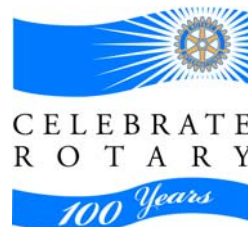




Rotary District 5300
The Highlighter
Volume No. 77 Issue No. 5
November, 2004



From the Governor

Roy York

Centennial Governor 2004-05

District 5300

roy.m.york@att.net

November happens to be Foundation month so I thought I would re-acquaint you with The Rotary Foundation.

Championed for years by Past RI President Arch Klumpf, it was not a priority for Rotarians until the death of Founder Paul Harris in 1947. Rotarians around the world, looking for a way to memorialize Paul Harris, started sending money to the Foundation in his name. It has since grown into the largest private (non-government) foundation in the world.

Just some of the programs sponsored by The Rotary Foundation, hereinafter referred to as TRF, are Ambassadorial Scholarships, GSE, World Peace Scholars, Polio Eradication, District Simplified Grants and, of course, Matching Grants.

I'd like to take this opportunity to fill you in on one of these wonderful programs.

We currently have our Centennial GSE Team in Seoul, South Korea and I have already received reports that the visit is exceeding all expectations. I have personally met with SangKoo Yun, District Governor of District 3650, and his beautiful and charming wife Eun Sun, and assure you our team will have a cultural and vocational experience rivaling any GSE team in District History.

If you are unfamiliar with GSE, it stands for Group Study Exchange. Each District throughout the Rotary world has the ability to send and/or receive a GSE team each year. Our District is fortunate in the sense that we have made it a priority to send and receive teams in the same year. Other districts either send or receive a team in a single year.

A Group Study Exchange team usually consists of four non-Rotarians between the age of 25 and 40, and one Rotarian (the Group Leader). During the exchange the ideal situation is for the team to spend about 4 days in the homes of participating Rotarians and learn about the family's day to day living by eating meals with them, sharing experiences, and being a "part" of the family for a short period of time. In addition, they spend at least a day a week on a vocational experience that is commensurate with their vocation. GSE visits usually last about 30 days. One of the requirements is the GSE team will spend their last few days at the sponsoring District's District Conference. They also make presentations to Rotary Clubs regarding the culture of their country and their personal lives and vocations. This provides all Rotarians in the district a chance to meet the visiting GSE team and the outgoing team as well.

In this District Governor's humble opinion, it is one of Rotary's strengths toward its goal of "peace through understanding". I personally correspond with a former team leader in Beirut, Lebanon and how many of us can say we have a "friend" in a mid-east country that can help us understand some of the complex problems facing them and us in this uncertain world. The strange part of our correspondence is that while we have the opportunity to discuss world "problems", we simply relay experiences regarding our grandchildren exactly like other friends I correspond with here at home. It means to me that all of us on this planet share the same hopes and desires. Hopes and desires that includes family, fellowship and fun.

And that, after all, was one of Paul Harris' original goals. While I'm positive he understood the possibilities of what Rotary was capable, I'm not so sure he ever envisioned the impact and possibilities of what The Rotary Foundation has done, or what it still can do in this global challenge we all face.

To learn more about TRF, visit the RI website at www.rotary.org and spend some time reading and understanding what those great programs mentioned above have already accomplished.

District Governor Roy



2006 District Conference Committee

From Susan Hayek

The 2006 District Conference Committee is already hard at work planning a fabulous District Conference at the Palm Springs Hilton.

Since District Governor Roy's conference at the Flamingo Hilton in Laughlin will surely be a tough act to follow, District Governor-Elect Stew Anderson has issued the challenge to P.D.G. Lee Harlan, who is chairing his conference, to kick it up yet another notch!

Joining PDG Lee and DGE Stew were Susan Nunnery, Sonia Lagomarsino, the incomparable Wes Weston, Barry Ulrich, Donna Wells (pictured at the left), and Rudy and Susanne Hayek (who are learning the ropes in preparation for chairing the 2007 conference).

All present agreed that the venue was just perfect for a successful conference! There are poolside rooms just right for hospitality suites and the main dining room features high ceilings and large windows for natural light. The conference area features two large rooms adjacent to each other which will enable the plenary sessions and the vendors and club displays to be easily accessible for all attendees. The hotel staff was among the friendliest and most welcoming ever and arrangements have been made to have the registration tables in the main lobby which will be festooned with our district banners!

Stay tuned for more news on this conference in the coming months and look for the 2006 conference booth at the 2005 Conference in beautiful, riverside city of Laughlin, Nevada.

Volunteers Wanted

**By Vernon Baptiste, President
Rotary Club of Altadena**

The following article appeared in "Sparks Off The Rotary Wheel." I felt it was worth printing here in the district newsletter. Ed.

W.E.B. Du Boise, the black writer and educationist once wrote:

"Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for over 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental . . . The freedom to learn . . . has been bought by bitter sacrifice. And whatever we may think of the curtailment of other civil rights, we should fight to the last ditch to keep open the right to learn, the right to have examined in our schools not only what we believe but what we do not believe . . . We must insist upon this to give our children the fairness of a start which will equip them with such an array of facts and such an attitude toward truth that they can have a real chance to judge what the world is, and what its greater minds have thought it might be."

These words have as much relevance today as when they were written more than 50 years ago. In most urban communities across our country, our public schools are not giving our children this freedom to learn that was so bitterly fought for over such a long span of history. The reasons for this are many. Some are economic and some are social. The consensus among reformers is that the public school systems probably could be fixed if five fundamental areas are addressed. Those areas are as follows:

1. The need for small class sizes which would permit personal attention to be given to students who are not achieving up to grade level.
2. Development of meaningful continuous relationships between students and teachers.
3. Establishment of high standards and performance-based assessment.
4. Creation of an atmosphere where there is a focus on learning.
5. Creation of a true partnership between parents, teachers and the community.

Of all these, the one area in which Rotary is best positioned to play a role is in the establishment of the partnership between parents, teachers and children. The differences between the norms and expectations of home and school often lead to serious dysfunctional relationships between children and teachers causing children to fail in school.

If parents do not understand or trust what is happening at school, they are not likely to support their children's efforts to succeed there. Part of the difficulty in creating strong family-school connections is that parents do not feel comfortable at school. In families with socioeconomic difficulties, school often resurrects vivid memories of negative experiences. Usually, the only reason the school contacts parents is tell them their child is in trouble.

Rotary can help. We can be the eyes and ears of the parents in the classroom. By volunteering to be tutors, we can bridge this gap in the education of our children. We can assist the teacher in the classroom by helping with those students who are falling behind in their class work. We can request input from parents about their children's strategies, paces and styles of learning. We can be mentors and surrogate parents for them.

In the one month that I have tutoring at Altadena Elementary, I have observed children who fall asleep in the classroom; children with deep emotional scars from a violent death in the family or a broken home.

These children often are yearning for others to listen to their pain. Although, many of them have fallen behind in their class work, I have been amazed by their innate basic intelligence and their will to learn.

Rotary Foundation Monthly Contribution Report
Period: From 1 Jul. 2004 to 30 Sept. 2004
District: 5300

Per Capita giving is not ranked because all clubs have not submitted their semi-annual reports - therefore starting membership data is not available for this Rotary year.

Top Clubs Ranked by Total Annual Giving

Club No.	Club Name	APF	Amount
000817	- Las Vegas North, NV	-	\$7,557.37
000780	- Claremont, CA	-	\$6,517.00
000785	- Five Points (El Monte), CA	-	\$6,000.00

SHARE SUMMARY

2004/2005 US\$100 Per Capita District Benchmark: not available
2004/2005 Total of Annual Giving for Period: \$58,226.10
2004/2005 Permanent Fund Earnings Designated to Share: \$0.00

2004/2005 Share Total: **\$58,226.10**

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Distribution of Share Funds - money that will come to US to determine spending in three years time

50% of Share Total to World Fund: \$29,113.05
50% of Share Total to District Designated Fund: **\$29,113.05**

2004/2005 District Annual Giving Goal (sum of all club goals): **\$342,943.00** - let's exceed this AND complete our Polio pledges
2004/2005 Total of clubs Annual Giving Goals received: 61 of 61 (100.00% received)

Margaret Cooker, RN
J. Margaret Clark-Cooker
PDG 2001-2002 Rotary International District 5300
www.district5300.org
District Foundation Chair
Seven District Interact Symposium Chair
RC Victorville, CA

ROTARY CLUB of PICO RIVERA

Is celebrating its 100th Year Anniversary.

Come help us as we sponsor a very special event for the children of Pico Rivera.

Please join us as we unite to raise money for the
"Durfee Elementary Playground Project."

Spend a day with friends and come meet
your neighbors and business owners who have come together
to do something about the much needed funds for Durfee Elementary.

Enjoy dinner, music, silent auction, live auction and raffles.

We encourage all levels of sponsorship and your good deeds will be acknowledged
throughout the night. It's a win win situation.
Together we can make a difference for our kids.



A Mi Hacienda Restaurant and Night Club

9613 Whittier Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660

Saturday, November 20th, 2004.

From 2:00 to 7:00pm

Table Sponsor (8 seating) \$500.00 or \$65.00 per person (1 seat).

(A maximum of 360 seats will be sold)

**Registration, Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvre
and casino play from 2 to 2:30**

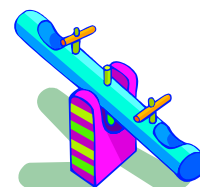
Lunch will be served from 2:30 to 5pm

No Host Bar

Silent Auction and Gambling from 2-6pm

Live Auction will be from 4 to 5pm

Raffles and Grand Prize will be at 6pm



*** Lots of prizes and lots of fun with friends, family,
neighbors, local business owners, parents and teachers.**

Come and enjoy this great event knowing your kids will get the benefits.

Make your reservations today.

If you want more detailed information about the event and sponsorship,
contact Nena Munguia by e-mail: mariam@icontactone.com or cell: (562)824-8846.

Please make checks payable to the Rotary Club of Pico Rivera.

Please note on your check "Durfee Elementary Playground Project"

West Covina Red Ribbon Rally

From Ken Lund, West Covina Rotary



Our annual Anti-Drug rally was held recently with about 5,000 parents and kids attending. The event inaugurated Red Ribbon Week, the purpose of which is to get across a strong "No on drugs and alcohol" message to the young people in this community. The rally is sponsored by the Rotary clubs of West Covina, the City, the School District, the Tennant Foundation, local 7-Eleven stores, and other important groups and individuals.

As one of our past Rotary Presidents recently said, "We are not a check-writing club. We are a 'hands-on group' and that's why we are involved in this event year after year." The rally's program included a free pancake breakfast, displays of anti-drug posters made by the local kids, demonstrations and displays by the Police and Fire Depts., the Boy Scouts, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and others. There was also continuous stage entertainment by various youth groups, hot air balloon rides, a classic car show, and much more.



The kids lined up bright and early with their parents to chow down on a full and delicious breakfast. And the crowds kept on coming all morning long. Andy Khan provided the food through the 7-Eleven store organization and said, "If we as Rotarians can save just one kid from drugs and help a family, then we have done our part in being who we say we are."

Many Rotarian volunteers and dozens of Interact Club volunteers from West Covina High School made this year another big success. As Dave Alfaro, a West Covina Rotarian and Co-Chair of this event, said, "We are here because of our love for our community...a love for being involved. It's an untiring desire to volunteer, particularly when it benefits our young people."

