



THE HIGHLIGHTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300
Christine Montan, District Governor 2006-2007

Letter from Governor Christine: *AT THE END OF A SUCCESSFUL YEAR*

In my office on a bookshelf, I have a small framed greeting card I picked up somewhere over the years, within easy viewing of my desk. It's a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson with which I am sure many of you are familiar:

SUCCESS

To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty,
To find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better,
 whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
That is to have succeeded.

What a success this year has been! Using Emerson's definition, or ones of our own, we have left an indelible mark on the communities we serve, and on the world, by our service that was substantial and meaningful. So many of our goals were accomplished, and dreams were seen come true. We did leave the world a better place: with healthy children, garden patches and redeemed conditions of housing and water systems. All of this possible, not only because we had the vision, but because we worked hard and as a team.

We celebrated all these successes and more at a wonderful District Conference, which for me was one of the highlights of my tenure as Governor. A most sincere thank you to all who worked on the Committee, the award-winning clubs, District leadership, and those who participated by attending! We 'laughed much and often', (yet a few tears were seen too.)

This position of Governor has been a most humbling and magnificent place to be for me.

I thank you all your support and encouragement. Long after the 2006-07 Rotary year ends, continue to "lead the way".



The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

By: Bob Novell, D5300 Foundation Chair

- **GSE.** Greg Custer (San Marino) reports that the GSE team from District 1910 (Central Europe) has departed for home after spending a month in our District and finishing their time at our District Conference. The District 1910 GSE team visited 15 Clubs, the members of the team were hosted by over 30 Rotarians, they had opportunities to meet with people in our communities who were in the same profession / vocation, and had a chance to learn a little about Americans in our District. Pam Hayes (Covina) and our GSE team members returned from their visit to Central Europe (Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, and Hungary) with similar stories, adventures, understanding of other cultures, and new friends, all of which is part of the GSE experience. Clubs should be thinking about who within the Club might make a good GSE team leader for next year's GSE visit to District 9790 in Australia. GSE team leader interviews are scheduled for July 21.
- **Rotary Center for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution.** John Regan (Claremont) and Dee Matreyek (Rancho Cucamonga) report that we can now accept applications for this program. See the District website for details.
- **Ambassadorial Scholars.** Jerry Tessier (Pomona) reports that the Ambassadorial Scholarship committee has selected five outstanding young students who will represent our District for the academic year 2008-09.
- **Humanitarian Grants program.** Conrad von Bibra (South Pasadena - international matching grants) and Sylvia Whitlock (Claremont – District Simplified Grants) report that nearly 30 of our 60 District Clubs used one or both of these grant programs to fund projects in our District as well as in other parts of the world.
- **Major Foundation Award at District Conference.** Tim Siu (Alhambra) received the Foundation's Distinguished Service Award while George Newton (Apple Valley) received the Foundation's Certificate of Meritorious Service Award at this year's District Conference. These above recognitions from the Foundation are limited to only a few people in the world and are only given to individuals who have distinguished themselves in a variety of Foundation program areas over long period of time. Additionally, Walter Tang (Alhambra), Luther Eskijian (Altadena), Don Bremer (Chino), Pam Hayes (Covina), Patricia Dillon (Claremont Sunrise), Steve Hammitt (Claremont Sunrise), Andy Crawford (Industry Hills), Karen Whisenhunt (Las Vegas), Chip Ossman (Pasadena Sunrise), Clive Houston-Brown (Pomona), Greg Custer (San Marino), Rich Haserot (San Marino), and George Rigney (South Pasadena) were recognized for their work on behalf of the Foundation by being recognized with The Rotary Foundation District Service Award.

TRAVEL THE WORLD.....MAKE NEW FRIENDS.....SHARE YOUR CRAFT

BE PART OF GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE 2008!

Congratulations and Kudos to DGE **Charlie Barr** (Upland) who has already begun preparations for the 2008 GSE Exchange, naming 2007 GSE Team Leader **Pamela Hayes** (Covina) as Committee Chair.

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women ages 25 to 40 in their initial years of professional life. Led by a Rotarian representing District 5300, the 2008 GSE team will travel to the “land down under” to explore Australia’s beautiful beaches, cosmopolitan cities, mysterious outback and meet fellow Rotarians who share the same values to which all members of our international association are committed. A team of up to 4 non-Rotarian professionals will be invited to participate in this exchange with District 9790 in March/April of 2008. There is no better opportunity to share expertise with those in similar vocational fields, be immersed in cultural experiences, enjoy fellowship with host families and members of the community, and participate in Rotary experiences with host clubs.

A great Team Leader is a Rotarian in good standing who has the passion to work with young professionals while instilling the values of Rotary as the facilitator of the program. The ideal Team Member is someone who is a team player, has a positive and outgoing personality, demonstrates a sense of responsibility, is an effective communicator and is anxious to share their professional with others.

MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT! Direct your fellow Rotarians to the District 5300 website for more information on the GSE program. There you will find everything you need to know to get involved.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS! Do you know a fellow Rotarian or a business associate who may be interested in GSE? Are you that great boss who would give an employee some time off in exchange for a wealth of information that could improve your business?

SPREAD THE WORD! Team Members are **not** Rotarians, so we need to get information on this opportunity out to everyone who could make this exchange a positive experience for our district. Make an announcement at your office, at your local Chamber of Commerce, to your neighbors, at your next social engagement.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 21, 2007 - **Team Leader Interviews**

September 21, 2007 - **Team Member Interviews**

All interviews will be held at: Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce, 10610 Apple Valley Rd., Apple Valley, CA 92307. Visit www.District5300.org for applications and instructions for applying for the 2008 GSE team. You can mail completed applications to Pamela Hayes, c/o VLI, 5358 N. Irwindale Avenue, Unit B, Irwindale, CA 91706. You may also direct any questions to Pamela at vliceo@aol.com, or while the 2007 team is out of the country (April 24 through May 24), email Charlie Barr at thecantina@mindspring.com

Water Pollution Article

Many Americans may not be aware of it, but water pollution is a very serious problem around the world. Most people do not think about the condition of the water they drink because it is assumed to be clean. But in countries such as Africa and India, clean water can be scarce and rare. In countries such as these, the women and children must travel many miles to reach a water source which may not even be uncontaminated water. Researchers have found that about 1.5 billion people around the world do not have access to clean, usable drinking water. But since water is a very important part of human life, people will drink the water they can get whether it is clean or not. This polluted water is one of the leading causes of the deaths of millions of children and adults all around the world. Many illnesses and diseases are caused by the lack of clean water to drink, cook, and clean with. Some examples of diseases are cholera, diarrhea, typhoid, and hepatitis, all of which are serious conditions. Since the families in third world countries do not have access to the medical attention necessary for treatment, many end up either disabled or dead.

There are efforts being made around the world to try and help correct this issue of water pollution. Organizations such as the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), which was created to become the voice for environmental protection purposes, are doing their best to create laws and encourage sustainable development increasing standards of living without destroying the environment. There is only so much one can do to stop the population from contaminating, this is why the best way to clean water is to treat it. Water plants and local treatment areas are dedicated to cleaning water using methods of primary treatment, gravel removal, screening, and sedimentation.



Along with these attempts to correct the problem of water pollution, the Rotary Club in District 5300 along with Interact and JuniorAct Clubs, are working together to make a difference to save and change lives around the world.

These clubs have been raising money to install water wells in third world countries where clean water is a privilege. An example of a fundraiser done by one of these clubs is the Arcadia Interact Club which planned and carried out a walkathon. From this walkathon, the club raised \$2,250 from various sponsors such as family, teachers, and several members from Arcadia Rotary Club. The funds that were raised by the Club for this water project went straight to pro-



viding clean water in India.

Kenya, Africa has been a major location for water projects and fundraising. Clubs from Altadena, Chino, Claremont, Pomona, and Upland have contributed to installed clean water catchment systems in twelve schools across the country. Together they have raised \$14,252 for these wells to be built. These water tanks are specifically being located in the primary schools so the children do not have to miss out on the opportunity of an education because they have to walk five miles every day to get water for their families. With the water tanks at the schools the children can go to school and bring home water, whereas before they were to spend their day traveling to bring home water for their families. Now these children have an opportunity to receive an education, which will give them a chance to have a better future. In other countries in Africa, similar projects are implemented using borehole wells with handpumps.

All life on Earth is affected by the various causes of water pollution and solutions need to be found to fix this devastating problem. The causes of water pollution come from a range of different sources, which in turn have numerous effects on all living organisms. With some effects greater than others, humans, animals, and small organisms are all affected. To correct this problem, efforts are being made to clean bodies of water all around the world, from petitioning for a new law to physically taking action. Water pollution is a serious world problem and rectifying this problem should not be taken lightly.

I would like to congratulate all Rotary members who have worked hard on trying to make a difference in the world by raising money and taking on a water project to build water wells. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and will be remembered in the lives you are saving around the world.

By Danielle Lombardi as part of her High School Senior Project on Clean Water

Adventures of a Past District Governor

As much as he might like to, the President of Rotary International cannot attend every District Conference in the Rotary world. That is why Bill Boyd sent Steve Wilcox to our District Conference as his personal representative. Since Marge and I have been privileged to represent the President of Rotary International on four separate occasions over the years a few people have asked me questions about the experience. I offer the following observations.

The question that is most often asked is how does the President select their personal representatives? That is one of the great mysteries of Rotary. Three of my invitations were the result of my participation on the Rotary Rose Float Committee. A little known event of the Rotary year is the annual breakfast the RI President holds for the International Presidents of Kiwanis, Lions and Optimist. Over the past seven years, that breakfast was held in my home, and the RI Presidents all fell in love with Marge. So you see I just went along with Marge who was the real President's Representative. The most recent invitation was the result of something I did for the greater good of Rotary that the President appreciated.



Photo: Connie Brown

There are 530 Districts and so there are 530 RI President's Representatives. RI Past Presidents, Directors and Foundation Trustees regularly get assignments. Those account for approximately 130 Rotarians. I understand the policy is to appoint approximately 130 'Past District Governors who have never served as Presidents Representatives before. Some of these are personal friends of the President or his aide. And then there are the 200 or so who are serving as task force or committee members who earn their assignments. Ernie and Gail Jensen represented Bill Boyd this year as a reward for his successful service of the Rotary Rose Float Committee. The remaining assignments go to an elite group of Rotarians who have proven themselves as good representatives, excellent speakers and capable of handling difficult or challenging circumstances.

Another question that is often asked is what the experience is like. I can truly say from experience it is a lot of fun. You have the opportunity to meet some of the nicest people in the world and they all want to meet you. Every time I represented the President of Rotary I was impressed by the universal friendship of the Rotarians of Texas, Arkansas and Pennsylvania. Even those folks from Northern California and Nevada were friendly people. I was always left with a mixture of great pride in how good the District I came from was in comparison to those I visited, and yet everyone of those Districts did at least one thing a lot better than we do it here in District 5300.

Marge and I have truly been the lucky recipients of these assignments, and they have all been great experiences. I could only wish that every Rotarian could have the same opportunity. My best advice, become a Past District Governor and do something positive so that the RI President will want to ask you to represent them some where in the Rotary World.

Steve Garrett

Past District Governor

District 5300, Rotary International

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“Service Above Self” brought to life

He stood at attention when a Rotary Pin was affixed to his shirt as **San Gabriel Rotary President Valarie Gomez** honored **Sergeant Steven L. Parks** with a “Lead The Way” Rotary pin in recognition for his monthly contribution to the Rotary Foundation. Sergeant Parks is fellow Rotarian Dr. Susan C. Parks’ son who was a guest at our Wednesday general meeting.



The fact that Sergeant Parks, a non-Rotarian, gives a \$20 monthly contribution to Rotary Foundation and that he is now on home for PCS leave gave me the urge to want to interview him. He so kindly agreed when asked and we met one sunny afternoon when my husband Tom, Steven and I lunched at the San Gabriel Country Club.

When asked what motivates him to give to Rotary, Steven remembers his mom, Dr. Susan C. Parks, as a long time Rotarian who frequently volunteered his service in Rotary events when he was growing up. Though not by choice at first, Steven grew into volunteering and it was never an issue when asked to help out at various events. Now that he is in the army and the time to volunteer is not at his disposal, he said: “The way I can continue to help is by donating a little bit every month.” This truly is the spirit of giving and service above self.

Steven also gives to “Books for Barrios”, a charity that focuses on getting new children's books to libraries and schools. He chose this organization from the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a book compiled by the Army, listing different charities petitioned for donation. These charitable organizations have passed a military screening process to ensure validity of the organization. Each soldier will have to report annually to his Executive Office if he wants to contribute to any charitable organization listed in the CFC.

Charity is not his only passion, Steven also believes in saving for the long term. He encourages his soldiers to save \$100 to \$150 monthly. He impresses on them the value of compounding interest and the importance of time in the formula. Right On! Steven.

Why did he want to join the Army? Steven thought of joining when he was 18, but he to attend college at Humboldt State University instead. He finished his college degrees, (BA in BusAd/Econ and BA in Spanish Ed.) worked in sales, accounting, management and training, traveled to Europe and then taught English in Santiago, Chile. On returning home, the desire to join the Army was still strong, and 4 years later here he is, a Sergeant(E-5) in the U.S. Army. He said he has no regrets, and “it feels about as right as anything I can possibly feel”. His MOS(Military Occupational Specialty)15N which is an Avionics Technician. His duties are to fix aircraft (primarily helicopters), train his soldiers and carry out the missions and tasks assigned to him. I was curious as to what danger he faces while deployed in Iraq. The largest danger he faces are mortar attacks which the insurgents don’t have much time to sight and are therefore not very accurate because of the tight surveillance around the base. Steven deployed during OIF2 with 1-1 Avn Regt, 11D, which was an attack unit consisting of Apache Helicopters.

I couldn’t resist in asking about the controversy on prisoner interrogation. Does it reflect the moral standard of the military? Steven thinks that the U.S. has always had the moral upper hand in the method of questioning. He believes that the behavior of few does not reflect the entire moral standard of the military. In fact he thinks that Army personnel are more professional now because they are enlistees who are recruited instead of drafted into the armed forces.

The U.S. have spent billions and a big loss of lives in Iraq, now in it’s 5th year, I asked Steven if he thinks we have

made a difference. He thinks we definitely have made a difference. A lot of good things happen in Iraq that the news doesn't cover: schools are being built, basic infra-structure is being created. During and before OIF1 and OIF2 there were streets piled with garbage with kids playing in it. The U.S. has helped clean up the streets and provided for basic sanitation where there never was any prior. We have an opportunity for democracy, it is unfortunate the Iraqi citizens have yet to embrace ceded in providing the it as the U.S. had hoped they would.

I asked Steven what is his comment on the statement that "the U.S. presence in Iraq fuels violence". He thinks regardless of U.S. presence, there would be violence in Iraq. His opinion is that our being there provides the terrorists and the lunatics of the world a military target which then allows us to fight back as a military unit. In the absence of this, they would target the United States, and their targets would have no distinction between civilian or military. This is evidence in their attack on U.S. soil on 9/11 when civilian buildings were targeted and attacked. Targeting against civilians is considered highly immoral if there is such a thing as morals in waging war.

Steven will be leaving for Georgia in mid-April and to wait for his next deployment to Iraq. Sergeant Steven L. Parks, we salute you, and we thank you as we thank all the men and women fighting in Iraq, for our peace and freedom. Good luck and God speed.

The viewpoints expressed herein are those of one individual and should not be taken as a representation of all military personnel, the U.S. Army, the USA, or any government agency.

Montebello Rotary Sponsors Children's Vision Screening

by Anne Donofrio-Holter

Members of the Montebello Rotary Club held an eye screening of 320 Greenwood Elementary School children earlier this month.

"I think its wonderful for the Montebello Rotarians to take time from their busy schedules to come to our campus and screen our students," said one teacher. "Children cannot do their best school work if they have problems seeing."

"This is a great program that not only combines the fellowship of working along side club members but helps identify those children with eye problems that may have continued to go undetected," said Rotarian Pete Adriance, who spear-headed the program. "The Montebello Rotary Club has conducted these eye screenings at local schools for the past 30 years."

Approximately half the students tested passed the eye exam, with 20% borderline. A letter was sent to the parents of the remaining 30% that did not pass emphasizing the need for follow-up eye care.

Greenwood Elementary School representatives went on to thank the club for its support of the school not only through the eye screening but with recent donations to its teachers through Rotary's mini-grant program.



We've Had the Time of our Lives...District Conference 2007

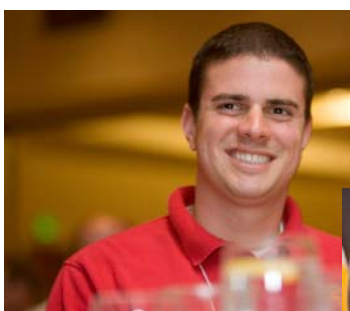
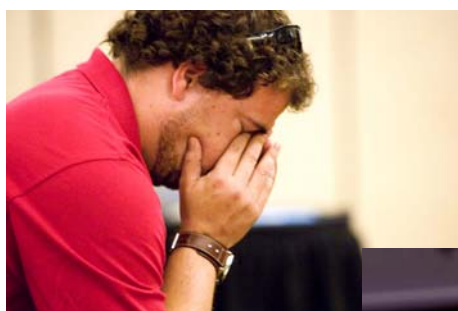
Dear Rotarians of D5300

A simple "thank you" seems so inadequate to describe my gratitude for everything you've done for me over the past year.

Due to your efforts, I have a new outlook and perspective on the world!!!

Regards
Michael Gordon

2006-07 Rotary International
Ambassadorial Scholar



All Photos Courtesy of Connie Brown



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