



THE HIGHLIGHTER

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

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR CHARLES: *December is Family Month*



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we approach the Holidays I ask that we once again Share. Let us all share in the many ways that as Rotarians we can. Perhaps it will be just a card to someone who is alone to let them know you care, or perhaps you will be a part of giving Holiday Baskets, Clothing, or shoes to people in need.

Too many times we take things for granted. Simple things like water out of a faucet, food, clothing, or a roof over our head.

Not everyone in the world and our community has this luxury. If we look around us we will all see there are people in our communities with needs. If we all help even if it is just a little we can make lives easier for those who are less fortunate. A random act of kindness can make the world and our community a better place.

The question comes up many times. Who makes up the Family of Rotary? Well simply put the family of Rotary is made up of Rotarians, Interactors, Rotoractors, Rotary Community Corps, Rotary Youth Exchange members and the children and grandchildren, along with the spouses, widows, and widowers of Rotarians. All of these people make up a Family of Rotary that is over two million strong.

Each of us as Rotarians and a member of the Family of Rotary, must take the responsibility to make sure that the Rotary's good work doesn't end with us. No matter what religion, or race you are I would ask that you each do your part to make the world a better place. Not only for ourselves, but the people around us. This can be done with a simple act of kindness to someone in need.

I wish each and every one of you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

- **Giving.** The Bill and The Gates Foundation has awarded The Rotary Foundation a challenge grant of \$100 million, which Rotary will match, dollar for dollar, over three years. This is the largest single grant ever given to a volunteer service organization and represents a tremendous validation of the approach and success of our PolioPlus program.
- **Giving.** District 5300 prepared and distributed Foundation statements to Rotarians throughout the District for the first time. The purpose of these statements is to provide Rotarians with current and historical information about past gifts to the Foundation as well as other types of giving opportunities available to support the Foundation.
- **International Matching Grants.** Nearly 30 Clubs within the District have now committed to supporting matching grant projects in a variety of humanitarian areas throughout the world. Indications of interest to do a matching grant have also been submitted by additional Clubs within the District. All of this points to major increase by District 5300 Clubs to reach out and work to help others through the Foundation's humanitarian grant programs.

Alhambra Rotary Increases Pledge To Library by Bill Kinman



The Rotary Club of Alhambra recently decided NOT to give a \$25,000 donation to the new Alhambra Public Library (under construction) for the naming rights to a conference room.

Don't get the Alhambra Rotarians wrong – their decision was based upon a recent action by the Alhambra Rotary Charities Foundation to, instead, donate \$75,000 to the Alhambra Public Library for the naming rights to the Literacy Center!

But naming rights are the least of the Alhambra Rotarian's considerations – their real concern is to continue to support a vital community service that has long been a high-priority commitment of the club, the programs of "Alhambra Library Literacy."

The Rotary Club of Alhambra has been in the habit of supporting the library, through annual donations that assisted the library in keeping their collection of materials in selected subject areas up to date, and through weekly book donations in the name of their weekly luncheon speakers. When the challenge of establishing a specific "Literacy" service in Alhambra was conceived, Alhambra Rotary "adopted" the program.

Alhambra Rotary made the initial pledge to literacy services in Alhambra that opened

the door to State Library funding, and the rest is history- one-on-one literacy tutoring, assisting residents in the improvement of their reading and writing skills to prepare them for better lifetime opportunities was the backbone of the service. Many other effective programs have been added over the years, and are an on-going part of the literacy services offered to Alhambra residents.

Programs include Families for Literacy, Computer Skills Classes, Newspaper Groups and Classes, Learner Reading Groups, “Ready to Learn” Workshops (co-sponsored by KCET), Homework HELP Program, and the provision of resources for learning English literacy skills and referrals to other learning programs and organizations when appropriate.

The Rotary Club of Alhambra is proud of its library, and the effective community programs provided by Alhambra Library Literacy.

And, come the summer of 2008, be sure to visit the new Civic Center Public Library (located next door to City Hall on First Street), and the Rotary Club of Alhambra/ Alhambra Library Literacy Center.

Official LA 2008 Convention Shirts and Blouses Available

Official LA 2008 Convention Shirt or Blouses are available exclusively online for a limited time only. The shirts incorporate the official colors of the convention and have been specially designed just for convention attendees. Shirts will not be available at the convention, and orders must be received by January 1, 2008. Orders can be placed on the Host Events Tickets Order Form. You can find this at HostTickets@Rotary2008.com. Men's shirts and ladies blouses available in sizes S-XXL, and cost \$65, tax included. Photos of shirts available at the link provided. Order yours today, and make your convention a more memorable experience!



Flags Displayed on North Lake Avenue by Altadena Rotary



In accordance with their agreement with the Altadena Post of the American Legion, Altadena Rotarians made sure that American flags were displayed down Lake Avenue between Woodbury Road and Altadena Drive on Veterans' Day Sunday, November 11. Rotarians gathered in the Presbyterian Church parking lot on North Lake Avenue at 8:00 a.m. to retrieve the flags from their storage box and then proceeded to place almost 90 flags on display. In keeping with proper flag etiquette, they were taken down at 4:30 p.m. so the sun would not set on them.

To All Rotary 5300 Presidents by Charles W. Freitas

Hello! I greet you as Chuck Freitas! I am a member of the Claremont Sunrise Rotary Club and I am also the Coordinator for District 5300's Literacy Program.

I am working with Dick Garrity of the Ontario Club on an exciting project for the LA Rotary International Convention. The project involves all the clubs in District 5300. We will be a part of Rotary International's effort to break a Guinness World Record for collecting new and slightly used books for children (K-3 grade levels). Please involve your club in this initiative to start collecting now as we will need to transport the books to a central location during June, 2008 in order to break the Guinness World Record. After we break the record, the books will be distributed to K-3 public schools within the region. You will receive special collection boxes at the Presidents' Advance in January.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at chuckfreitas@ca.rr.net or call my cell phone (909.560.1994) or home phone (909.399.9909).

This is a tremendously exciting endeavor. I look forward to working with each club in District 5300 to facilitate the effort.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Freitas

District 5300 Literacy Coordinator

Teacher Mini-Grant Program Thrives by Bill Kinman

Applications for the Rotary Club of Alhambra annual Teacher Mini-Grant program were distributed recently to Alhambra Unified School District teachers. The program provides grants of up to \$200 to innovative teachers for special classroom enrichment projects that are not covered by regular funding.

Last year, 54 District teachers received a total of \$9,700 for projects that enhance the classroom learning experiences of our children, and well over \$100,000 has been awarded by Alhambra Rotary since the program has begun operating.



The Rotary Club of Alhambra thanks those community organizations and businesses that support Rotary and the Teacher Mini-Grant Program and recommend to Rotarians visiting our fair community, that they support the services of these caring folks: The Alhambra, Alhambra Auto Kraft, Drasco Body & Fender Works, Kerechuk Motor Service, Transtech Engineers, Planners, Municipal Consultants, W. U. International, and Yonemoto Physical Therapy.

Third Annual “Plants and Princesses Adventure”

This year the San Marino Club added a new dimension to its partnership with the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, The Pasadena Tournament of Roses and Pasadena’s Longfellow Elementary School. This year, members from the East L. A. Club, the Alhambra Club, and the South Pasadena Club joined San Marino Rotary Members to act as guides and mentors for 100 third graders from Longfellow School. The students made their way through three learning stations, designed and staffed by Rotarians and botanists from the Huntington Gardens. The stations included “Float Building with Flowers”, “Flower Dissection Under a Microscope”, and a presentation of “Carnivorous Plants”, presented by Gardens Director, Jim Folsom. The students were further honored by the presence of the 2008 Rose Queen Dusty Gibbs and her court, who helped tutor the students in their tasks. Members of the Royal Court said they were the ones who felt honored to be able to help these fine students, who were experiencing their only science exposure of the year, and getting a great introduction to the Huntington Gardens. The students had time to chat with the Court after classes, then returned to school for lunch. The Rotarians then gathered for a lunch meeting at the Huntington’s Friends Hall, where the Rose Queen and Princesses were the honored speakers. This event is an annual event, and this year proved itself to be a multi-club event in the finest tradition of Rotary service to the community.

Alhambra Rotary Feeds Needy Families by Bill Kinman

Members of the Rotary Club of Alhambra have learned not all needy families are located half a globe away in some distant country. Many can be found in our own local neighborhoods.



Providing needy families with food baskets during the Thanksgiving and Easter holidays had been an important project sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Alhambra, prior to their dissolution. The program was recommended to Rotary by several new members, former Kiwanians, and the food basket delivery program is now a solid part of the "Rotary Shares" programs in Alhambra.

Rotary is proud of Kiwanis for starting the program, and of our former Kiwanis members for espousing and organizing the program within Rotary. Forty families per season now receive food baskets and enjoy the holidays more, with food in the larder, than was formerly possible.

YMCA Honors Montebello Rotary Club by Anne Donofrio-Holter

The Montebello Rotary Club was one of several local service groups honored at this year's Montebello-Commerce YMCA Testimonial Award dinner held November 5 at the Quiet Cannon.

Chartered in 1924, the Montebello Rotary was recognized for outstanding support of local schools, community organizations, and aid to the citizens of Tijuana and Ensenada.

To preserve and protect Montebello's historical roots and in celebration of 100 years of Rotary International, Montebello Rotarians adopted a local historical landmark, the Sanchez Adobe, as their centennial project. The club's goal is to enhance Montebello's oldest standing structure by improving the grounds, courtyard and interior of the historical landmark which



was built in 1845. To date, the club has donated over \$35,000 to the project.

In addition, special recognition was given to long-time Rotarian and local businessman George Hensel for over 50 years of service to the community.

Following the awards presentation, entertainment was provided by "The Rat Pack" featuring Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Marilyn Monroe impersonators.