



Rotary District 5300

The Highlighter



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2003 - 2004

MAY 2004

A Few Words from the District Governor



Barbara Risher Welch
District 5300
District Governor



Anne Donofrio-Holter
District 5300
Newsletter Editor

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"GET ANCHORED IN ROTARY" is our District Conference theme. Join us June 3-6 as we cruise our way through the conference. Thursday will be the golf and tennis tournament followed by a harbor dinner cruise in the evening. Friday will be full of fun in the House of Friendship and exciting plenary sessions. In the evening we will hear from Chris Lewis (son of Jerry Lewis) of the Wheelchair Foundation to sum up our wonderfully successful wheelchair donations this year. The Azusa Pacific University singers will entertain us and the Hospitality Pavilion will be a fun place to gather throughout the conference. Saturday will again be full of great plenary sessions and our RI president's representative, Greg Yank, an excellent speaker will share with us. We will enjoy the Dan Stover Music Competition. Charlie Lane, a PDG from Tennessee will tickle your funny bone Saturday night and make you laugh, and since our goal is to have fun, he will surely help us to reach our goal. The club presidents will be involved in a very nice flag ceremony. Sunday we will honor our deceased Rotarians as part of our Family of Rotary during our memorial service and non-denominational service. The conference committee, headed by PDG Sal Briguglio, promises to offer you an AWESOME conference, so just make sure you DON'T MISS THE BOAT! Look to the district website for all conference information. The room rates have just been LOWERED to \$89.00/room!

Approximately 50 Rotarians from all around the district recently distributed 288 wheelchairs to those in need in the area of Puerto Vallarta. At the time of writing this newsletter, we leave tomorrow morning, so I can only tell you that I know it will be one of the most memorable experiences in our lives. We will be meeting with the Puerto Vallarta Sur Rotary Club which has identified the families in need and will take our Rotarians to their homes for the wheelchair delivery. I, for one, am taking tissues with me, as I doubt there will be many dry eyes. In keeping with the Family of Rotary, my entire family will get to experience this humanitarian effort, and other Rotarians are taking their spouses and/or children. The Wheelchair Foundation reports that an estimated 100-150 million disabled people worldwide need wheelchairs, though less than one percent own or have access to one. A huge thank you goes to president Rick Todd of Pomona Rotary who came up with the idea of a District 5300 wheelchair distribution and coordinated the entire trip. He also facilitated an excellent article about the trip in the Daily Bulletin. Stay tuned. I'll report back to you in next month's newsletter.

I had the privilege of sitting in on three out of 15 interviews of our Ambassadorial Scholar candidates. WOW! They knocked my socks off! The students are so amazing that I wish we had 15 scholarships to give away. The candidates are quality individuals with a real vision for the future and ideas on how to make a difference in people's lives. These scholars LOVE the Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship because it immerses the student into the culture. They don't just go to another country to study. They have a Rotarian mentor and visit the local Rotary clubs while they are away, in addition to their responsibilities of speaking when they return. Other scholarships do not focus on learning and living the culture. The District is always looking for Rotarians to serve on this committee to interview the candidates once a year. If you are interested, please click on "Ambassadorial Scholars" on our district website.

District 5300

Clubs

Alhambra
Altadena
Apple Valley
Arcadia
Arcadia Sunrise
Azusa
Barstow
Boulder City
Boulder City Sunrise
Caliente
Chino
Claremont
Claremont Sunrise
Covina
Covina Sunrise
Diamond Bar
Duarte
East Los Angeles
El Monte-South El Monte
Five Points
Foothills Sunrise
Glendora
Green Valley
Henderson
Hesperia
Industry Hills
La Verne
Las Vegas
Las Vegas Central
Las Vegas Fremont
Las Vegas North
Las Vegas Northwest
Las Vegas South Sunset
Las Vegas Southwest
Las Vegas West
Laughlin
Mesquite Virgin Valley Sunrise
Moapa Valley
Monrovia
Montebello
Monterey Park
Ontario
Pahrump Valley
Pasadena
Pasadena Sunrise
Pico Rivera
Pomona
Rancho Cucamonga
Rancho Cucamonga Sunset
Rancho Del Chino
San Dimas
San Gabriel
San Marino
Sierra Madre
South Pasadena
Upland
Victor Valley Sunrise
Victorville
Walnut Valley
West Covina
West Covina Sunrise

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Our outbound Mexico GSE team, led by team leader Charlie Barr from Upland Rotary, just returned from four weeks in District 4110 in Mexico and had a wonderful time. Our outbound South Africa GSE team, led by team leader Mike Link of the Las Vegas West Rotary, is currently in South Africa and are reported to be having an excellent experience. Our two inbound GSE teams from Mexico and South Africa will be coming approximately May 7 and will travel our district for four weeks. Please get involved with them when they are in your area. We want to show the GSE teams that District 5300 has the friendliest Rotarians! I happen to believe that we are the BEST district in the world and I thank you for helping make it so. You make me proud! Another person who makes me proud is our very own Sylvia Whitlock of Duarte Rotary. She was featured last month in the Rotarian magazine as being the first woman in Rotary. We should all be proud of Sylvia as she puts District 5300 on the Rotary map.

Serving with the best,
Barbara Risher Welch
District Governor

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 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. The deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. 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.

Anne Donofrio-Holter
District Editor

Rotary Potpourri

District Conference to Feature House of Friendship, First Call for Club Displays

District Governor Barbara Risher Welch invites all District 5300 Rotary clubs to participate in this year's House of Friendship. The House of Friendship is a gathering place for all Rotarians and guests to meet mingle and to review Rotary club displays during the District Conference scheduled June 3-6 at the Irvine Marriott.

All clubs are invited to create a club display. This is a perfect venue to proudly display your club's important accomplishments during the 2003-04 year. [Be Creative!](#) Past displays have included picture boards, slide shows and photo montages of various club projects and activities. This is also a great place to stimulate ideas for future fund raisers and service projects. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in both the large club and small club categories as judged by Rotary International's president representative. Evaluation criteria include presentation, content and creativity. Tables are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For reservations or questions, contact Tom Hale at 626-355-6066 or at halestone@yahoo.com

Cruise to be Given Away at District Conference

All of those attending this year's District Conference have the opportunity to win a dream cruise vacation valued at \$900!

District Governor Barbara Risher Welch invites all Rotarians and family members to participate in this fun and interactive contest. Upon check-in at the registration desk, each Rotarian and guest will receive their program "passport." Not only does this passport include the scheduling for the District Conference, but also a section where passport stamps and signatures will be collected. The challenge will be getting signatures of various Rotarians, district leaders, and the "passport stamps" from plenary sessions and meals. All passports successfully completed will qualify for the drawing. The winner of the drawing will receive a cruise voucher, which can be applied **toward any cruise** from Cruise Consultants Inc.

So, "All Aboard Mates" and plan on attending the District Conference to have the chance to win this exciting prize!

Information on conference registration can be found at:

<http://www.district5300.org/conference> or by calling conference chairs Sal Briguglio at 909-980-1100 or Debbie Mitsch at 909-628-5507.

District Simplified Grants

To clubs that received District Simplified Grants (DSGs) in 2003-04, please remember to submit your reports AND send in your commitment to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund - SHARE. If reports are not received by the June 30 deadline, your club will not be considered for ANY DSG in 2004-05. The report form can be found on the district web site: www.district5300.org Foundation GrantsDSG. Electronic submission to me would be very helpful in legibility. Please submit clear and concise applications - fill them in on-line and print off for signatures for clarity. DO NOT use the form on the RI web site - that is the form the district uses to request the DDF to be allocated to us.

The deadline to receive applications for DSGs 2004-05 is July 31, 2004 - this deadline will NOT be extended. We have \$25,000 in DDF to allocate to successful grants. The committee will review all applications and determine priority for funding. Preference will be given to clubs meeting the goal of EVERY ROTARIAN - EVERY YEAR - \$100. The money for DDF 2004-05 comes from the funds raised for TRF Annual Fund SHARE in 2001-2002 and ALL of the money is available for Rotary educational, humanitarian and World Fund programs.

Margaret Cooker, District Foundation Chair
pdgcooker@verizon.net

Interact Update

Interact forms are due to Rotary International by May 31, 2004 and need to be submitted every year in order for your Interact clubs to be registered with RI and thereby covered by RI insurance. May is also the month that your sponsored clubs should be holding their elections for 2004-05. In order for us to get a better handle on active Interact clubs within our district please complete the Interact form located on the district web site under Interact forms for 5300 at www.district5300.org and submit it electronically after making a copy for yourself. Once received, Paul Cheatham will ensure that the information is sent into RI.

Interact Symposium Intent to Participate forms are due to the registrar, Dave Beltran. Please visit the Interact Symposium link area on the home page of www.district5300.org and the calendar for deadlines.

Paul Cheatham, District Interact Chair
paul@arrowfinancialservices.com

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Interact Symposium - October 8-10, 2004

The 7-district Interact Symposium deadline for Rotary clubs to submit their pre-registration/intent form for the participation of Interact clubs, Mideract/Youthact/Junior Interact clubs and Kideract clubs is drawing near! Money does NOT need to be sent with the intent form but note that there IS an "EARLY BIRD SPECIAL" for sending in the money.

The ideal team to send to the symposium is the Interact club president, the school advisor and the Rotary liaison. Additional candidates can be submitted including potential and current leadership of your sponsored clubs and interested Rotarians. These people will be given preference based on the order in which the money and completed INDIVIDUAL registration forms are received.

For additional details, see Interact Symposium on the district web site. Note that Kideract members (elementary school children) cannot stay overnight at the camp, but can come Saturday with prior arrangement with Dave Beltran.

Questions to registrar Dave Beltran, davidb_rotary@yahoo.com or chair Margaret Cooker at pdgcooker@verizon.net.

GSE Team Visits Rotary Club in Bellville, South Africa



Picture left to right: Kelly Coker, Stevensen Walsh, PP David Holtzhausen, Mike Link, Brandy Contreras, Jackie Mercado

We arrived safely and the hospitality of the Rotarians in District 9350 has been outstanding. The team is learning and sharing resources and our "sight-seeing" has been both diverse and instructive. We are finding many similarities to many of the issues of economic growth, inclusion, valuing diversity as well as resistance to change. I believe on the tenth anniversary of full democracy in South Africa, the country is cautiously hopeful about her future. As in our own country acceptance of change and growth of tolerance and acceptance for others is a long, slow process. South Africa seems committed to that path. The Rotarians of District 9350 have done great and mighty things to address the massive social and economic issues facing the new South Africa. Schools, food programs, crèche projects (caring for small children), local vegetable gardens, AIDS education and caring for AIDS orphans . . . the list goes on and on. Their generosity, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit is a testament to the Rotary motto, "Service above Self."

Mike Link
GSE Team Leader

Reflections on South Africa - The First Ten Days

What stands out ten days into this amazing journey is that we all are more alike than we are different. From the poorest township to the wealthiest home, there is a sense of family, warmth, love of children, and hope for the future. On my vocational visits, I have met counselors, teachers, daycare workers, psychologists, and social workers who face the same issues and challenges present in the USA, not enough funding, a shallow resource pool, the need to break down stereotypes and barriers, and a commitment to always try harder.

One primary difference I've found between South Africa and the USA is a spirit of creativity and resourcefulness that exists here. Because government dollars are lacking for many social programs, the people in these programs become very good at public relations, fundraising, networking, and stretching available resources to their maximum.

I am also struck by the tremendous beauty of this country, and the pervasive hope for an ever-improving future.

Kelly Coker, Ph.D. Sponsored by the RC of Green Valley



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My trip thus far has been one of incredible discoveries and ultimate understanding. I have only been in South Africa for ten days and already have learned so much. I have been to townships filled with smiling faces and have seen examples of the tears that a terrible thing known as apartheid has caused. Through each moment of my experience, I have felt the warmth and welcome of the South African people and of the Rotarians I have met.

What an incredible opportunity for understanding I have been given on this GSE trip. I have been fortunate enough to not only observe my counterparts here in South Africa, but to actually have a healthy and important exchange of information about my life in America.

Thanks to this GSE experience I can truly say that I have "been" to South Africa.
Brandy Contreras, LL.D. Sponsored by the RC of Alhambra

Need Money For Local Projects?

2004-2005 will see District 5300 receiving a DDF (District Designated Funds) check from Rotary International for the second year. This new program replaces the CAP Grant and the New Opportunity Grant programs and allows us to decide how this portion of our DDF will be spent (\$25,000 in 2004-2005). A district committee will review the grant applications and rank the applicants. Local projects will receive priority in funding (matching grants and individual grants are still available through RI for International projects). The deadline for applications to be received is July 31, 2004 - this deadline will NOT be extended. Forms and information are available on the district web site at www.district5300.org under the "Rotary Foundation" and "Grant" headings. If you received a DSG in 2003-2004 and have not submitted your report(s), your Rotary club's application(s) will not be considered. Report forms are found at the same location on the District site.

Margaret Cooker
District Foundation Chair

Ski Week

Please note that the ISFR ski week will take place in Fernie, BC, Canada, February 5 to 12, 2005. Go to www.is. See: www.isfrski.org and www.virtualfernie.com. For additional information, contact Ted Ralfe at tedlaw@elkvalley.net.

Alhambra

For the past three years, the Alhambra club has partnered with the Alhambra School District to give all eighth grade students the opportunity to visit the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Funds provided by the Alhambra Rotary Charities Foundation and matched by two club members have paid for buses and admission to the only museum devoted to the preservation of Japanese history and culture. Approximately 1,400 students each year have benefited from the program.

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Altadena

Four Altadena Rotarians helped organize a small playground equipment room at Burbank Elementary School.

Duarte

The Duarte club held a very successful "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" on Saturday, April 10. In addition to breakfast, children could have their pictures taken with the Easter bunny. Money raised from this event will be used for community projects.

Montebello

For the sixth year in a row, Montebello Rotarians and Montebello Lions joined forces to make Easter a bit brighter for the needy in their area. Club members met a few days prior to the holiday to pack 150 baskets which contained enough food for several meals for each family. Although many supplies are donated by local businesses, each club budgets several hundred dollars to buy additional supplies. Upon delivery, many of the children greeted club members with hand-made thank-you cards to express their gratitude. Rotarians participating included Helio Altamirano, Raul Guerrero, David Avirom, Chris Robles, Irene Villapania, Ralph Helm, Anne Donofrio-Holter, and honorary Rotarian Larry Holter,



Pasadena Sunrise

Teacher recipients of the club's recent mini-grants used the funds to purchase text books, dictionaries, and desk maps.

Rancho Cucamonga

This year 200 children received shoes through the Happy Feet program. Each child is taken to Payless Shoes where they are given the opportunity to select a pair of shoes. In addition, each child received a pair of socks, donated by JC Penney and a club member.

Andrea Shields donated a motorized wheelchair to the club which was in turn donated to a college student who could not get around campus.

Female members and Rotary partners gathered to host a tea for 29 teenage "at risk" girls giving them an opportunity to interface with women who are successful in life. District Governor Barbara Risher Welch and PDG Margaret Cooker joined in to encourage the girls and assist in the festivities.

San Gabriel

The San Gabriel Rotary Club is proud of its support of Gabrielino High School's 300+ member Interact club and their successful carwash last month. Over 100 cars were washed. The funds raised by these teenagers will benefit the "Smiles for Student Project" in which needy 3rd grade students within the San Gabriel Unified School District will receive much needed dental work.

[Do you have an article for the Newsletter?](#)

Anne Donofrio-Holter, newsletter editor for 2003-04, 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@charter.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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