



THE HIGHLIGHTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300

Christine Montan, District Governor 2006-2007

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Letter from Governor Christine:

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Having just returned from a weekend retreat we call the Presidents' Advance, and the week before, our annual mid-year Executive Council meeting, I have a fair picture of the "state of the District". I am happy to share with you our clubs are in wonderful shape – strong involvement by most members, and lots of new members -100 so far this Rotary year! We are giving to the Rotary Foundation, applying matching grants for multiple international projects, and are doing meaningful service projects in our own communities. I am so proud of all you've accomplished. But as well, I know from first-hand experience, there is great benefit to the fellowship Rotary offers. Our clubs are holding some great, fun social activities and I applaud that. And isn't that a part of the Four Way Test and the objects of Rotary – "building better friendships?"

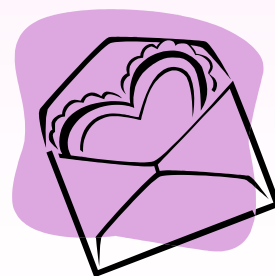


February is World Understanding Month in the Rotary World. We have so many opportunities in this regard in District 5300. Our Youth Exchange students represent four different countries; our Ambassadorial Scholars another four.

Our 2007 GSE team from District 1910 is expected in April and will represent Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Hersegovia. The 2006 outbound team has been all around the District speaking on their adventures in D 1910 – to date more than 25 clubs. Our annual International Peace Conference, open to all Rotarians and guests, will be held March 31, 2007, this year focusing on jobs creation in Latin American countries. Clubs are working on international projects with Rotarians in South Africa, the Phillipines, Peru, Malawi and Uganda and Nepal. We are doing a hands-on District-wide international project in Tijuana, Mexico in May, home-building for needy families.

Involvement in international service projects, and meeting and knowing those who come from other countries, other cultures, religions and traditions, are the best ways to world understanding...and maybe peace.....

Chris



PRESIDENTS' ADVANCE - A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!



by Christine Montan

The 2006-07 class of Club Presidents, their Assistant Governors and other key leaders convened January 19-22, joining me at the beautiful, picturesque UCLA Conference Center at Lake Arrowhead. Surrounded by snowy landscape and chilly but sunny weather, the participants met for sessions that identified club strengths and weaknesses, then worked in small groups to determine the best club practices. Presidents planned for the remaining months of the Rotary year, and left determined to continue "leading the way".

But it wasn't all work and no play! There was plenty of frolicking at the Saturday night western-themed square dance and line dance! Those that were new to the art form picked it up handily with the help of a professional caller and teacher. There was time for quiet reflection and relaxation in the warm and comfortable condo-lets, as well as six fantastic home-cooked meals, and multiple opportunities for fellowship.

The Presidents got a preview of the District Conference on Sunday and now the building-of- the-excitement for the end-of-year celebration begins. It was a wonderful, memorable time for us all. My sincere thanks to Presidents' Advance Chairs Keith and Dottie Hilliard for all they did to make this a spectacular event



The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

By: Bob Novell, D5300 Foundation Chair

As we finish January, we have news to report on giving results for contributions to the Foundation, our District Simplified Grants, and our Ambassadorial Scholar program.

Giving. District 5300 Rotarians have contributed \$266,000 through December 31st. \$192,000 of this amount is going toward the Annual Program Fund (50% of these unrestricted gifts will be returned to the District in Rotary year 2009-10 as District Designated Funds (DDF) to be used for grants and educational programs). The remaining \$74,000 in contributions from our Rotarians was designated either for a restricted purpose (e.g., matching grants, polio) or for the permanent fund.

Group Study Exchange (GSE). We are paired next year with District 9790 in Australia (parts of New South Wales and Victoria). We had the good fortune and pleasure to be paired with an Australian District several years ago. We will begin our interviews this summer for the Rotarian team leader and the non-Rotarian team members who will travel to Australia in Spring 2008.

District Simplified Grants (DSG's). The first set of DSG's were approved and funded in January. Only a portion of the \$25,000 available was utilized and therefore, the application date for DSG's has been extended to February 16th for Clubs who have not yet submitted a DSG application. Some examples of DSG projects approved in January would be South Pasadena who is using their DSG for a project where young people turn in toy guns for books, Azusa is replacing an entry way for at environmental education classroom in the Angeles Forest, Las Vegas Central is funding a Zink the Zebra school program to help children build self esteem and be accepting of each others differences, and Altadena who is providing an after-school program on business development planning for American Indian students.

Southern California Foundation Dinner. *The Magic of the Rotary Foundation* dinner was held on January 27th at the Royal Vista Golf Club in Walnut. More details of this celebration of the Foundation will be in next months newsletter. Look for a link to the photos at www.district5300.org.

Ambassadorial Scholar Program. During January, we learned of the following placements for our out-bound scholars for next year: (1) Amanda Zeidan, sponsored by the Green Valley Rotary Club will be going to Alexandria University in Alexandria, Egypt; (2) Catherine Hammond Powell, sponsored by the Claremont Sunrise Rotary Club has been assigned to Henry Martyn Institute in Hyderabad, India; and Christina Des Vaux, sponsored by Las Vegas Rotary Rotary Club, has been assigned to Universidad Catolica A. Larranga, Montevideo, Uruguay. In the coming weeks, we will begin to application and interview process for Ambassadorial Scholar candidates for the academic year 2008-09.

Rotary Foundation Contact Center. Don't forget that the Foundation has created a Contact Center (email at contact.center@rotary.org or by phone at 1-866-976-8279) where one can call for requests for help.

Southern California Foundation Dinner *“The Magic of the Rotary Foundation”*



District Governor Christine Montan and District Foundation Chair, Bob Novell



Victorville President Cherie Range receives congratulations on Victorville's being awarded the top Club in the District last year for total giving (over \$96,000) and per-capita (over \$600) giving to The Rotary Foundation.



Guest Speaker Fari Meini (center) with Hiroko Otsuko, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Brown, PDG Tim Siu, Mike Zoeller and DG Chris Montan.



District Foundation Chair Bob Novell and Ambassadorial Scholar, Hiroko Otsuka



Mr. and Mrs. Steve Brown with DGND Gene Hernandez and Louise.



DG Elect Charles Barr with Arcadia Rotary President, Frank Griffith and Marlene.

Sharing Personal Rotary Adventures at the District Conference

Fun, Fellowship, and Recognition

By: Rudy Hayek, Conference Co-Chair

"In the arena of human life the honors and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action." –Aristotle



Do you have someone in your club you want to honor or recognize? Does your club have a special anniversary or milestone that you would like to share with the District? Is there a newsworthy item or event that your club has done that you think exemplifies the might and spirit of Rotary? Do you have a funny or inspiring Rotary anecdote about one (or more) of your club members, which you would like shared with the other Rotarians and guests at the Conference? If you answered "yes" or "maybe" to any of these questions, boy do we have a way for you to do it! Here are three opportunities for your consideration:

1. **Purchase an ad in the Conference Tribute Program book.** We are accepting quarter page, half page, and full page submissions at \$25, \$50, \$100 respectively.
2. **Produce a display or create a photo essay.** Showcase them in the House of Friendship. There will be a special ballroom at the conference reserved for these projects.

Submit a human interest anecdote. Conference MC and Sierra Madre Rotarian, Frank Hall is spearheading this fun drive. The top five stories will be read by Frank, from the podium at selected Conference meal sessions. The club with the winning anecdote will receive \$100, personally awarded by Frank. All other entertaining and appropriate stories will be published monthly in the District Newsletter.

There you have it! You may participate in all three campaigns if you would like. All you have to do is jump in and play. Just email me directly and I will direct you to the right person.

To register for Your District Conference, it's as easy as ONE, TWO, THREE:

- **ONE:** Go to www.district5300.org and scroll down until you see our District Conference mascot, "Safari Sam".
- **TWO:** To register for the Conference and the Meals directly, click the "On Line Registration" button, which will take you to the SPORG automated page where you can complete your registration.



THREE: Go back to Safari Sam, and this time click on the "More Information" button. This will take you to the official Conference Page, where you will see a link to the Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa. The phone number is right there for you to call and reserve your rooms. Note: you may take advantage of the \$125 room rate all the way through Sunday evening 5/27!

This is the time to rally yourself and your troops in your club, and get excited about your District Conference!

Check out our Jack Canfield Sponsors at the district website. There are links to their sites...pay them a visit! They are bringing Jack to all of us!

Tom Novotny Selected by DG Nominating Committee

By: Susanne Hayek

Tom Novotny, a member of the Las Vegas West Rotary Club, has been selected as the District Governor Nominee Designate, to serve as District Governor for the year 2009-2010.

Tom has been a Rotarian since 1982. He served as President of the Las Vegas West Rotary Club in 2002-2003. Tom has held about every possible position at the club level and has held a number of district positions. Among those are, Co-Chair of the 4-Way Speech Contest, Assistant Governor, Executive Assistant Governor, and assistance at the PRLS and leadership seminars. Tom was also selected as Club Outstanding Rotarian on three occasions.

Tom has a long and varied history of service to the community with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, YMCA wrestling, the Boys and Girls Clubs, Jaycees and Elks.

Tom states that as district governor he would seek to bring the District to the next level with his leadership and communications skills as well as to work towards goals of getting back to the fundamentals of Rotary and of bringing Rotarians in Southern California and Nevada closer for a smoother and more impactful working relationship. He appreciates the support of his Rotary partner and wife of 29 years, Robin. They have three children, one grandchild, and three basset hounds. In his "spare" time, Tom enjoys sports, reading, history and his family. (not necessarily in that order)



What's New in Rotary Club Management

By: PDG Steve Garrett

Things don't change much in Rotary. We sing the same songs, sometimes the food looks pretty similar from week to week, and although we do get a new president every year once they go to PETS, (President Elects training seminar), they seem to be pretty much like the one before them.

But Rotary International has been going through major changes over the last four or five years. The corporation has become much more of a policy governed organization with long-term strategic planning compared to what was previously a new focus program every year.

Now it's time for the individual Rotary clubs to make some changes in how they operate. This is all part of what we call the "club leadership plan", which was introduced in 2005. On the surface it looks to very similar to what we've always done. But when you delve into the details, there are a few changes that will make a big difference in how we operate our Rotary clubs.

One of the major changes is doing away with having an "avenue of service" chairman as a member of the Board of Directors. The reality is that the Board of Directors is the governing organization of the Rotary club and as a whole is responsible for all service projects and administrative functions of the Rotary club.

This is really a reflection of what's happening in the larger world of public benefit corporations; a topic we call Board governance. It is not just the Rotary clubs that are struggling with these concepts, and it isn't even limited to the world of public benefit corporations. Board governance is a frequent topic in the business pages of the local newspaper and often the front pages of national newspapers, not to mention the evening news.

There is a lot more involved in the "club leadership plan" than simply eliminating the avenue of service chairman as members of the Board of Directors. Our district has created a new training opportunity directed at the officers and members of the Board of Directors of your Rotary club, but open to all Rotarians. We are calling this the "board of directors training seminar" or BODTS. The inaugural version will be on March 24 and 31 of 2007. The first will be held at the Doubletree Club Hotel, Las Vegas and the second will be at Etiwanda Gardens, Rancho Cucamonga. Both seminars will start at 8:30 am and finish at 12 noon. For more information on these seminars please refer to the District Calendar.

Claremont Rotarian Designs Winning Rotary International Convention Logo

On Friday, January 26, 2007, at the regular **Claremont Rotary** meeting at the Alexander Hughes Center (12:10 – 1:30 PM), the winning 2008 RI convention logo was unveiled by a contingent from the Host Organization Committee, including **LA-5 members Gerry Turner, Mike Birkholm and Lee Jackman**, for the Los Angeles 2008 Rotary International Convention. They presented Claremont Rotarian (**Darylynn Polamero**) with the Grand Prize award for designing the identity for the 2008 convention which is expected to attract up to 50,000 Rotarians from around the world. **Past District Governors Lee Harlan and Jerry Tambe** were also in attendance. The presentation also includes a monetary award to the Claremont Rotary Club which will be used for Rotary good works in their community and for other projects in needy countries. For most of the club members, this was a surprise presentation as the logo just recently was fully approved and released for worldwide promotions by the Rotary International legal department.

DARYLYNN and her staff competed with Rotarians from the 7 Southern Calif. districts (for a total of 85 submissions) for the logo design for the 2008 RI Convention in Los Angeles. “As a 5-year member of Claremont Rotary and the owner of a graphic arts, marketing and consulting business, I “seized” the opportunity to make multiple entries to the 2008 Los Angeles Rotary International Convention Logo Design Open Call”, stated the proud winner. “The challenge to depict the diverse “draws” of Los Angeles such as the Hollywood Bowl, the Walk of Fame, the beaches and the mountains to a worldwide audience in a dynamic, compelling, artistically and sophisticated manner that exalted Rotary was the motivating force behind our talented team approach”, Darylynn added.



The Claremont Rotary Club is overjoyed at the recognition but that pales in comparison with their pride that one of their Rotarians is playing a part in the excitement of Rotary International and this event! As an added bonus, Darylynn and her team have been able to contribute to the print and advertising media designs for the convention giving them an opportunity to demonstrate the consistent quality and high standards of Rotary International in a dynamite visual package!

The Rotary International Convention is held in a different city throughout the world every year (last year's was in Copenhagen, this year in Salt Lake City, next year in Los Angeles). The LA2008 Convention Host Organization Commemorative Project will be *Rotary's Wide World of Books – Reading by 9* which has also been a long-time community project of the Claremont Rotary Club.

Submitted by the Claremont Rotary Club

Rotarians and Kiwanians Bring History & Science to Life



By: Daniel B. Watson

The Rotary Club of South Pasadena has joined forces with the South Pasadena Kiwanis Club to bring Ben Franklin to Fifth Grade classrooms at four South Pasadena Schools. The two service clubs were supported by a grant from the Raise Foundation, an Outreach of the International Printing Museum, to pay for a literary adventure celebrating the 300th birthday of Ben Franklin, his wondrous inventions, and his many positive contributions to the World. Ben Franklin's Colonial Museum on Wheels is an interactive, mobile museum that also introduces visitors to Ben Franklin and provides a history of Ben's primary profession, printing. The program was presented to 5th graders from Monterey Hills School on January 10. Students from Marengo, Arroyo Vista, and Holy Family Schools will see the program in the next few weeks.



The idea for bringing Ben Franklin to local schools came during a recent visit by Rotarian Pat Jackson to Monterey Hills School to hand out dictionaries to 5th Grade Students. The South Pasadena Rotary Club donates dictionaries to 5th graders each year. Pat asked 5th grade teacher Virginia Goodrich if there was anything else Rotary could do to help. Since Ms. Goodrich is a student and fan of early American history, their conversation led eventually the the Colonial Museum on Wheels. Pat solicited the South Pasadena Rotary members adn several stepped up with a donation. Pat also contacted Veronica Dollescehl from South Pasadena Kiwanis, and they agreed to match Rotary's donation. The remainder of the fee was provided by the Raise Foundation.

Caption for Group Photo - Front Row - 5th grade students from Monterey Hills School.

Second Row - Ellen Dougherty from SPUSD, (Ellen Dougherty, Assistant Supervisor of Instruction, for South Pasadena Unified School District (far left, back row in group photo). Ellen was instrumental in helping to get this program approved and funded. It would not have happened without her assistance) Monterey Hills Principal Joe Johnson, 5th grade teacher

Henderson Rotarian Participates in Leadership Panel

Dr. Joan McGee, President of the Henderson Rotary Club, as part of the city of Henderson's Leadership class of 2007, participated in its community service panel discussion.

Representatives of the Kiwanis and Civitan organizations were also included. The session lasted over an hour, and she was able to share with the 20 participants the history and ideals of Rotary, and some of the many projects accomplished each year by the Henderson Rotary Club. There were numerous questions and comments, and those in charge of the day said they received great feedback on the panel discussion. Joan told them that as future leaders in southern Nevada, that they should take all the skills and contacts they've gained while participating in this wonderful program, and put them to use in some form of community service. And with Rotary being the oldest (and best!) service organization in the country, it seemed obvious to her that Rotary is the organization they should choose! Provided to each Leadership Henderson participant was a folder with pages of historical information on Rotary, a membership form, specific information on the Henderson Rotary Club meetings, a Rotary pen and a 4-Way Test coin. Everyone really seemed impressed by the packets and appreciated receiving the information.



November is Rotary Foundation Month

**We Thank You
for Making a Difference
by Supporting & Using
the
Programs of the
Rotary Foundation**

A collage of several small photographs. The top row shows a group of people in uniform, a group of people in a meeting, and a person in a hard hat. The bottom row shows a group of people in a meeting, a person in a hard hat, and a person in a hard hat.

VEGAS-STYLE GAMES
Beginners Welcome! **3rd Annual**

Casino Mardi Gras

Friday, February 16, 2007 - 7 to 11 p.m.

Hosted by the Rotary Club of East Los Angeles

Tamayo Restaurant
5300 E. Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Advance Tickets: \$30 (\$35 at the door)
Includes Admission to the Casino,
\$25 of Gaming Chips, Finger Food,
Entertainment, Prizes & lots of fun!

For ticket information and sponsorship opportunities, contact:
Caroline Reinhard 323.263.5165 or Brenda Lopez 323.243.9069

All proceeds go to support the
Rotary Club of East Los Angeles youth and community projects.
Learn more at www.elarotary.org

Blackjack—Roulette—Texas Hold'em Poker—Craps

Our District's First GSE Exchange-40 Years Ago!



The photo was taken at LAX on February 18, 1967 is attached. The names of the men from left to right are: Lance Thomas, Jim Ross, Herb Hezlep (D530 chairman), Tim Martella, Brian Cahill, D530 Governor John H. Clay, Team Leader Bill Holywell, Warren Milner, Newton Langford.

Herb Hezlep, Rotary Club of Monrovia and 3rd from the right above, will be attending the 40th reunion of this GSE exchange, in Perth Australia, next month! He will be bringing back photos and videos to share with the district at the District Conference. Look for an upcoming article here and his display in the House of Friendship!

“Polio in the News”

Because of recent increased eradication efforts, the number of newspaper articles discussing polio have seemed to grow. While most do not mention Rotary, the articles do give both good and bad news about the eradication efforts.

When I have shared some of the stories with other Rotarians, they took a sincere interest in learning, directly from newspapers in the countries involved, about eradication efforts. This interest made me believe that perhaps other Rotarians might like to read the latest news about polio.

Accordingly, I have created a web site with links to the very latest news in the world press about polio eradication. I do not filter out the good news from the bad news. I try to give a link to every story I can find. I try to update the website at least every 24 hours and it is my plan to delete links that are more than 6 days old, thus keeping the news current.

I hope you will create a link on your district or club web site to this "*Polio In The News*" web site. The URL is <http://www.mooers-law.com/PolioInTheNews.htm>.

Thank you for your continued support of PolioPlus Partners and the effort of Rotarians around the world to stamp out this disease.

Dan Mooers
 Zone 31 Coordinator
 PolioPlus Partners Task Force

THE BEST OF ROTARY

BY SUSANNE HAYEK, EDITOR

This month I am very excited about the 40th anniversary of our District's very first GSE exchange. The reason I am so excited is that the District GSE Chairman at the time, Herb Hezlep, Rotarian from Monrovia, documented, in great detail, the original exchange and has kept in touch with all the participants! To someone (me) whose secret passion is to be a Historian, this is a treasure trove of our District's precious history and I want to thank Herb for his dedication, perseverance, and diligence in preserving this for all of us.

Herb will soon be traveling to Perth to celebrate this 40th anniversary with the team. He has promised to bring us photos, updates, and video. He will have a table at the House of Friendship and we will be showing his video during a Plenary Session. *(picture and story on page 9)*



Photo by Amanda Kallis

What is ironic to me is that the very tool that facilitates communication around the world (the internet and e-mail) is also that thing that depersonalizes relationships if allowed. In my business I have made it a goal to Mail (yes, USPS) hand written "thank you" notes to my clients. I think it means something. Also, I have realized that it is often better to pick up the telephone and speak to someone rather than e-mailing. I'm sure Herb used all these methods of communication to keep in touch with his buddies in Australia but what stands out to me is that they actually visited each other, stayed in each other's homes, broke bread together.

Here's where I climb on my soapbox, so get ready. Rotary is about friendships. Take the time out of your busy life and attend fellowship events. In fact, why not host a fellowship event?

My bias will be obvious here but I know that there are clubs who do not have a newsletter. My heartfelt belief and conviction is that a newsletter facilitates both communication and relationships, not to mention that they become a precious accumulation of a club's history. I personally believe every Rotary club should have a historian, a newsletter editor, and a webmaster. This, in fact, dovetails very well with the new Club organization plan which suggests a PR Chair at the Rotary Club Board Level. Don't miss the BODTS, "Board of Directors Training Seminar" *(see story on pg 6)* which will be coordinated by PDG Steve Garrett. This seminar is geared to incoming boards but is open to all Rotarians...and certainly there is not a more informed or better speaker than Steve. Go to www.district5300.org and click on "Board of Directors Training Seminar" to see the flyer.

The District 5300 Highlighter is the official monthly publication of

Rotary International District 5300.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month.

The Highlighter is edited by Susanne Hayek, Rotary Club of Arcadia.

Submissions should be sent as Microsoft Word files and should include photographs, as .jpg, with photo credits and names of persons appearing in the photograph. Submissions should be sent to: susanne-hayek@earthlink.net

Susanne can also be reached at 626-355-9323 or 626-353-1266