



THE HIGHLIGHTER

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

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR CHARLES: *Rotary Foundation Month*



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Rotary International designates November as Rotary Foundation Month. Considering all of the good work that the Foundation does around the world, it seems strange to me that Rotary International selects only one month to honor the Foundation.

I feel that we need to keep the Rotary Foundation in our mind throughout the year. Stop and think about it. In the most impoverished communities around the world Rotarians are using funding from the Foundation to build water wells, to inoculate children for polio and other diseases, to set up clinics and schools and libraries, to provide medical equipment and surgery services, to deliver sanitary, or emergency or safety vehicles, and to establish micro-credit banks and encourage entrepreneurship opportunities.

It is through the Rotary Foundation that peace initiatives are fostered. Rotary lives by the principle that "Peace can come about through world understanding." Foundation grants are our mainstay to implement this belief. They afford in-depth life experiences for those who participate in Group Study Exchanges. They make possible extensive educational and cross-cultural opportunities for our Ambassadorial Scholars. They fund various Peace Scholars programs focusing on peace studies and conflict mediation. Our annual District Peace Conference is modeled around the world as a viable way to look at peace locally and globally.

We as Rotarians have a direct input how major portions of our Foundation funds are spent. Half of the money that we contribute to the Foundation come back to us in three years. (During that three year period the interest earned is used to cover the Foundation's operating costs.) Then through Matching Grants or District Simplified Grants we can initiate and/or participate in international or local community projects that we feel meet the goals of the Foundation and needs of our world. The other half of these funds is used by the Foundation

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LETTER FROM GOVERNOR continued

Trustees for the Rotary Polio Eradication Program, large Foundation projects, and Group Study Exchanges.

I believe that rather than consider the work of the Rotary Foundation on only one month during the year, we need to educate our members every month about the work of the Foundation. I suggest that clubs frequently describe some aspect of the Rotary Foundation during their weekly Rotary Moments. Throughout the year club program chairs should feature as club speakers Foundation Alumni who have participated in past Foundation activities. Presidents should encourage individual Rotarians to attend District Foundation dinners and events as well as the District Conference Foundation Plenary Session and the Rotary International Convention in LA.

I do not advocate having a push for major Foundation contributions every month. I do believe, however, that each club needs to educate its members and the local community about the Foundation and its many activities. These education efforts are best if they occur throughout the year. When you then ask for donations or sponsor fundraisers for to the Foundation, neither will not seem like yet additional obligations for membership in Rotary. I want donors to contribute because they know of the Foundation and what it does and believe in its positive impact on people and the world. Their contributions will then come from the heart. I short, I hope that Rotarians come to give The Rotary Foundation because it is their Charity of Choice.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

- **Giving.** November is Rotary Foundation month and District 5300 has much to be proud of in terms of our past support of the Foundation as well as the various ways that we have used the various Foundation's to help others. Many of our Club in our District will be using November to have Club programs to celebrate Foundation.
- **Ambassadorial Scholars.** Our Ambassadorial Scholar Chair Chip Ossman (Pasadena Sunrise) reports that our current group of 2007-08 scholars: Christina DesVaux (studying International Development – Population Studies in Uruguay), Amanda Zeidan (studying Political Science – Diplomacy in Turkey), and Cate Powell (studying Comparative Religions in India) are all doing well. Our group of 2008-09 will soon be starting orientation / training sessions in preparation for next year.
- **Group Study Exchange (GSE).** GSE Chair Pam Hayes (Covina) and GSE team leader (Larry Skaggs) report that they will soon be starting their orientation program for our GSE team which will be leaving for District 9790 in Australia in February.

International Chair Visits Vietnam by Dan Harley Jr.

Central Vietnam (where Quang Tri is) got walloped by a typhoon a few days after I arrived in Saigon. I learned the initial impact of a typhoon in Southeast Asia is just the beginning of the problems. The inland heavy rains can cause flooding for days after the typhoon hits land. Adding to all this was a storm track that followed the typhoon. It kept raining for weeks in Central Vietnam before I finally arrived in the Hoi An/ Da Nang area.

The next stop on my trip was to be Quang Tri to review the Rotary project there, however, travel to Quang Tri was very dangerous due to the heavy rains and flooding. We stayed in Da Nang as long as we could in hopes for a break, but Mother Nature spoke loud and clear saying that were weren't going to Quang Tri. Even if we were able to reach Quang Tri, we were informed there would be nothing to do because the area where the project beneficiaries live is heavily flooded.

I received lots of information regarding the project from contacts in the area. All of the beneficiaries received their animals as well as assistance for pens and feed. They are very grateful for the opportunity that Rotary Club of Apple Valley has provided to better their lives.

For those of you who didn't know, Rotary Club of Apple Valley funded \$1,000 US for a project to help five families affected by unexploded ordinance (UXO) accidents in Quang Tri Province. Quang Tri has the unfortunate distinction of being the most bombed region in the world. More bombs were dropped in an area that can fit inside of San Bernardino County and more than all of Europe during World War II. It is estimated that 5%-10% of the ordinance dropped in Quang Tri did not explode upon impact. These UXOs are killing people over 30 years after the Vietnam War ended.

Rotary Club of Apple Valley coordinated through Project RENEW to provide support for this issue (more on Project RENEW can be found on their Web site: <http://www.landmines.org.vn>). Our effort funds a micro-loan program supporting animal husbandry for families who had been affected by a UXO accident. These families had a loved one killed or incapacitated by a UXO, but the tragedy doesn't stop at the accident. Those involved in such accidents are usually the family's breadwinner and the family as a whole is driven into extreme poverty by this loss. Our funds will give five families an opportunity to turn their life around from such tragedy and lift themselves out of poverty.

This was not an easy project to put together, and success was uncertain. Most Rotary International projects work through a Rotary Club in the region to assure Rotary funds are spent as designated. There are no Rotary clubs in Vietnam, so this project had to be managed from Apple Valley instead. Perhaps the most critical problem was Vietnam's notoriously corrupt government, which could have caused our funds to disappear instead of reaching those who

need our support. Thanks to Project RENEW and their staff, 100% of our funds reached Quang Tri province and disbursed to the beneficiaries in accordance to our instruction.

Our money is not done working, but will continue to work indefinitely to help other families. The funds were distributed through a micro-loan program, where the beneficiaries are expected to pay the money back when they can so others can be helped. I know first hand how resourceful the Vietnamese can be with just a little assistance. My Mother has been helping Vietnamese families in need in Thai Binh province for years. We have seen families take money to buy a couple pigs, turn it into several pigs, put their kids through school and their kids come back to buy their parents a new house. In Vietnam, the cost of a couple pigs or a cow can be enough to bring a whole family out of poverty for good.

I'm expecting to receive more information from this project, which I will forward as soon as conveniently possible. In the meantime, I want to leave everyone with a little taste of Vietnam. The following link will guide you to the first of several videos of my recent Vietnam trip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfmOrbJD2-k>.

South Pasadena Club Hosts High Beer and Chili Cook-Off



The Rotary Club of South Pasadena hosted the Third Annual High Beer and Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, October 21, 2007. Over 100 Rotarians and guests raised over \$6500. The money will be donated to the South Pasadena High School to help complete their new synthetic track and field. Twenty competitors entered their chili recipes which were judged in two categories. Celebrity judges included Mayor Michael Cacciotti, School Board President, Joe Loo; and Middle School Principal Mercedes Metz. They selected the recipe "Unknown Quantity" prepared by Pat Jackson as the best in the bunch. In the category, People's Choice, voted on by all guests, Doryce Bohana took the prize for the recipe called "Traditional Kansas City Chili con Carne."

Alhambra Rotary Going To Camp! by Bill Kinman

It's always been a marriage made in heaven – the Rotary Club of Alhambra (dedicated to service above self – and always looking for a good service project), and the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA (dedicated to good health, confident kids, strong families, quality communities, and a better world - where service pays off in human terms).

The Rotary Club of Alhambra has consistently played a strong role in the life of the Y including a countless number of Rotarians serving on and leading the Board of Trustees, serving Y supporters at the annual Celebrity Waiters Luncheon where Rotarians outnumber other organizational members, supporting the Y program through donations such as providing computer system was funded by Rotary when their new building opened, as well as playing a significant role in the development and construction of the new building.

Here's another role that Rotary plays at the Y – painting, cleaning, sawing, and nailing. This year, all of that elbow grease will be expended on November 3 when members, spouses, and children of the Rotary Club of Alhambra make their way up into the San Bernardino Mountains to YMCA's Camp Ta Ta Pochon, to participate in a Camp Work Day.

Records show that Alhambra Rotary has been in the thick of things at Ta Ta Pochon at least since 1954 – a plaque on one of the camp's cabins validates that date and another cabin on the grounds was constructed by Alhambra Rotary in 1968 with the assistance of the experts at Steed Brothers Construction.

Although the mountain air is crisp and invigorating, camp facilities (and even Rotarians) tend to weather with age, so Alhambra Rotarians, at least on an annual basis, make the trek to the mountains to enjoy the mountain air and scenery, while at the same time, expending some of that elbow grease on rejuvenating some of the weathering camp facilities. Sometimes work-ing is done on the Rotary cabin, and at other times attention is directed to whatever camp project is in greatest need.

The camping experience is a tremendous asset in the lives of young people and families, as is attested to by hundreds of Ta Ta Pochon alumni who eagerly describe what “going to camp” meant to them. The experience, in many cases, is “life-changing,” creating dreams of wonder and joy that last a lifetime.

It's no wonder, then, that Alhambra Rotarians want to help make Camp Ta Ta Pochon facilities as comfortable, safe, and secure as possible for those who are creating new dreams. It's what Rotarians do every day in helping make the community, including the community of Camp Ta Ta Pochon a better place to enjoy life and make dreams come true.

Europe is Getting More European by Hal Yorke

I recently returned from an 18-day trip to Germany. As I have spent 30 years of my life in Germany, I was certain that I knew what to expect, and I certainly was not expecting any surprises. Indeed, Germany was the same - Berlin had become, perhaps, a bit more of a world city with its wide selection of theaters, museums, sidewalk cafes, and shortage of parking spaces. Nevertheless, I felt that something was different.

It started out in Goettingen and in Heidelberg. My old basketball teammates in Goettingen treated me as a visitor from America, not as one of them. Sure, they were polite and wanted to know how I was doing - but the Iraq War and Guantanamo Bay were even more interesting to them. How could Americans tolerate their government disregarding the Geneva Convention? What about torture and the US government's unique definition (pain which leads to organ failure or death)? Something similar happened in Heidelberg. Colleagues and former students treated me as a well-known foreigner. I was no longer one of them, who just happened to have a US passport.

My wife noted that the movie theaters were showing fewer made in Hollywood movies than 9 years ago. The German movie industry and the Italians, French and Spanish all had something to offer in Berlin theaters. The Germany government was contemplating how to raise the bar on the use of the German language, eliminating the over usage of English words in everyday speech.

Even the cars on the streets were more often European-made - Far East imports were less common than before. American-made autos were never very popular in Germany with its high speed autobahn - making grueling demands on cars, which for some reason Detroit manufacturers in the past have been unable or unwilling to meet. I was under the impression, however, that American-made cars had gotten better and could potentially hold their own on the autobahn. Still, I think I only saw one American-made car on this last trip - probably it belonged to a US soldier stationed in Germany. I couldn't really tell, because the US military no longer have clearly identifiable tags, as they had 9 years ago.

Yes, Germany has become less infatuated with America and the Americans. On a professional level, the Europeans were less willing to listen to advice from Americans on how to build or run their observatories and space missions. They have their own ideas and priorities, and, for the first time, I felt that we Americans are falling behind in science and technology. Our highly restrictive policies on who we allow to make scientific visits in the US and who we allow to work in our institutions like JPL have only made us more insular and have reduced our participation in cutting-edge European science. We are still number one in the world in certain fields, but we are losing ground, and I know we have given up the lead in several important subfields of astrophysics.

This may seem like a pretty broad judgment to make after an 18-day trip, but it is the contrast I am noting to what I remember from 9 years ago. One simply has the feeling that America is no longer the leader of the free world - it is one country among many.

District 5300 Group Study Exchange Team—2008

District 5300 is proud to present our upcoming GSE team preparing for an exchange with District 9790 in February 2008.

TEAM LEADER - LARRY SKAGGS

Larry has been a member of the Rotary Club of Green Valley (Henderson, NV) since 2003. Tired of the cold and snowy weather in the Midwest, Larry and his wife Vicki moved to the Las Vegas area shortly after his retirement from the Aurora, Illinois Police Department. During his law enforcement career which began in 1975, Larry worked in nearly every division of the police department, including Patrol, Vice & Narcotics, and Administration. He held supervisory and leadership positions in the Gang Unit, the Training Section, and the Investigations Division. Larry was actively involved with the Citizen Police Academy, the Aurora Area Crime Stoppers, the Honor Guard and the Field Training Officer program. He was a Lieutenant at the time of his retirement, completing 28 years of exemplary service. He currently works as an instructor and seminar presenter for numerous police and leadership training programs.

TEAM MEMBERS

Mistie Luchtel of Las Vegas is a Physician Assistant at the Nevada Health Center's Beatty Medical Clinic, managing and treating patients in primary and emergency care. Mistie is 29 years of age, single and has no children. She received numerous commendations for scholastic and moral character during her collegiate studies, and the focus of her career is underserved patients residing in rural communities. She is sponsored by the Green Valley Rotary Club of Henderson, Nevada.

Elisa Weaver of Pasadena is the Deputy Director of Community and Personnel Services for the city of Sierra Madre, California, recently acknowledged as an "All-American City". Elisa is 26 years of age, single and has no children. She has received numerous awards for her leadership and civic service. She is sponsored by the Sierra Madre Rotary Club of California.

Sierra Webb of Victorville is a Public Relations Specialist for the Town of Apple Valley, where she provides marketing for media relations, campaigns and events for this high desert community. She is 25 years of age, single and has no children. Sierra envisions a future career in education, with an emphasis in world history. She is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Apple Valley, California.

Julie Whitcare of Las Vegas works for the Nevada State Education Association as the Director of Government Relations, providing political lobbying, training and development. She is 32 years of age, single and has no children. Julie's passion is advocating for teachers to ensure the best possible environment for our children to learn. She is sponsored by the Green Valley Rotary club in Henderson, Nevada.

Celebrating 50 Years of Dedication

When Harvey Stone joined Rotary, he recalled recently, the international organization was providing iron lungs and braces for polio victims. Since then, RI has played a leading role in wiping out polio entirely in the Western Hemisphere and is very close to accomplishing worldwide eradication of the disease.

A lot has happened in the 50 years since Harvey joined the Rotary Club of Upland. The Upland club celebrated five decades of Harvey's dedicated service during a party at the home of club member Cathy Norris on Sept. 17. One week later, the Upland City Council presented Harvey with a plaque recognizing his 50 years with the club, and Harvey took the occasion to extol Rotary and its good works locally and internationally.

"Fifty years of Rotary has been an educational experience, a life-enhancing experience," Harvey told his fellow members at the party in his honor. "Through Rotary I have met so many people of good will. It's been a fantastic experience."

Harvey is a third-generation member of Upland Rotary, following his grandfather and father into the club. Furthermore, Harvey has the distinction of being the Rotary sponsor of another third-generation Upland Rotarian – District Governor Charles Barr.

Charlie joined the club in Harvey's presidential year, 1970-71, which had several highlights. With Harvey as president, Upland Rotary sponsored the Rancho Cucamonga club, and Harvey recalls more than 600 Rotarians and guests attending the elegant charter party. That year the club sponsored its first Ambassadorial scholar, Paul Andrews. Harvey also took several young people that year to Camp Cedar Crest for a youth leadership camp that was a precursor of today's RYLA.



Harvey Stone & Charles Barr

Harvey has attended six RI Conventions, the first of them in Toronto with his father when Harvey was 10 years old. Paul Harris addressed the convention that year. Harvey has twice taken advantage of home hospitality, in Mexico in 1968 and in Scotland in 1997. At an RI Convention he learned of Rotary Fellowships, and he belongs to three of the groups: skiing,

yachting and recreational vehicles.

He looks back fondly on his experiences with Group Study Exchange teams that have visited Upland. In the 1970s, he met Juan Bauza, who led a GSE team from Spain. In 1994, when Harvey attended a Rotary meeting in Valencia, Spain, Juan was the member at the door welcoming visitors -- small Rotary world! Harvey and his wife, Trudy, hosted a GSE team from Denmark at their home in Big Bear Lake a few years ago. Harvey and Trudy took the team sailing, and all seven of them spent the night on the Stones' 35-foot boat in the Catalina harbor.

Harvey is retired as president and owner of Stone Funeral Home in Upland, which was founded by his father, Fleet Stone. Service runs deep in the family: Fleet Stone was mayor of Upland; Harvey's mother, Zella Stone, was Upland's first city councilwoman; and Harvey served on Upland's school board and as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

At the club party for Harvey, two of the speakers were Governor Barr and Bill Rugg, who has Harvey beat with 52 years as an Upland Rotary member.

"I appreciate Rotary a great deal," Harvey told his fellow club members that night. "Even more, I appreciate the friends I have made in Rotary."

Hernandez Presented as DGE



On October 11, 2007, as part of the Rotary Zones 23-24 Institute, Gene Hernandez was formally presented as our District 5300 Governor-Elect. He and a dozen Rotarians from District 5300 participated in this 4-day training event held at the Long Beach Hilton. The institute's theme was The Power of One and emphasized the contributions individual Rotarians have made in the world because of their convictions and actions.

General Sessions during the Institute included Rotary programs specific to literacy, ethics, Polio Plus, various Foundation programs, Foundation giving, and world poverty. Also featured were speakers on the Rotarians at Work event and new strategies for membership growth and retention. Our own Dr. Sylvia Whitlock (Claremont Rotary) was honored for her efforts to bring women into Rotary.

Approximately 750 attended the Institute which was designed for current and past Rotary District Governors, Governors-elect and Governor-nominees. They came from 23 Rotary Districts which extend from the Mexican boarder into British Columbia. It is estimated that up to 70,000 Rotarians are members of these districts. In addition to motivating speakers and

thought-provoking sessions, those present also had the opportunity to gather informally with their counterparts during “class reunion” dinners. Each District could also invite to the Institute one or two Rotarians who have demonstrated District-level leadership potential.

Membership Development is Important by Bill Kinman

It’s a good test to see how well your children listen to your advice – tell them that something is “really” important (like sending a thank you to Aunt Bessie for the birthday present she sent), then check with Aunt Bessie and ask her if she has received any interesting mail lately.

The Rotary Club of Alhambra does listen – no need for a test - in this case to the “parental” advice of Rotary International and District 5300, when they announced that Membership Development is a key element to the 2007-2008 service year.

We’re proud to announce the induction for four new Alhambra Rotarians in the first quarter of the year – more to come– and to suggest to our fellow 5300 clubs two unique sources of membership.

Bruce Stedman is Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Alhambra, and his past Rotary experience includes an expense-paid trip to Japan, when he was a “mere” Battalion Chief, with the District 5300 Group Study Exchange team led by Rotary Club of Alhambra Past President Stan Yonemoto.

Bruce has wanted to join Rotary – he learned a lot about it along with Stan and the other members of the 1995 team – but the life of a Battalion Chief, including variable work shifts, precluded his membership. But now? Welcome, new Rotarian Stedman!

Harlan Snyder has been involved with Rotary his entire life – he’s a Rotary kid! Well, he’s not so much a kid anymore, what with a “Summa Cum Laude” degree in optometry; he’s now Doctor Harlan Snyder, serving the community along with his Rotary dad, Rotary Club of Alhambra Past President David Snyder.

Dr. Harlan Snyder’s recruitment path, therefore, was two-fold – a Rotary kid (who better understands what Rotary service means) and a professional “employee” of a current Rotary member.

The Rotary Club of Alhambra will, in the months ahead, be looking at all the usual sources – and also in strange and wonderful places – to invite other dynamic community leaders to share in the experience of Rotary.

And, we’d like to hear the recruitment stories of other District 5300 clubs!

Community Health & Safety by Anne Donofrio-Holter

Spearheaded by Montebello Rotarian and businesswoman Denise Hagopian and Dr. Janet Staples-Edwards of Beverly Hospital, the Montebello Town Center hosted its second annual Community Health and Safety Expo September 22-23, 2007.

Expo attendees were able to pick up a wide variety of information from participants including representatives from local businesses and community services such as hospitals and health providers, senior services, realtors and housing experts. In addition, free health screenings and kids' fingerprinting were offered along with hourly prize drawings.

"A big thank you to Dr. Staples-Edwards for coordinating the many doctors and surgeons from our community who donated their time and knowledge to help raise awareness in each area of expertise," said Hagopian. "The importance of a healthy lifestyle, exercise, nutrition and preventive medicine all contribute to healthy individuals which ensures a healthy community."

Topics included cancer prevention, diabetes, asthma, heart disease, cataracts, hearing loss, hip replacement, obesity, kidney disease, headaches, how to quit smoking and many others. Beverly Hospital and the Montebello Rotary Club, co-sponsored the event.

The Rotarians ran a free fingerprinting booth for children and fingerprinted almost 200 children over the course of two days. Thanks to Rotarians Phyllis Murakawa, Mike Newton, Anne Donofrio-Holter, Larry Holter, Kathy Kohn, Kathy Salazar, Chris Robles, Gabe Robles and Barbara Risher Welch along with Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School Interact advisor Rebecca Velasquez and 15 students who donated approximately 50 hours of their time helping the Rotarians staff the booth.

The Montebello Rotary Club received recognition from Assemblyman Charles Calderon's Office for sponsorship of the event. Past-president Kathy Kohn accepted on behalf of president Tom Millhouse. According to Hagopian, the event was so successful, that preparations are already underway for next year.

Two District 5300 Women Honored

Two District 5300 Rotarians were honored recently at the 8th Annual Women in Business Awards. Elizabeth Portela Holder of the Rotary Club of Pasadena Sunrise received an award for Small Business Woman of the Year and Marchelle Sellers of the Rotary Club of South Pasadena was given the award for Most Inspirational Woman.

Marchelle is the founder and Executive Director of the Pasadena Ronald McDonald House and has an extensive background in nonprofit management, property management, accounting and fundraising. She is married and has a two year old son, Graham and a son in heaven, Reese Elliott who was her personal inspiration and guiding angel. As a result of Reese's preterm birth, Marchelle became an advocate for children with special needs and eventually used her experiences to open the Pasadena Ronald McDonald house. She is the Community Projects chair for the South Pasadena Club.

Elizabeth is the owner of Brits Eatery & Pub in Pasadena that has one several "Best Of" awards for its Fish and Chips and for its category. She and husband Peter have long histories in the dining and hospitality industries. Elizabeth is President Elect-Elect of the Pasadena Sunrise Club and is the current club RYLA chair.

The Women in Business Awards are presented by Jack Scott, State Senator for the 21st District, Paul Krekorian, Assembly member for the 43rd District and Anthony Portantino, Assembly member for the 44th District. Both Elizabeth and Marchelle were cheered on at the awards ceremony by many members of their respective Rotary Clubs.