



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,

Rotary has designated October as Vocational Awareness Month. When Paul Harris founded Rotary he gathered together several other young professionals. Through weekly meetings that “rotated” among their places of employment, their goals were to further develop their friendships and to help each other be successful in their occupations. Rotarians are asked to remember the basis upon which Rotary was founded and to reflect on how Rotary can enhance our business and professional endeavors.

As we look for new members, we need to be able to demonstrate to them the vocational advantages of being a Rotarian. Rotary can serve as an invaluable community network. Does your club have a current listing of its members and their occupations to use for PR purposes and to give to potential members? Has your club recently completed a classification survey to determine which occupations and professions in your community are not represented in your club? Do your members and the community know of Rotarians in your club who are actively involved in key professional associations, are active in the Chamber of Commerce, sit on community round tables, or have been appointed to volunteer boards of directors? Seasoned Rotarians are or have been successful in their careers. They can serve as models and resources for young professionals and businessmen and women.

How do District 5300 clubs provide Vocational Service? Throughout the year, some clubs in our District calendar a series of open houses in Rotarians’ work places or hold special Rotary meetings at members’ businesses. Some clubs present vocational awards to deserving individuals in their communities. Others honor through special recognition ceremonies those who have exemplified themselves in public service careers, such as public safety, education, military service, or community health. Mini-grants for teachers are also used as high

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LETTER FROM GOVERNOR continued

profile ways to publicize Rotary's interest in vocations and education. Many clubs make a practice each year of scheduling a handful of "senior craft-talks" in which seasoned Rotarians recount not only Rotary memories but also pass on business and/or professional advice. Clubs in our district have activities in place within their communities to work with retirees; to address drug, alcohol, and literacy problems in the workplace; and to develop or participate in programs to help those with HIV/AIDS. Clubs are reminded to invite key community members, the local media, and potential members to these special gatherings, activities, and recognitions.

October is an appropriate time to assess how your club might use its members' professional experiences to advance employment, to develop and support apprenticeship programs, to organize career awareness activities in local secondary schools and junior colleges, to serve as resources in the retraining of workers for new employment, to assist in English language acquisition and literacy skills for adults. With imagination and dedicated commitment, your club can develop vocational service activities to meet the specific needs of your community.

Most importantly, we should be working to promote high ethical standards in our business dealings, in our communities and in our personal lives. There are a variety of ways your club can publicize the 4-Way Test with its members and in the community. Do you repeat it at your weekly meetings? Is it on the back of your business cards? Is a copy of it posted in each Rotarian's place of work? Do you encourage your youth to participate in the 4-Way Speech Contest and the Hensel Ethics Essay Contest?

Vocational Awareness Month is an opportunity to educate Rotarians and the community of Rotary's role in the workplace, to carry out specific activities and programs related to occupations, and to promote high ethical standards and practices. Let us remember to publicly promote our activities and to use them as avenues to open doors to potential members.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

- **Group Study Exchange (GSE).** We now have our GSE team selected which will travel to District 9790 (Australia) during February and March of 2008. Larry Skaggs of the Green Valley Club will be the Rotary team leader for our group of four young non-Rotary professionals who during their visit, learn something about the culture and people of Australia, participate in a significant vocational component where team members have the opportunity to meet, learn and share experiences with individuals in their own professions, and finally, share information about District 5300 and United States. The Group Study Exchange is an opportunity of a lifetime for the team members / leader, and for the many Clubs in our District, it is an opportunity learn about another country. Contact Pam Hayes (our Group Study Exchange Chair from the Covina Rotary Club) if your Club wishes to be involved with the GSE visit in the Spring.

- **Humanitarian Grants program.** Sylvia Whitlock (Claremont) feels that we will be able to begin processing District Simplified Grant starting in October. For our international matching grants, we have had a surge in interest / activity during the first few months of the year with the following Clubs actually beginning the process of putting together grant applications: (1) Apple Valley (school equipment for India), Arcadia – Victor Valley Sunrise (books for college library in Uganda, clean water project in Indonesia), East Los Angeles (water project for a monastery in Nepal), El Monte / South El Monte (equipment for an orphanage in Mexico), Glendora (wheelchairs for Bangladesh), Las Vegas (literacy project in South Africa), Las Vegas Central (water project in Ghana), Mesquite Sunrise (surgical table in India), Rancho Cucamonga (school equipment in Mexico), Rancho del Chino (water project in the Philippines), Walnut Valley (surgical equipment for the eyes for India).
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Healing Fields by Michael Gordon

Five members of the Las Vegas Rotaract Club (Jason Colangelo, Robert Kay, Chelsea Robinson, Amanda Hurst and Michael Gordon) woke up early on Saturday September 8, to help workers from Palm Mortuary including Past-President of the Las Vegas Rotary Club, Ned Phillips, prepare Palm Mortuary's Healing Field presentation for 2007. The Healing Field is a memorial for those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks.



The memorial is made up of 3000 American flags, each one representing an individual who was lost in the attacks. Each flag is tagged with the name of one of the 9/11 victims.

The memorial can be viewed throughout the month of September at Palm Mortuary's facility located at 6701 N. Jones Boulevard near the northern loop of the 215.

Sponsorships are available for the flags. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the sponsorships will be donated to the Salvation Army. Details on sponsoring a flag or making other donations can be found by visiting Palm Mortuary's website, www.palmmortuary.com, and clicking on the Healing Field link.

LA 2008 Convention Countdown, June 15-18

RI Director, Jeff Williams, ended his 1962 LA Convention address with this serious thought, “If you want to ask yourselves whether there is any need for Rotary in the world, all you need to do is buy tomorrow’s paper and read the headlines. Or all you have to do is turn on the TV, and there you will find the answer if Rotary is worthwhile and if you are needed.” The LA 2008 Convention (15-18 June) will give members a glimpse at the “big picture” of Rotary International and all our accomplishments. District 5300 has four days to show the world their backyard. Your support of this event will set an example of unity in service for your Club, District, and Rotary International.

For your convenience, the October issue of Rotary’s Magazine “*rotarian*,” gives all the information you need to register for the LA 2008 Rotary International Convention (including Los Angeles accommodations and fabulous ticketed RI events offered on a first come-first serve basis). Take a walk down memory lane in the October issue. From 1922 to 1962 to 2008, Rotarians have and will receive “star” treatment. I found it very interesting that, in 1962, Ronald Reagan was billed simply as a TV and motion picture star when he was the emcee of the opening night’s entertainment. Who knew that he would soon leave the sound stage for the political one? I await with great anticipation the 2008 “Rotarian Stars” who will take the stage.

The first registration deadline for the 2008 Convention in Los Angeles is *December 15, 2007*. Register early and *pay just* \$235, which is a savings of \$40.00. The second registration deadline is *March 31, 2008*. The on-site registration is \$345.00.

Have we got a deal for you! Rotarians may get their free *Star Voyager Pin* just by registering online by the extended deadline date of *October 5, 2007*. This handsome and exclusive memento comes mounted on a thank-you card from President Wilkinson, and will be distributed at registration.

Turn on your TV tonight and your decision to support the LA 2008 Convention will be reaffirmed ten-fold. I urge you to take a moment to beat the October 5 and December 15 deadlines and register early. I look forward to seeing you and the stars in LA 2008.

How to reach RI:

Register online at: <https://riweb.rotaryintl.org>

Registration/housing questions: RIRegistration@rotary.org

Updates and detailed convention information: www.district5300.org

Potential Rotary Leadership Seminar (PRLS)

October Leadership Seminar announced for District 5300 Rotarians in Nevada and California.

<http://www.district5300.org/prls/index.html>

Members who should attend this seminar

This seminar is designed to provide current and future Rotary leaders training to become more effective in their club and district leadership roles. Participants will be able to apply proven principles to the professional, business, and volunteer groups they serve. The training will feature a practical approach to improving your leadership and negotiation skills and enable you to examine your personal attributes and apply them in a positive way to your daily leadership roles.

Location and Date:

NEVADA

October 20, 2007

8:30 AM: Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 12:00 NOON: Seminar

William S. Boyd School of Law

University of Nevada Las Vegas

4505 Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, NV 89154

CALIFORNIA

October 27, 2007

8:00 AM: Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 11:30 AM: Seminar

Etiwanda Gardens

7576 Etiwanda Avenue

Etiwanda, CA 91739

Fees:

\$20 per participant. Register on-line through the District website:

<http://www.district5300.org/prls/index.html>. Clubs are encouraged to complete one registration for all attending members.

Agenda:

Half-hour Continental Breakfast followed by Seminar. Details are on the website.

Seminar questions should be directed to Christine Smith, Nevada PRLS Chair 702.290.6544, Email: christine.smith@unlv.edu or Tom Lake, California PRLS Chair: (626) 683-3772, Email: tom@thomaslakebuilder.com. *Registration questions* should be directed to Greg Jones at (626) 351-5148, mgreg@yahoo.com. Help make our clubs stronger! Register today.

Matching Grants

Matching grants are available for local projects of individual Rotary Clubs from the District 5300 Foundation. Application forms can be obtained from the District Web Site. Criteria are as follows:

There is a total of \$6000 in available funds. Individual grants will not exceed \$1,000, and the recipient club must be willing to match the grant funds. We favor youth-oriented community projects. Application deadline is November 30, 2007.

For further information please contact Bob Eichel by phone at (626) 351-3800 or by email at BobEichelcpa@AOL.com or contact Conrad Von Bibra by phone at (626) 441-2279 or by email at B:bibra@compuserve.com.

Annual ChildSpree by Anne Donofrio-Holter

The Montebello Rotary, Lions, Soroptomist and Elks Clubs, along with the American Legion Auxiliary, in partnership with Mervyn's, treated 100 children, aged 5–12, to a back-to-school shopping spree earlier this month.

Each year, approximately 15,000 children across the nation, selected through local schools and other organizations, are treated to a shopping spree thanks to Mervyn's partnership with service clubs and other organizations.



"ChildSpree builds the self-esteem and confidence of school-aged children by providing them with new clothes for school," said Mervyn's ChildSpree coordinator, Anita Martinez. "This program is just one part of Mervyn's overall commitment to the community."

Since ChildSpree's inception in 1993, Mervyn's has provided clothes for more than 170,000 needy children nationwide. Each Mervyn's store provides a clothing allowance of \$100 per child, approximately \$1 million each year. Additional funds are then donated by participating organizations, such as local service clubs.

At 7am, Mervyn's Montebello opened its doors and the children, each accompanied by a chaperone, were escorted into the store. Parents provided a list identifying their child's needs. Mervyn's employees were on hand to make sure the kids got the best value for their dollar,

including a 10% discount on all purchases during the event. Each child also received a backpack filled with school supplies compliments of Wal-Mart Pico Rivera with additional school supplies donated by Mervyn's employees. Mervyn's employees also collected money to offset any purchase that may have gone slightly over the \$100 allotted to each child. Other sponsors included Target Pico Rivera, Bimbo, Home Town Buffet Montebello, Hansen's Beverage, Starbucks, and Hot Dog on a Stick.

Representatives from the Montebello City Council and other city departments, including police and fire, were also on hand to lend their support.

"This is a wonderful event and the Montebello Rotary Club is proud to participate," said President, Tom Millhouse.

Music, Art & Wine

The Ontario Rotary Club is sponsoring a day of Music, Art and Wine at the Biane Winery, 8300 East 8th Street, Rancho Cucamonga (Between Archibald and Hermosa) on Sunday, October 14, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. During the day the following musicians will perform: White Sands Band George Luna, Classical Guitarist; Kassidy Heal, Country Western Guitarist; Christy Roberts, Pop Music; and Mariachis from Chaffey College.

Wine, cheese and soft drinks will be provided. There is no charge to the public for this event.

Artists who wish to participate by selling their work at the show are required to donate one piece for the Rotary charity auction. The auction will be held at 3:00 p.m. You must register by October 1st to be included. Donated pieces must be turned in by October 7th. For more information or to sign up, call Todd Landry at 909-937-3100 or Katie Roberts at 909-982-0776.

30th Annual \$20,000 Reverse Raffle by Bill Kinman

It's been a sell out for 29 years, and to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of its Reverse Raffle, the Rotary Club of Alhambra is doubling the amount of the first prize to \$20,000. The proceeds benefit the Alhambra Rotary Charities Foundation service projects.

In addition to the increased prize payment, the club has also decreased the number of tickets to be sold to 300 (over 400 were sold last year), thereby increasing the chances of a single ticket purchase resulting in a major financial windfall.

The Reverse Raffle will be held in conjunction with a gala banquet, held again this year in Almansor Court's Lakeview Room, on Friday, November 30, at 6:30 p.m. The banquet is a blast, and the raffle is always exciting, but the purpose of this event continues to be the support of a large range of international and community service projects. These projects exemplify the goals of our Rotary International President, and this year's theme, "Rotary Shares."

On the international level, Alhambra Rotarians (and those who support the organization) have made significant donations to the Rotary International Polio Eradication Drive. Also, the club donates money and hands on assistance each year for the construction of a house in one day for a needy family in Tecate, Mexico. Other international interests are support of Ambassadorial Scholarships and International Friendship Exchanges.

Locally, the Rotary Club of Alhambra recently donated \$25,000 to the Alhambra Public Library Foundation in support of the Civic Center Public Library, currently under construction, and continues to support the City of Alhambra Case Management Project, the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA, needy families through the distribution of Thanksgiving and Easter food baskets, Alhambra Public Library Literacy programs, Alhambra Unified School District teachers with the Teacher Mini-Grant program, and much more.

If you would like to participate in this project that benefits so many worthy organizations and individuals, and share in the "Service Above Self" attitude of Rotarians worldwide, please contact any Alhambra Rotarian, or send your check for \$200 for each ticket to Rotary Club of Alhambra, P.O. Box 142, Alhambra, CA 91802. Make your checks payable to the Alhambra Rotary Charities Foundation. Please indicate if you would like to attend the banquet, and information will be forwarded to you.