Trenton, Ontario, Canada and the RI theme was: "Rotary Shares." There were 59 Clubs in our District and he held his conference at the Hilton at Easton. In addition to the official message of Rotary, Jim's personal message, using marathoning as an example, was to pace yourself throughout your Rotary life. Many people thanked him for recognizing the struggle to fit Rotary into a busy lifestyle and relieving the guilt of not being as active during some years. Keeping members in Rotary over the long haul was his goal. When asked about a "favorite memory" Jim said that since every club brought something unique and outstanding to the table, "everyone of them is a favorite!" He did have a rather embarrassing moment as Governor. Upon arriving at a club for an official visit, he wondered why everyone



was already halfway done eating only to realize he was half an hour late! (Could have been much worse PDG Jim!)

# COLUMBUS ROTARY TURNS 100!

Columbus Rotary was chartered on March 5, 1912 as the 38th club in Rotary International. Rotary International's first president, Paul Harris, was its sponsor. There were 22 charter members in the club, some of whom still have relatives that are active participants. Columbus Rotary now maintains a membership of more than 300 individuals and corporations and is the 20th largest club in the world. Since its inception Columbus Rotary has sponsored 13 other Rotary clubs in Central and Southeast Ohio.

### Past Achievements

**1919** Raised \$49,000 to buy and equip the Columbus Tuberculosis Dispensary

**1919** Helped organize the Ohio Society for Crippled Children, now known as Easter Seals

**1920** Sponsored/hosted an annual party for the handicapped children of Columbus City Schools (This event is still in existence at Colerain Elementary School.)

**1927** Established the Rotary Student Loan Fund to help deserving seniors at OSU and Capital University. The program was turned over to the OSU Student Financial Aid Office in 1948 and continues to operate.

**1949** Instrumental in bringing Junior Achievement to this area

**1956** Established the Columbus Rotary Foundation to handle the monies used to support the club's many service projects

**1967** Established Camp Enterprise to teach the free enterprise system to teenagers. The program became a model for Rotary clubs across the country (Columbus Rotary received a District Significant

Achievement Award in 1968. The Club also received the George Washington Honor Award by the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge.)

**1993** Sponsored the Columbus Marathon Wheelchair

Division

**2003** Instrumental in establishing the Marafiki Aids Orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya.

### Current Projects

- Adopt A School program at Livingston Elementary
- Kids 'n Kamp Holiday Party sponsor
- South High School Service Project in Mississippi
- Homeless Family Foundation support
- CARE Ministries Outreach in Vinton

County

- Colerain Elementary School party
- Easter Seals graduation
- Enterprise Academy @ Ohio Dominican University
- Sponsor of Ohio State University, Columbus Young

Professional and Chamber College of Nursing Rotaract programs

- Provides \$160,000 in annual scholarships to students in Columbus and Franklin County
- Sponsors and hosts Rotary Youth Exchange students
- Columbus International Festival event sponsor
- Engineers Without Borders water dam project in India
- Marafiki Aids Orphanage insurance and school support
- \$125,000 Centennial project to create a "Serving Columbus" curriculum with Columbus City Schools to teach students about the numerous non-profit agencies serving greater Columbus
- ShelterBox USA Disaster Relief donor



Bill McCoach, ADG; Mike Sanders, Riesbeck's store manager; Greg Adams, winner of the raffle fundraiser; Leo Braido, Riesbeck's director of retail; Molly Scholl, who did the shopping for the food pantry. Riesbeck's is a grocery store chain (6-8 stores) store in eastern Ohio.



## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PROVES TO BE HUGE BLESSING IN CAMBRIDGE

The above photo shows the results of a 90-second shopping spree (part of the top prize of the Cambridge Rotary Club's 12 Days of Christmas raffle) at the local Riesbeck's food chain.

The winner donated the food collected on the spree (over \$1,000 worth) to the New Concord Food Pantry.



## ANNUAL POLAR BEAR OPEN

The 15th Annual Polar Bear Golf Open hosted by Dublin AM Rotary, was a big success! Snow, sleet, rain and cold did not stop our 87 golfers from enjoying themselves. Held on Saturday, February 4 at Safari Golf Club, the event is offered in collaboration with Westerville Sunrise Rotary's Wendy's Chili Open. This year, Dublin AM raised \$11,300. The funds raised from the event are targeted toward our programs supporting kids and families in the Central Ohio.

## WENDY'S CHILI OPEN



Westerville Sunrise Rotary held its 16th Annual Wendy's Chili Open on February 4 with over 3,300 participating! The event is held at the Columbus Zoo. Through sponsorships, ticket sales and silent auctions, over \$200,000 was raised this year. The total amount raised in the past 16 years

is over \$1.9 million. As part of the event, families can enjoy the Children's Open, where children from the ages of 5-12 are in a warm activity building with Bounce Houses, laser tag, pace painting, zoo animal visits and where plenty of PaPa John's pizza is being served. This year, The Children's Open hosted over 350 children from Noon to 4:00 pm.



# POLITICS AND ROTARY - AN ELECTION YEAR GUIDE

*By Brent D. Rosenthal, District Governor, 2011-2012*

Dear Rotary friends - In the past few weeks several clubs have communicated with me seeking advice on how to deal with political issues in their clubs. Since this is an election year I thought I would share some thoughts to provide guidance on this issue.

First some general rules. Rotary Clubs (and by extension their leadership) are prohibited from the following: endorsing a political position or candidate; using Rotary meetings or resources (such as newsletters) for issuing partisan political statements or endorsing or advocating a particular position on a political or election issue, candidate, etc.; or affording one candidate or representative of a side of an issue the opportunity (whether at a meeting or in a club newsletter or other publication) to discuss his or her views without affording the opposition similar time and opportunity. This would include (as has happened in many clubs including my own) a representative of one side of an issue giving an "announcement" at a meeting or even being the program speaker to share the "facts" behind a school, park, library, fire or other levy. Similarly meetings should not be used for leafleting, the passing out of literature for or against an issue or candidate. One cannot help a member (as happened at a recent meeting I attended) giving a Happy Buck over the great education his children are receiving at the public schools (which happen to be trying to pass a school levy) "if you know what I mean." But any statement advocating a side or candidate, whether by or permitted by leadership (which would include allowing an announcement by one side even if only to present "facts"), is inappropriate and discouraged.

However, Rotarians are encouraged to be knowledgeable about political issues and candidates and to be involved in the public arena. Thus clubs and Rotarians would be well served to hold a forum at which both sides of an issue can present their side in a respectful manner, or both candidates running for an office can give their positions. Club leadership must be

careful to emphasize that neither the Club nor its leadership is endorsing any statements made during such sessions. Further Rotarians are encouraged to participate in the political process and to hold political office. In that way clubs further our mission of Community Service by helping create an informed electorate and by spreading the 4 Way Test to the political sphere.

Our ultimate guide in this issue, like all things Rotary, is the 4 Way Test:

1. Is it the truth? Political statements are rarely seen universally as "the truth."
2. Is it fair to all concerned? Not if only one side or candidate is presented.
3. Is it beneficial to all concerned? Again, intelligent public discourse is not furthered by allowing only 1 side to be heard.
4. Will it build goodwill and better friendship? It is important to remember that in every club, there are committed Republicans, Democrats, independents and those not involved in politics at all. Each feels sincerely and

strongly about his or her beliefs. Each has the right to expect that, at least in Rotary, his/her views will be respected even if not agreed with. We build goodwill and better friendships if we recognize and respect others' views, not stifle them, shout them down, or denigrate them.

Politics, like religion, has the potential to be divisive and distract from our mission of Service Above Self.

Emphasis on politics and political issues can result – and in some clubs has resulted in – loss of members. That is both tragic and avoidable. Members do not come to Rotary meetings to be proselytized for either political or religious purposes and their desire for privacy in those arenas must be respected and protected by club leadership and all members, and an atmosphere of respect and tolerance fostered.

Finally, just think how our polarized, rancorous and divisive political spectrum might improve if all involved utilized the 4 Way Test as its guide! (Feel free to contact me if you have any specific comments or questions!)



## D6690: THE BEST YOUTH EXCHANGE LEADERSHIP TEAM IN ALL ROTARY?... QUITE POSSIBLY!

Annually, Rotary Districts are scored on their Youth Exchange programs. In order to reach the highest level, the Gold level, the district must score over 400 points. Silver requires 300 - 399 points and Bronze requires 200 - 299 points. D6690 received **935 points** in the most recent scoring!! It is quite possible that D6690 could win DISTRICT OF THE YEAR competing against all Rotary Districts in Canada, the USA and Mexico combined! WAY TO GO TEAM!!!

