



THE HIGHLIGHTER

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

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR CHARLES: *February is World Understanding Month*



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

The mission of Rotary International, a worldwide association of Rotary clubs, is “to provide service to others, to promote high ethical standards, and to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.”

When was the last time you read the Mission Statement of Rotary International? If we, as Rotarians, live by the 4 Way Test and the ideals put forth in our mission statement, we can make our community and the world a better place.

The Rotary theme for the month of February is World Understanding. We as Rotarians should be continually aware of the humanitarian needs around us in both locally and internationally. We need to confront our own biases and view the world as one community. Rotary then charges us to with act on those identified needs. This can be done in subtle ways or by more overt actions.

In our own communities we can quietly make available food and shelter for those who have fallen on hard times, or participate in the Happy Feet Program providing school shoes, or sponsor a “Christmas shopping spree” for children of our more needy families. More visibly we can initiate a wide array of activities to meet local needs: leadership opportunities for our youth through Interact, Kideract, Mideract, Teen Leadership Camp, and RYLA; health screening for seniors; community cleanup projects; and mini-grants for teachers to name but a few.

Internationally we subtly work to promote peace and world understanding through our Ambassadorial Scholars, Peace Scholars, Open World Program, Group Study Exchange Teams, Youth Exchange students, and international fellowship activities. We also participate in a wide variety of highly visible health and humanitarian programs such as making potable water available to developing communities, providing surgical beds to rural clinics, establishing micro-credit loan programs, and our most ambitious endeavor, freeing the world of polio.

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Letter From Governor Charles *continued*

In the past, Rotary spoke primarily through its actions. As an organization we assumed that doing “good works” was enough to accomplish its mission, to promote Rotary, to foster our growth in membership. I believe that World Understanding Month should cause us to not only better understand and act on community and world needs but also reflect on how each of us can make others aware of Rotary and what we do. We need to “blow our own horn” and show how Rotary makes the world a better place in which to live and that we as Rotarians have no ulterior motives.

Recently I had the pleasure of dining with the President of Rotary International, Wilf Wilkinson. I made a comment to him that I am always amazed that many heads-of-state have taken time out of their busy schedules to meet with him. He replied, “Of course they will meet with me, I am the President of Rotary International, and we are the oldest, most respected service organization in the world.”

If the governmental leaders of the world understand Rotary and the good work that we do, there is no reason for everyone else not to understand what we as Rotarians are all about. It is therefore up to each Rotarian to promote world understanding through our good works and to let others know of Rotary’s acts of kindness done both in our own communities and throughout the world. Rotary should be known locally and globally as a non-political, non-religious, ethnically diverse organization that addresses conditions to make the world a better place and promotes peace.

District 9790 Inbound Group Study Exchange Team

District 5300 will be hosting our inbound team from D9790 in Australia from March 29-April 28, 2008. D-9790 encompasses the north east part of the State of Victoria, northern Melbourne suburbs and adjacent towns in the State of New South Wales. The GSE Committee

is looking forward to meeting our new friends, and is enjoying the process of planning our time with them. For more about the district, visit their website at www.district9790.org.au



From L-R: Larry Skaggs, Team Leader; Sierra Webb; Julie Whitacre; Elisa Weaver; Mistie Luchtel.

If you have not been asked to participate in the fun of interacting with a GSE team, please email D5300 GSE Chair Pamela Hayes at vliceo@aol.com to get connected through a local area coordinator. Get to know our inbound team through their bio's listed below, and help us with opportunities for vocational, cultural and social exchanges to showcase our wonderful district.

Special thanks to area coordinators Greg Custer of San Marino RC (CA-West), Michael Rodriquez of Chino RC (CA-East), Doug Fowler of Apple Valley RC (High Desert) and John Stevens of the Las Vegas RC (Nevada), as well as their assistants.....Dave Beltran (ELA), Wenlee Jensen (Las Vegas Northwest) and Mike Link (Las Vegas West) for making my job a whole lot easier.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

Group Study Exchange (GSE) teams prepare to share countries: Pamela Hayes, Chair of the District 5300 GSE program, reports that this years District 5300 team leader, **Larry Skaggs** (Green Valley / Henderson), is preparing to leave on February 6 for a four week exchange with District 9790 in Australia. The GSE team from District 9790 will be arriving to make their visit in this District from March 29th through April 28. Our GSE program provides an opportunity for four young (ages 25-40) non-Rotarian professionals under the direction of a Rotarian team leader to experience a vocational exchange with a Rotary district agreed upon by both District Governors. The purpose of the exchange is to promote the sharing of ideas, cultures and experiences with another country. Team members are hosted by fellow Rotarians, present programs at select Rotary Clubs in the exchange district, and act as ambassadors of the United States. Some of our past team leaders have included **George Newton** (Apple Valley), **Margaret Cooker** (Victorville), **Roy York** (Las Vegas Fremont), **Chris Montan** (Alhambra), **Charlie Barr** (Upland), **Gene Hernandez** (Chino), and **Pam Hayes** (Covina). They all feel that the GSE experience was an eye-opening experience to the wonderful world of Rotary and the amazing world we live in. This year's District 5300 team members include **Mistie Luchtel**, a Physician Assistant sponsored by the Green Valley / Henderson Rotary Club; **Elisa Weaver**, Director of Community and Personnel Services for the City of Sierra Madre and sponsored by the Sierra Madre Rotary Club, **Sierra Webb**, a Public Relations Specialist for the City of Apple Valley and sponsored by the Apple Valley Rotary Club, and **Julie Whitacre**, a lobbyist for the Nevada State Education Association and sponsored by the Green Valley / Henderson Rotary Club.

Foundation Dinners: Starting with Southern California Foundation Dinner on February 16th in Walnut with Dr. Joe Serra as the speaker, we also have two more Foundation Dinners (the Southern Nevada Foundation Dinner on Monday March 3rd in Las Vegas, and the High Desert Foundation Dinner on March 8th). Plan to come and enjoy the evenings of celebration and friendship.

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House



L-R- Amanda Hurst, Michael Gordon, Nikki Pintar

President-Elect Amanda Hurst, Community Service Chair Nikki Pintar and Past President Michael Gordon donated 5000+ pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Las Vegas on Wednesday December 12, 2007.

The funds received from recycling the pop tabs are used to create a “home away from home” for families of ill children who must travel to Las Vegas for critical medical treatment. These families face great hardships while their children undergo hospitalization or outpatient treatment for cancer, heart disease, premature birth or other serious illnesses or trauma.

“This was a great project for our club to get involved with. We’ve already committed ourselves to keep on collecting pop tabs for the next school semester”, said Amanda.

ALHAMBRA CITIZEN DONATES \$25,000 TO THE ALHAMBRA ROTARY CHARITIES FOUNDATION by Bill Kinman

Lorelei Gilliam, a long time resident of Alhambra and a long time supporter of the City of Alhambra and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, has donated \$25,000 to the Alhambra Rotary Charities Foundation with the stipulation that her gift be used to augment the Rotary Club of Alhambra's commitment to fund the Literacy Center at the Alhambra Civic Center Library.



As reported earlier in "The Highlighter," the Rotary Club of Alhambra has pledged \$75,000 to the new library's Literacy Center.

Mrs. Gilliam's gift was announced recently at Alhambra Rotary's annual Charity Raffle, followed by great cheering and applause by Rotarians and guests, and she recently received special recognition from the City of Alhambra, at a City Council meeting, "for her selfless contribution".

Her unassuming remark, quoted at the City Council meeting, speaks volumes about her "on-the-mark" attitude: "I just can't imagine a better thing to support than the Library."

We agree wholeheartedly with her, and with the congratulatory attitude of the Alhambra City Council in honoring this dedicated Alhambra citizen.

RUSSIAN DELEGATION VISITS PASADENA AREA NON-PROFITS

(Pasadena, CA) The Pasadena Rotary Club recently partnered with the Open World Program to bring a delegation of five Russian social service professionals to meet with local non-profit organizations.

The visitors, who were housed by Pasadena Rotarians during their one-week stay, had a lengthy and varied itinerary of meetings, meals and other activities, allowing them to learn more about the operation of non-profits of all sizes and missions.

Among the local organizations the Russian delegation visited were the Pasadena Senior Center, Rosemary Children's Services, Monte Vista Grove Homes, Volunteers of America's Maude Booth Family Center, Five Acres, Pasadena Humane Society, Union Station Foundation, and Boys and Girls Club of Pasadena. They also enjoyed a tour of Pasadena City Hall and attended a City Council meeting as well as visiting the Pasadena Police Department and being treated to a BBQ dinner. Since their visit coincided with Halloween, they visited a typical

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RUSSIAN DELEGATION VISITS... continued

haunted house and experienced other Halloween festivities. The delegates also toured Paseo Colorado and Old Pasadena.

Pasadena Rotary's participation in the Open World program is one of several international activities in which the club participated during 2007, a priority area of current club president Bud Walker. Pasadena Rotary was established in 1920 and today numbers approximately 300 members. The Open World program was established by the US Congress in 1999 to enhance understanding and facilitate cooperation between the United States and Russia. Since its founding, approximately 12,000 current and future leaders from Russia and neighboring countries have participated in the Open World program and been exposed to new ideas and practices that they can adapt in their home countries.

DO YOU HAVE A \$5,000 WHITE ELEPHANT? by Bill Kinman

Most "white elephants" I've met (and I've met – and bought - quite a few, at the annual Rotary Club of Alhambra New Year's White Elephant Sale) have been reasonably priced items, not really something you want to get rid of, but something you'd like to share with another.

Those white elephants arrived en-masse and this year's sale, and the bottom line, reported recently in Alhambra's "Rotarette," was over \$5,000 raised for the Rotary Foundation!

Past President Joe "Peppy" Sciarra railroads members into participating, er, I mean, organizes this sale every year, and his pitch for the Foundation is strong and hard to resist. When you add Past President Mark Paulson's auctioneering talents, described in the Rotarette as a hard-of-hearing sort of talent, thinking he heard a bid of \$75, when the rest of the club heard \$50, you have a most successful sale – and tremendous support for the Rotary Foundation.

This fundraiser is easy to organize (everyone has some stuff to get rid of), lots of fun for all concerned (a touch of champagne helps a bit), and we help out our favorite charity. Everyone wins.

Celebrate Rotary and the Rotary Foundation!

Montebello Rotarians Serve at Annual Christmas at the Cannon Program by Anne Donofrio-Holter

Over 300 volunteers came together to serve lunch to more than 3,500 needy local residents at the 19th Annual Christmas at the Cannon program held December 24 at the Quiet Cannon.

Following a buffet style lunch, those in attendance were treated to performances by The Wise Guys, Christmas carolers and clowns, and of course, a visit from Santa Claus. At the conclusion of the event, each child went home with a special gift and each family with a box filled with all the trimmings for a complete Christmas dinner.



Spearheaded by a committee made up of volunteers from community organizations including the Quiet Cannon, the City of Montebello, the Montebello-Commerce YMCA, the Montebello Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, and Optimist Clubs, St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Miraculous Medal Catholic Church and Royal Paper Box Company, each year people from all walks of life participate in various

capacities - as food servers, table clearers, greeters, and gift wrappers. The program has turned into a major community event and has fed over 30,000 people to date. The families invited to participate are selected through local churches, schools and other organizations from Montebello and the surrounding area.

"This event is a great example of love and compassion for others as the public and private sectors work together to ensure that nobody in the community is left behind at the holidays," said committee chair Dan Hernandez.

"This is what the holidays are all about - helping those less fortunate," said Montebello Mayor Bill Molinari. "We want to thank the Quiet Cannon for hosting this event each year and a special thank you to all the volunteers here today that make this event happen."

"This is a wonderful program put on each year through the efforts of many local organizations and groups in our community," said club president Tom Millhouse. "The Montebello Rotary Club is proud to participate."

Participating Rotarians included David Avirom, Pat Darcy, Anne Donofrio-Holter, Ted Jones, Kathy Kohn, Phyllis Murakawa, Giuseppe Napoli, Mike Newton, Luis Truillo and George Pacheco.

A Report from Your District Ambassadorial Scholarship Committee

(Made possible by Designated District Funds from our Rotary International support.)

Cate Powell, our District Ambassadorial Scholar, sponsored by the Claremont Sunrise Club, is currently in Hyderabad, India. Learn more about Cate at our District web page:
[http://www.district5300.org/scholars/ambassadorial.html#District_5300_Outgoing_Ambassadorial_Scholars_\(2007-08\)](http://www.district5300.org/scholars/ambassadorial.html#District_5300_Outgoing_Ambassadorial_Scholars_(2007-08))

She reports:

Please give all of my regards to your Rotary club and let them know that our District's fame is spreading all over India.

The perfect service project grew and blossomed like a flower in the past few months. Henry Martyn Institute is academic and praxis based. It runs three community development centers in poor, conflict prone neighborhoods where Hindus and Muslims live together with some division. These centers are to create something that could be called 'practical peace-building.' Through teaching each other, learning skills, and working on projects Hindus and Muslims have a safe space to come together and build relationships. A group of women recently began an income-generation handi-craft business. I began working with them in September to help with their first exhibition which was not monetarily successful, but successful in lessons. I have had a personal jewelry business in the United States for the past three years. I created the business myself, taught myself everything and have been quite successful. There has been so much that I am happy to teach these women, such as; advertising, marketing, how to be a good saleswoman, and accounting. Their business is in its beginning phase and there is so much growth that is happening. It gives me great joy to build relationships with these women and share knowledge. It is truly satisfying service.

I am learning that peace-building can be an academic study of conflict and conflict resolution, but it has many levels. A holistic approach to peace-building involves individual empowerment in my own jewelry business and shared empowerment through teaching other female entrepreneurs. This empowerment is met with the success of fair trade and income generation. I decided to invest my own money in Hyderabad 's famous pearls and we all learned together how to make unique pearl jewelry sets. We are now selling the jewelry in India and I am working on selling the jewelry also in America through my study institution. We are researching international trade, and fair trade.

Before we began the pearl project, the women were not making any profit in their business. The supplies were cheap and the labor time was long. The women are learning new skills and communing with each other. They are getting paid fairly and earning some profit to re-invest in

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A Report from Your District ... continued

their business. I feel so proud and excited when I see the confidence in their attitudes and their excitement. One woman told me that for the first time she was able to take her friends out for a treat (for 40 rs. which is around \$1 US.) I told them to create a name for their business and in their broken English they came up with "Women's Lucky Products." Hmmmm, maybe not? We re-thought the name and the business is now called "Women's Lucky Jewelry."

It is an international symbol of empowerment and entrepreneurship that is a 'lucky' opportunity for them and for me.

Cate Powell

District 5300, Claremont Sunrise, Ambassadorial Scholar

Let's keep children safe and ourselves as well.

One of the areas in which Vocational Service and my work at Five Acres have converged is the area of child abuse prevention and child protection. When I began this directorate, I attended the District Assembly training on the Youth Protection Policy Implementation and Training. As I was sitting in this training, I was struck by how similar this training was to trainings I have actually led at Five Acres on ways for service providers to safeguard both our youth and adult members. Specifically this Policy acknowledges that not all adults that volunteer to work with youth do so out of the goodness of their hearts, and that some youth will claim that an adult has acted inappropriately even when they indeed have not. Therefore it was a smart idea to create a Youth Protection Policy that would help Rotary Club members maintain the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities.

District 5300 believes "that it is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners, and any other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come into contact."

This training was initially designed for Rotarians working with the International Youth Exchange, but the District now requires that Rotarians who work with the Teen Leadership Camp, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and the Multi-District Interact Symposium all receive this training. At this point some of you may be wondering why I am taking the time to tell all of you about this. Well, it seems to me that there are many times in our lives both as Rotarians and as general citizens we interact with children and youth. That means there are many opportunities

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Let's keep children safe ... continued

for us to recognize a child in need or there may be situations in which our good intentions could be misinterpreted. In other words, if you have occasion to interact with children and youth, you need to be knowledgeable of this Policy.

What follows are some excerpts from this Policy. To read the complete policy, which I encourage you to do, visit the District website at www.district5300.org. The Policy is directly under Vocational Service on the left side of the home page.

It is the intent of District leadership over time to expand the program to all Rotarians working with children and youth in District-sponsored or club-sponsored programs and activities, with the goal of educating them to the problems and the processes related to child abuse, in the hopes of prevention.

At the present time, those participating in the following ongoing District programs are not required but should be trained by the District Youth Protection trainer:

- Kideract (Interact-like club at the elementary school level)
- Mideract and Junior Interact (Interact-like clubs at the middle school level)
- Interact Clubs
- Four-Way Speech Contest (high school)
- Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship Competition (high school)
- Hensel Ethics Essay Contest (high school)
- Youth Entrepreneurship activities

PREVENTING FALSE ACCUSATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

Adults who work with children should take precautions to protect children from abuse and also protect themselves from misunderstandings or accusations.

- Rotarians and other Youth Exchange volunteers should avoid situations in which they are alone with a child. This might include transporting children or young adults alone in a car. This may not always be practical in the Youth Exchange Program, but having another adult or youth in the car may be advised.
- When it is necessary to speak privately with a child, adults should find a place out of earshot but within sight of others for the private conference.
- Privacy of children or youth in situations such as toileting, showering and changing clothes must be respected. When it is necessary to supervise children in these situations, at least two adults should be present and intrude only to the extent that the health and safety of the children require. Adult volunteers should preserve their own privacy in these situations also.

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Let's keep children safe ... continued

- When hugging is appropriate, hug from the side over the shoulders, not from the front, and never for an extended period of time. Rotarians should gauge the student's comfort level with being touched in any way prior to conducting that type of behavior.
- Sexual jokes, comments of a sexual nature, kissing, sensual massage, or sexual gestures are not appropriate behaviors.
- Rotarians may not use corporal punishment in any form - spanking, slapping or hitting, etc.
- It is the adult's responsibility to set and respect boundaries. When a young person attempts to involve an adult in inappropriate behavior, the adult must reject the overture, and discuss the boundaries so as they are clear and not subject to interpretation.

PROPER CONDUCT

The District advocates and expects exemplary behavior by all its adult participants, and it will hold strict line on conduct as laid out in these policies:

- Abusive statements such as those that deal with race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender, age, sex or sexual orientation are not appropriate and will not be tolerated.
- Any physical, emotional, sexual and ethical abuses are not permitted, as is any neglect or endangerment of a child.
- Some forms of personal contact are acceptable as long as they are respectful and appropriate:
 - Touching should be in response to the need of the child, not the need of the adult.
 - Touching should only be with the child's permission.
 - Resistance to touching must be respected.
 - Touching must never include the breast, buttocks or groin.
 - Touching should be done in the open, not in private.
 - Touching should have a brief, limited duration.
 - A child's comfort level with touching is influenced by factors such as age, culture, developmental stages, social and emotional well-being, and life experiences, gender, etc., many of which change over time.

Careful attention should be paid in the selection of Rotarians and other volunteers for the youth programs of District 5300, with an eye to good character, proper conduct and demonstrated appropriate behaviors.

I commend District 5300 for its concern for its members and its concern for the safety of children in this society.

Regina Bettie,
Rotary Club of Altadena