



VOLUME 75, NO. 08

# Rotary District 5300

## The Highlighter

2002 - 2003



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Anne Donofrio-Holter  
District 5300  
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## A Few Words from the District Governor

"Are we there yet?" The proverbial children's question must be on the minds of all who are club presidents and secretaries, and maybe on the minds of the club members, too. The answer of course, is "no." What does happen this time in the Rotary year is that we must begin to change directions in a subtle way as we move for a successful arrival on June 30.

This change in direction was brought forcibly home to me at a working luncheon that six of the Southern California governors had with RI President Bhichai just before New Years. He looked directly at me and asked if the clubs are examining their goals which they themselves set out in the Planning Guides. He wants us to be sure that at this time of year we are all looking at these important documents, reviewing them, and beginning to see what might need to be done to hone in on the goals each of our clubs set the first of this Rotary Year. As I sat there, I was not really sure each of you has done this, though I am sure from the enthusiasm many have expressed about your year to date, that things are going well. But now is indeed the time to begin to look at these documents and see if anything needs to be done.

Further, all presidents and secretaries need to begin to plan for the changes which must inevitably come with the change in officers on July 1. We all need right now to work even more closely with our successors to be sure they are gearing up for a seamless transition. For the presidents elect, PETS will be a big help, and for them and the secretaries, the District Assembly will put on some important overlays to the information PETS has imparted. For the committee chairs too, the assembly is critically important. But none of that will substitute for your careful thinking and acting with your successors to be sure plans will be in place. Please do think about this as you go about your business of successfully running this year's events.

And what a year it is coming down to. The Polio Eradication program is in high gear and seems successful everywhere. All of the club programs I've been to have been wonderful. I hear all of you speaking with pride about helping the local community and the world at large, and I've participated in several wonderful inductions and Paul Harris Fellow presentations. All of this is Sowing the Seeds of Love in a masterful way. Please keep it up, and when we are "almost there," we'll know we have driven a wonderful route to a wonderful ending.

Lee Harlan, DG District 5300

## A Few Words from the Editor

I want to thank all the clubs that have been sending me newsletters either through the U. S. mail or via e-mail. I can tell by reading them that there are many interesting and worth while projects going on in our district.

Since most newsletters are written for the club members, sometimes it is difficult for an outsider, such as myself, reading the newsletter to get a good grip as to what a project is all about. There are many projects out there that I would love to



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highlight in our district newsletter, however, I cannot glean enough information from the newsletters themselves to put together a complete article. I encourage anyone who has a project that they would like to see highlighted in our district newsletter to let me know. To e-mail or send me additional information, [click here](#).

Also, check out the Special Club Events page on the district web site. Contact our district webmaster Chris Datwyler if you'd like to post events open to other club members.

## [Rotary Potpourri](#)

### **Native American Teens Excited By J.A. Opportunities**

It was my first day before the Inter Tribal Council (ITC) of Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, California and I wondered how they would react to the Junior Achievement Company Program. This is the 'classic' JA program, conceived in 1919, for forming a mini-enterprise that requires student participants to raise working capital by offering shares of stock at \$2 each, then producing and selling a product or service that generates revenues to cover salaries, production supplies, advertising, etc. like any other commercial business. But with one major difference - the company must be liquidated at the end of one school year and the investment capital returned with a dividend (not guaranteed).

The Sherman ITC would be our trial group for this venture since they met every day for leadership training. The 500+ students that live on campus and represent 90+ tribes, would return to their tribes upon graduation and it is important that they know something about governance. Now we would be teaching them about 'economic development' as part of their leadership training, which is very important because of astronomically high unemployment rates on most reservations, often 50 - 70 percent! In fact, many students despair of finding any jobs even if they complete high school because they see relatives and others on the reservation that live a bare subsistence because there simply are NO JOBS. This hopelessness leads to alcohol and drug abuse and violence. We in Rotary must become purveyors of HOPE to Native teens so that they will see the value of education that leads to a job, maybe one that they CREATE themselves by becoming an entrepreneur.

When I showed the students a product sample from a JA company in an Arab high school in Nazareth, Israel, they could instantly see what was possible with this concept I was talking about. The Arab teens had designed a beautiful Christmas greeting card with a CD-ROM that conveyed photos of buildings and other sightseeing attractions in Nazareth, but even a video tour of their famous little town, to the musical accompaniment of an Arab choral group.

The Sherman teens quickly stated the obvious: they, too, had talent for any number of potential products. They have access to departments of art, music, graphic design, computers, pottery and jewelry making, with skilled teachers to help them. And to market their products, they have an all-day Spring Craft Fair coming up on March 15 and an all-day Annual Pow Wow on April 19 when many visitors come to their campus. But they could sell to others beyond their campus by using e-commerce with their own website and a catalog of their products. And probably to Rotary Clubs like mine, to the community of Riverside, and to the many who are interested in authentically made Native Indian crafts.

As the first session closed, I showed them a short ABC TV clip - 'Teens.com' - that portrayed how American teenagers were forming their own companies and some were making 'six-figure' incomes while still going to high school. One had just sold his business for 2.5-million dollars! 30,000 - 40,000 teens in 2000 were said to be running such companies. Wow - this was an exciting prospect for these sharp Native teens, including the senior class president, the reigning Miss Sherman, and others of the best and brightest at Sherman Indian H.S. And their teachers and counselors saw their enthusiasm and responded with quite a bit of their own.

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[West Covina Sunrise](#)



Next week they will select their JA Company officers, choose a name, decide on products to make, how to sell them, then go out and raise the capital needed to start this first JA Native American enterprise. An art calendar with note cards seems first on their list.

As I left Sherman that day, I was very excited myself to see the first fruit of what we in Rotary have been dreaming and planning for three years: Native American teens that sense new hope for their future. Later, at the noon meeting of Riverside Rotary, I was thrilled to meet Lorrie Loder who volunteered to mobilize members of that club and help mentor these kids. It was a long day for me as I drove 60 miles back to Altadena, but filled with great expectations of what Rotary and Junior Achievement can do for Native Americans, first at Sherman Indian HS, then in 140 other Native schools across America.

C. Ray Carlson  
Altadena Rotary

### **8th Annual Rotary International Peace Conference**

How to Fight Terrorism and Ensure U. S. Security and World Peace  
Saturday, March 15, 2003, 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 585 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA  
Moderator: Dr. Garbis Der Yeghian, PDG

Opening Remarks:

James A. Speer, Past Rotary International Director, PDG

Feature Presentations:

Jack Scott, California State Senator 21st District

Lee Baca, Los Angeles County Sheriff

Attending the conference will be Rotarians from seven Rotary districts, community and religious leaders, university professors, teachers, editors, students and community members. The conference is one of Rotary International's programs which searches and activates projects designed to help reduce stress and tensions between varying cultures and nations.

For additional information, contact James A. Speer at 626-335-0934 or Garbis Der Yeghian at 818-548-9345.

### **Victorville Rotary Club Delivers Christmas Gifts, Milk to El Sauzal Orphanage Near Ensenada, Mexico.**

Rotary Club member Glenn Pierce, seated, spearheaded efforts to deliver gifts and supplies to El Sauzal Orphanage near Ensenada, Mexico. Also shown from left are David Fisher, Russ Stringham and Robert Lovingood. Staff photo by Don Holland.

ENSENADA, Mexico -- Glenn Pierce remembers vividly the 13 Christmases he spent in an orphanage. So over the weekend when Pierce and other members of the Victorville Rotary Club delivered Christmas gifts and milk to El Sauzal Orphanage near Ensenada, Mexico, it was an emotional homecoming of sorts for the 82-year-old Victorville man.

"My dad died when I was 2, and I was put in a (Masonic) orphanage when I was 5," Pierce said. "When we went down to the orphanage (in Ensenada), I was really moved ... It really hit home with me." Pierce remembered as a child jotting down three Christmas wishes and hoping Santa would answer. It was always magical to find a gift intended especially for him.

Although local clubs and churches have supported the orphanage for years, Pierce spearheaded the effort to make a special Christmas delivery. The Victorville and Barstow Rotary clubs collected more than \$1,300 for gifts and other supplies for the orphanage, said Rotarian Russ Stringham, who along with Pierce and others delivered the gifts Saturday. Apple Valley Wal-Mart



gave a discount on the toy purchases and Molly Brown's Kountry Cafe donated a dozen pies -- a rare treat.

The Mexican government provides no financial support to the orphanage, and authorities are even known to turn back deliveries of food and supplies donated by American organizations. But over the weekend, two trucks full of supplies passed through the border without a hitch. Excited youngsters quickly carried the wrapped gifts across a muddy courtyard and into a chilly, sparsely furnished room at the site, which is home to 38 orphans.

"Christmas without presents -- for a kid -- it's sad," said an appreciative Erika Espinoza, whose grandparents founded the orphanage about 35 years ago. "It's everything we dream about. It's something they wait for all year."

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### **Arcadia**

Work continues on the club's fort project. When completed, the fort will be 84 feet by 60 feet, and 12 feet high. The naming of the fort is still to be decided by the club which is providing the manpower and other resources needed for the project



### **Las Vegas West**

Since January of last year, with the assistance of a District 5300 Community Assistance Program Grant, the club has provided mid-morning snacks for students at the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy.

### **Montebello**

On January 11, Montebello Rotarians delivered clothing and blankets to 350 needy children in Tijuana. Montebello also helped Ensenada Rotarians distribute over 500 food baskets to needy families in Ensenada.





(Montebello picture)



### **Pasadena Sunrise**

The club served lunch to over 100 homeless people at Union Station during the holidays.



### **Walnut Valley**

Each year, the Walnut Valley Rotary Club and the Rowland Unified School District participate in a joint project that demonstrates the caring, generosity and spirit of the holidays. The District provides a venue and transportation of collected foods from each school. The Walnut Valley Rotary Club provides leadership, organization, money, time, labor and transportation of foodstuffs from the community and vendors. They arrange the purchase of fresh foods to supplement the canned goods to feed over 250 needy families. Students, their families and other members of the Community donate nonperishable foods. RUSD Employees donate money and labor. The Rowland High School Interact Club, the Santana High School Peer Helpers, and the Nogales High School ASB put in their time enthusiasm and the majority of the labor. This year the Rowland Heights Coordinating Council also pitched in providing time, foodstuffs, and labor. The amount of food provided is typically sufficient to feed a family of four for at least a week. Over the last 31 years, more than 4,750 families have been provided holiday food baskets.



## **No Club News Submitted**

### **Do you have an article for the Newsletter?**

**Anne Donofrio-Holter**, newsletter editor for 2002-03, would like to encourage all the clubs in the district to send in its news articles and other items of interest for publication. Photos are especially encouraged, via e-mail, if possible. Anne would also like the clubs to continue sending her its weekly newsletters. Anne can be reached via e-mail at [WriterAnne@earthlink.net](mailto:WriterAnne@earthlink.net), at fax (323) 832-0979, or by mail at 1012 W. Beverly Blvd., PMB 145, Montebello, 90640.

Anne would like to thank everyone for their support in making our newsletter enjoyable and informative for all Rotarians in District 5300.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact her. The deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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