



THE HIGHLIGHTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300
Charles M. Barr, District Governor 2007-2008

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR CHARLES:

Looking forward to a great year



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

I am honored to be a Rotarian. It is with a tremendous sense of pride that on July 1, 2007, I will have the opportunity to serve as your Governor for Rotary International, District 5300.

Rotary is club-driven. For the last four years I have had the opportunity to visit most clubs throughout our District. Whether small or large, I have found each club to be unique and its members both proud to belong to their specific club and honored to be recognized as part of Rotary International. This year my schedule will allow me to make individual club visits. Though time consuming, this process affords me the opportunity to learn first hand of exemplary club projects and activities and to honor individual members for their Rotary involvement. I look forward to these visits.

2007-08 should prove be an exciting year. Many Rotarians have volunteered to help carry out District activities which support club goals and programs. We will continue with the George Hensel Essay, Dan Stover Music, and the 4 Way Speech contests. Last year Christine Montan initiated the "Super Build" through Corazon. 200 plus District Rotarians, partners and youth constructed in one day four homes in an impoverished community outside of Tecate, Mexico. Because of the project's success, we will repeat Super Build again this year. We will have \$110,000 to support District Simplified Grants and RI Matching Grants. This money comes back to us from the Rotary Foundation from your donations made three years ago. I encourage all clubs to apply for these grants. RYLA, TLC and the Interact Symposium will once again enable clubs to reach out to youth in their communities and help them develop ethical leadership skills and instill in them the value of service. The District will continue to provide training through seminars for Foundation grant writing, membership development and retention, public relations, board development, and leadership seminars. The District's conference will be held at the Irvine Marriott on April 24-27, 2008.

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LETTER FROM GOVERNOR continued

Those of us who have just returned from the Rotary International Convention in Salt Lake City have a much broader understanding of the many life-enhancing projects Rotarians have accomplished throughout the world. The motto for this next year is Rotary Shares. Seeing these projects helped us more fully understand how Rotarians share. They share their time, knowledge, money, and love to help our world be a better place to live and to bring about world peace and cultural understanding. The convention was also an opportunity to make new friends and to renew acquaintances from around the world.

I encourage each Rotarian in District 5300 to attend the Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles. The Host Operating Committee anticipates we will have over 30,000 registrants from over 140 countries participate in our LA Convention next June. What a wonderful opportunity to learn about and experience Rotary.

I look forward to sharing Rotary with each member of our District this next year.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

- **Giving.** As this year's Rotary year comes to a close, our preliminary giving totals show that 58 of our 60 Clubs have reached their giving goals, annual program fund giving (unrestricted) is over \$440,000, and total giving (unrestricted, restricted, and permanent fund) to the Foundation is close to \$600,000 for District 5300.
- **GSE.** Pam Hayes (Covina) reports that interviews to select our GSE team leaders for our District 5300 GSE team to Australia for Spring 2008 will take place in Apple Valley on July 21st. Team members selections for the GSE team will take on September 22nd in Apple Valley. Clubs should be thinking about who within their community might make a good GSE team member for next year's GSE visit to District 9790 in Australia.
- **Humanitarian Grants program.** Conrad von Bibra (international matching grants) and Sylvia Whitlock (District Simplified Grants) report nearly 30 of 60 Clubs use one or both of these grant programs to fund projects in our District as well as 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 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.

Dr. Tim K. Siu Receives Rotary International Award

Dr. Tim K. Siu, Alhambra resident active in Rotary International (Past District Governor; Past Alhambra Club President), was honored by the Alhambra City Council last month for the recognition of an award that he recently received from Rotary.

At the Rotary District 5300 Annual Conference in Palm Springs, Dr. Siu was awarded the prestigious Rotary International “Distinguished Service Award” by R.I.’s Foundation that promotes peace and world understanding throughout the world.

To put the significance of this award into perspective, only 50 Rotarians from throughout the world received this honor this year, and that is out of a possible 1.2 million Rotary members in 32,000 clubs from 200 countries and geographic areas!

The Distinguished Service Award honors Rotarians whose service often extends beyond the local District level, and over an extended period of years. A few of Dr. Siu’s accomplishments, outlined at the Rotary Conference by District Governor Christine Montan, are:

- For the past twenty years, Dr. Siu has served on the sub-committees of the District.
- Rotary Foundation Committee – and chaired the Permanent Fund, Major Donor and Annual Giving campaigns.
- He is a regular host of Group Study Exchange world understanding team members from throughout the world.
- He has been the sponsor for three different Ambassadorial Scholars from other countries studying at a university in the Los Angeles area.
- He was involved in the original Rotary delegation to the People’s Republic of China to begin new Rotary Clubs in Shanghai and Beijing.
- He worked with the Health Ministry on the polio immunization program in China.
- He co-chaired the “Save Water-Saves Lives” project in Thailand, with now Past Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul – a \$250,000 project presented to the King of Thailand for his 60th birthday.

Dr. Siu has received recognition for his community (local and worldwide) service from many organizations and agencies, but this Rotary International Distinguished Service Award is the proverbial icing on the cake in a life of service dedicated to all world citizens.

“Around Alhambra” adds its congratulations to Dr. Tim K. Siu upon the receipt of this much deserved honor.



Dr. Tim K. Siu (left) receives a Certificate of Recognition from Mayor Gary Yamauchi.

Laughlin Rotary Club Receives CAA Award

LAUGHLIN – Local stars lit up the Colorado River sky Saturday, June 9, 2007, as the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce presented its 10th Annual Community Achievement Awards. The CAA awards recognize individuals, businesses and organizations in the tri-state area that donate their time and money to benefit the river communities and their residents.

Among the award recipients was the Rotary Club of Laughlin for Community Service Organization of the Year. From the four non-profit organization finalists, the Rotary Club was recognized for its Laughlin Educational Mini Grants program which provides teachers with up to \$300 for un-funded projects. This year alone over \$8,000 was awarded to elementary and Jr/Sr high school teachers. The Laughlin Rotary Club funded eight student scholarships this year; to date helping 56 graduating seniors pursue higher education. President Thane O'Brien was on hand to accept the award on behalf of the Club along with several club members. O'Brien said, "We thank the businesses and individuals in the community that support Rotary. Your donations and participation toward our fund raising efforts allow us to help our local youth in becoming better citizens."

