

My Year as President 2001-2002

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Writing these reflections two years after my year as president provides valuable perspective about what is important. What stands out? The people. I think our club members are wonderful people. We are relatively small in number, but strong in voice. I love that about us.

Special thanks to the 2001-2002 board:

Stan Miner, President-Elect

Jim Osborn, Vice-President

Stephanie Ko, Treasurer

Sally Schultz, Secretary

Hillary Hamilton, International Service

James Woodcock, Community Service

Paul Mar, Vocational Service

Steve Mayeda, Club Service

Dennis Su, Foundation Chair

And additional support from Jean Donohue, Terri Nakamura, and all the members of our wonderful club.

The Top Ten Highlights of the 2001-2002 Year

1. We provided community support for students at every grade level at Gatzert Elementary School.
 - Kindergarten/First Grade – Painted classrooms
 - Second Grade – Book About Me Literacy project
 - Third Grade – Giraffe Partners Community Service Program
 - Fourth & Fifth Grade – Supplies for environmental camp including 105 sleeping bags, disposable cameras and flashlights.
 - Fourth and Fifth Grade – Sponsorship of Ewing Memorial Choir at Gatzert Elementary School. They performed at our club January 2002.
2. We hosted three Russian students from Irkutsk for month-long business internships and home stays.
3. We built a school in rural Cambodia with other partners.
4. We began projects in Russia (hospital equipment) and Zimbabwe (borehole wells).
5. We inducted seven new members.
6. We developed a membership retention program that includes an additional Rotary mentor for each new member. Thanks to Jean Donohue, we hosted a dinner for all new members and the Rotary board.
7. We convened on site Rotary meetings at Legacy House and the Wing Luke Asian Museum and Fare Start Restaurant.
8. We provided scholarships for six Seattle area high school students.
9. We were awarded the Presidential Citation and the District Community Service award at the District conference.
10. We began our meetings on time.

Although I had lofty goals around community service, scholarships, and wells in Zimbabwe, I was told that my greatest contribution was getting the meetings started on time. I soon joked that being president simply required knowing the answers to three basic questions:

What's the soup today?

Who's the speaker?

Can I give you this form/auction item/business card/idea/box of old files?

Events that stand out in my mind: the Rotary International conference and parade of flags on horseback; our club's joint invocation by Ahmed Jaddi and Phil Ginsberg on September 14, the Thursday after September 11; the first performance of the Gatzert Elementary Ewing Memorial choir; the visit of the Russian students; the visit of the president of Epson and his entourage – who was treated like any other ol' guest at our club. It was a wonderful year and it sped by. I'm forever grateful to our club members for giving me the opportunity.