



THE HIGHLIGHTER

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

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR CHARLES:



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Suddenly it is May. Even our District Conference is completed. Where have the last 10 months gone?

I thank everyone who attended or were involved in putting on this year's District Conference. What an amazing time! We had the opportunity to share our Rotary "stories" and to gain a deeper knowledge of Rotary and the amazing works it has done within our District and internationally. We thank Randy and Bryn Styles, our RI President's representative, and our featured speakers, Jane and John T. Capps and Allan Frumkin, for their

thoughtful, motivating presentations.

As always, the George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest, the Four-Way Speech Contest and the Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship finals were highlights of the weekend. It was also a great pleasure to meet and hear the personal side of the adventures of our Australian inbound and outbound Group Study Exchange Teams and to visit with our four Rotary Youth Exchange students. After the Conference Linda Logan, our Youth Exchange Service Officer, shared with me parts of a letter from Meiko, a former Youth Exchange Student from Japan:

Hi Linda,

Youth Exchange...affected my life. It gave three treasures to me: English, friends, and dreams. With English I can now travel all over the world. ...My host families are [now my] ... family. Friends I met in the US are friends forever.... Youth exchange was...the start of my exciting journey.

Meiko

What Meiko says demonstrates the impact Rotary and its programs have on people and the world. May it be a source for each of us to grow in knowledge, to make lasting friendships, and to fulfill dreams.

continued on next page

Letter From Governor Charles *continued*

Prior to the official start of the conference, we held our Leadership Training Seminar. During this session participants listened to interviews with Rotary leaders, gained a better understanding of District-level roles, and learned of the many opportunities to serve at a District level.

The conference featured a variety of Rotary Foundation Matching Grants and District Simplified Grants. These were representative of more than \$120,000 matched by District shared funds to club-initiated international and local projects. Also four of our five “Dream Team” members gave a moving presentation of their experience in India, working in an impoverished village, and participating in India’s National Immunization Day -- their small personal step to eradicate Polio. During the next year the team members plan to bring the presentation to each club in the District as a way help clubs and individuals raise funds to match the \$100 million Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant challenge. Over three years Rotarians and clubs will be asked to “step up to the plate,” to finish our polio eradication efforts so that one day we can proudly proclaim, “Rotary has made the world free of polio!”

Many clubs were recognized with “Outstanding” and “Exemplary” awards for the projects they have carried out in the areas of Membership, The Rotary Foundation, Youth and Community Projects, International Projects, Public Relations, Club Administration, Club Websites, Attendance, and Club Bulletins. The judges and I were impressed with the many program descriptions, and we wanted the conference to be a venue to briefly feature many projects from a wide variety of clubs. Attendees indeed heard and saw numerous samples of Rotary clubs’ initiatives to impact their members, their communities, and our world.

No District Conference would be complete without time for fellowship and opportunities to make and renew friendships. Casa de Carlos was our House of Friendship and the hospitality area for the conference this year. It and the area outside the Tuscany Ballroom enabled Rotarians and friends to meet and gather, to toast each other for Rotary accomplishments, and to look forward to future endeavors to carry out the goals and pleasures of being a Rotarian.

Once again, I personally thank all who helped put on our District conference. The Conference Committee, the speakers, the Plenary Session presenters, and those behind the scenes are to be congratulated for a job well done. You made it possible for **Rotarians to share** their accomplishments with each other.

As we swing into the last two months of this Rotary year, we have a number of projects to finish. Your club presidents will be asking for your help and support. I thank each of you for the time, efforts, resources, and creative ideas you devote to Rotary, the world’s leading service organization affecting the lives of millions.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

District Assembly. Early April brought District Assembly with Foundation three hour-long training programs in the areas of giving, educational (Pam Hayes from Covina speaking on our GSE program, Chip Ossman from Pasadena Sunrise speaking on the Ambassadorial Scholar program, and Dee Matreyek from Rancho Cucamonga speaking on the Peace Scholar Program), and humanitarian grants program (Clive Houstoun-Brown (Pomona) / Conrad von Bibra (South Pasadena) speaking on international matching grants and Sylvia Whitlock from Claremont speaking on the District Simplified Grants' program).

District Conference. Late April brought the District Conference at the Irvine Marriott which featured wonderful programs by our outbound GSE team (led by Larry Skaggs (Green Valley), the inbound GSE team from District 9790 in Australia (led by Peter Morley from Euroa), Rotary Foundation District Service Awards to twelve individuals (Peppy Sciarra – Alhambra, Ray Bushnell – Arcadia, Larry Smith - Boulder City, Susan Johnson - Green Valley / Henderson, Randy Campanile - Las Vegas, Adrienne Cox - Las Vegas Southwest, Bernie Hunt - Las Vegas West, Smita Mehta - Mesquite Sunrise, Dar Howard - Pahrump Valley, David Mans – Pasadena, Greg Jones - Pasadena Sunrise, Darren Krohn – Pomona), international and District Simplified Grant programs presented by Conrad von Bibra and Sylvia Whitlock respectively, and finally, our own District 5300 polio immunization team (Gene Hernandez (Chino), Dar Howard (Pahrump Valley), Adrienne Cox (Las Vegas Southwest), Roger Schulte (Upland), and Greg Jones (Pasadena Sunrise) speaking about their travels to India in February to participate in the Indian National Immunization Day. In terms of awards for supporting the Foundation and using the programs of the Foundation, the small Club award went to Green Valley, the mid-sized Club award went to Glendora, and the large-sized award went to Las Vegas.

Group Study Exchange. Finally, we bid adieu in April to the District 9790 GSE team of Peter Morley, Narelle Beer, Rhonda Day, Lucien Deane-Johns, and Tim Forster. They traveled through our District for four weeks, shared with us their culture, Australian spirit and natural curiosity, and learned about our District and how their vocations are performed.

Sickle Cell Team Plans for R.I. Convention Booth in June

by C. Ray Carlson

The team organized by attorney Julius Johnson in 2006 to promote Sickle Cell Disease awareness and eradication met Thursday, March 27 to make plans for launching a Rotary-wide program with their Project Booth 1422 at the R.I. Convention in June. This was made possible by Ron Hughes, President of Victorville Rotary, who signed and submitted the application. Meeting in Johnson's office in Altadena, the team worked out the details and set-up of booth decorations, manning the booth for 45 hours over 5 days of the convention, applying for non-Rotarian badges at \$50 each, applying for an electrical outlet to operate video, and deciding on the thrust of promotional materials for action by Rotary attendees beyond the convention. Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, first woman Rotary member and woman president of a Rotary Club (by virtue of an historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling), is bringing her daughter Meredith to be in the booth for two days and tell about her life-long struggles with the debilitating disease.

There are 125,000 Americans, mainly black, that suffer year after year with 'crises' that require immediate hospitalization and blood transfusions, often 10 times or more per year all their lives! Since 1992, all babies in the U.S. are tested for the sickle cell genes and, if positive traits are found, cautioned by parents to avoid marriage or sexual relationships with any others having the trait. In Africa, 261,000 new cases are detected each year! Contrast this with the 1,000 or so that are found to be infected with Polio each year.

R.I. President-elect, D. K. Lee, is urging Rotarians to give heed to the 30,000 under-5 children worldwide that **die each day** from all causes, and to do whatever it takes to help them survive and to Make Dreams Real for their mothers and families. His logo depicts a mother and her infant. The Sickle Cell team will bring to his attention the unique program launched by Altadena and Victorville Rotary Clubs and individual members in D-5300. Forty-three percent of under-5 worldwide deaths are in sub-Saharan Africa, and of these as many as 20 percent are due to Sickle Cell disease - about **1-million annually**, in Africa alone!

The solution is to geno-type the blood of every infant, just like in the U.S. And similar to Rotary's program of vaccinating every infant against Polio. The Rotary Club of Kaduna, Nigeria, indicated their interest to be the pilot for such a program. They were already receiving a 1-million-Euro grant from five German Rotary districts to help women afflicted with fistula in their reproductive organs. Their liaison is Prof. Dr. Robert Zinser, Vice-Chairman, Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development, who suggested to us last year that a collaboration should be considered to execute the Sickle Cell program. It is hoped that such a collaboration can be worked out at the R.I. Convention.

Promotion of this Sickle Cell program will begin at the District 5300 Assembly on April 5th, again at the District Conference on April 25-27, at the District Peace Conference on May 10, and all-out at the R.I. Convention June 15-18. But the most dramatic launch will be at the **10th Annual Cosmetologists & Barbers Against Sickle Cell Lip Sync Show** at Pasadena City

continued on next page

Sickle Cell Team... continued

College on Sunday, April 27, 2:30-5:00 pm, with Lorenzo Griffen, founder, as emcee, and member of our Sickle Cell Team. The theme will be "The 60s" and all of the acts are comprised of barbers, stylists, and make-up artists from the Pasadena/Altadena/San Gabriel Valley area. Co-hosting will be actress Kiki Shepard who hosts "Showtime at the Apollo" and appeared in the TV movie "Miss Evers Boys." Tickets are only \$15 from Julius Johnson. This lip-sync show idea will be packaged by Griffin and offered to Rotary clubs worldwide as an entertaining way to locally raise money for the Sickle Cell Eradication program.

The Rotary-sponsored Sickle Cell program is being carried out in association with the Sickle Cell Disease Foundation of California which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Roger E. Brown, Director of Development & Public Affairs, is a member of the Rotary team. The SCDFC operates a summer camp for afflicted children - Camp Crescent Moon - which requires an around-the-clock medical team to help any children who might go into 'crisis' while at the camp. The LipSync show is sponsored by them to raise funds for camp scholarships.

For information on the Rotary Sickle Cell Task Force: Julius Johnson 626-797-1186, <juliusj7@aol.com>, or Roger E. Brown 310-693-0247 <rogerb@scdfc.org>, or C. Ray Carlson 1-800-448-3456, <ray@rotapreneur.com>

News from Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club by Tamara C. Martin

Two of the Ambassadorial Scholarship candidates for 2009-10 came to visit our Club this month. Charlie Wright introduced Elaine McGlaughlin and Leah Newman. Elaine is from Alabama and is attending Pomona College, and Leah is from Massachusetts, attending Scripps College. Both of them gave wonderful presentations. Interviews will be held in Arcadia on April 19th.

Everyone in our Club is gearing up for International Convention under the guidance of Ed Biebrich. Those members of our Club, as well as some from Rancho Sunrise, who cannot attend the entire Convention, are traveling by train to the hospitality get-together on Monday, June 16th at an Olivera Street restaurant. With the Mexican buffet, wine, beer and Margaritas, it should be a wonderful time of fellowship.

Diane Williams and Firat Tuncay are working hard on our All-City Track Meet to be held May 17th at Chaffey College from 6 a.m. till 1 p.m.

The 12th Annual Rotary Club of Rancho Cucamonga's Golf Classic will be held on June 9th at Arrowhead Country Club in San Bernardino. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year. Steve Smith is leading this committee.

Our Interact Club at Los Osos High School is sponsoring a "Relay for Life" event. Dennis Williams is working on a new membership roster.

Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. at Etiwanda Gardens. For more information, contact President Bill Roman.

The RYLA Experience by Regina Bette, Director, Vocational Service, Altadena

Many of you heard my brief comments on March 27 about becoming a group facilitator for RYLA in February of this year. I'm taking this opportunity to go more in depth about this experience.

For the past two years, I have helped select the students that Altadena Rotary sends to RYLA. In these interviews, we tell students what this award was about and briefly explain what to expect during their weekend at leadership camp. I took my lead about this from Tony Hill who has had this experience, but I really didn't know what I was talking about.

Early on, Tony encouraged me to sign up as a facilitator, but the thought of spending a whole weekend with high school students did not really appeal to me. Also, it seemed to me that past facilitators took great joy in listing the many physical hardships of the camp experience. "Why?" I thought, "would anyone subject themselves to this torture?" I cannot really say what changed for me this year, but I really wanted to know more about this important aspect of Rotary and there seemed to be only one way to do it, so I signed up to be a facilitator.

The first thing to know about RYLA is that every Rotarian's first experience with RYLA is as a facilitator. The District 5300 RYLA committee doesn't give you much information about what exactly you do as a facilitator before you arrive at camp, and I will continue to honor this tradition in this article. They do tell you in the mandatory one-hour training that you will have eight youth assigned to you, and you will spend your waking hours at camp as their leader. I think my heart started beating a bit faster when I heard this, and again I began to wonder what I was getting into. Yet each Rotarian who had been through the experience spoke very highly of it.

I was told to bring warm clothes, dress in layers, remember my flashlight (which of course I forgot) and get ready to make some new friends. The RYLA experience for the Rotarian and Awardees is a parallel process of fellowship, learning and sharing. For me, the fellowship began before my weekend when Irene Daniel of Pasadena Rotary agreed to co-host the awardees' orientation meeting. There I met my future bunk mate, Louisa Crowley, with whom I also rode on the bus to our weekend.

The ride up the mountain in the tour bus was momentous in itself. The country side was green with gentle streams running through the valleys. I began to feel better about this experience. Then we arrived and met our group. I was the facilitator of the city of Santiago and was handed my facilitator's guide. But the true excitement was meeting the four boys and four girls and seeing the excitement on their faces. They had many questions. I had very few answers and thus we began our relationship. Not with me being the expert and them the students, but in a learning partnership that would permeate the whole weekend.

I am looking at my memory book and remembering the two boys I always seemed to have to corral and keep with the group. I also had an international student in the group who seemed to know all the Rotarians and was quite wise for her age. We had a boy who also participated in ROTC and had clear ideas on leadership from the military perspective. There were two young ladies who had many plans for the future and definite opinions about adults. They didn't seem that far away from adulthood themselves, and we had some good discussions. The final boy thought very seriously about all aspects of the challenges before us and always added something that no one else had thought of. Last, but not least, was the young woman who was thoughtful, contentious, and had a well thought-out plan for her future.

Was it a challenging weekend for me? Yes, both physically and interpersonally. Would I do it again? Absolutely! These young people are smart, generous, concerned, and budding leaders. Our newspapers and TV news are full of the challenges we will face as a society in the future. These youth give me much hope that we will be able to meet these challenges creatively.

Rotary in Germany by Hal Yorke, Director, International Services, Altadena Rotary

More than 100 years after its inception, Rotary has more than 1,200,000 members in over 32,000 clubs among 200 countries and geographical areas. Not all of these locations offer an ideal environment for a service organization such as Rotary.

During the past century its members have experienced two world wars and numerous smaller conflicts, interspersed with periods of totalitarian control. As we wonder how fellow Rotarians are faring in Iraq and many other crisis areas, we may ask ourselves: How has the Rotary survived some of these difficult situations in the past?

Prior to World War II in Germany, the rise of the Nazis was one of these difficult situations. Rotary, like most other international organizations, was suspect to the new government; it was viewed as a branch of international Freemasonry and considered incompatible with the ethnic German movement. Freemasonry was strongly persecuted under the Nazi regime. Many German Rotary clubs were disbanded because of government opposition, and some of their members became actively engaged in the anti-Nazi resistance movement in the early phases when this was still possible.

Other German Rotary clubs, however, tried to appease Nazi demands and excluded Jewish members. In Munich, Nobel Prize-winning author Thomas Mann ("Buddenbrooks") was removed from the membership as a political enemy of the Nazis. Mann moved to Switzerland in 1933 (and later to Santa Monica, California). For the next four years, negotiations took place between the central headquarters in Chicago and the Nazi Party. Rotary's cause was advocated before the NSDAP party court, where Dr. Grill, Rotary District 73 Governor, argued that the German Rotary was indeed compliant with the goals of the Nazi government. These negotiations failed, and, in 1937, the Nazi Party declared membership of both Rotary and the Nazi Party to be incompatible. On September 4, 1937, Nazi officials ordered all Rotary Club chapters in Germany dissolved. Some clubs continued meeting under the name Friday Clubs.

Outside Germany many clubs stepped up their service efforts to provide emergency relief to victims of the war. In 1942, looking ahead to the postwar era, Rotarians called for a conference to promote international educational and cultural exchanges: Rotary clubs from 21 nations met in London to develop a vision for advancing education, science, and culture after World War II. That event was a precursor to UNESCO. In 1945, 49 Rotary club members served in 29 delegations to the UN Charter Conference in San Francisco.

Rotary and the United Nations have a long history of working together and sharing similar visions for a more peaceful world, a relationship that's apparent through PolioPlus and Rotary International's work with UN agencies. Rotary still actively participates in UN conferences by sending observers to major meetings and covering the United Nations in its publications.

Whereas Rotary could quickly reestablish itself in post-war West Germany, Rotary clubs in Eastern Europe, including East Germany, were disbanded from 1947 to 1989 under the communist regimes. In 1989, the same year that women were allowed to join Rotary International, Rotary began opening new clubs in former communist countries. Today Germany has 47,000 Rotarians in 940 clubs and 14 districts.

New Member Sponsor Recognition by Bill Kinman



The following sponsors received recognition: Past President Ziad Abughazaleh, Past President Mark Paulson, Secretary Laura Greenberg, P.D.G. Christine Montan, Past President Dr. David Snyder, Past President Vince Kemp, and Treasurer Sharon Gibbs.

Alhambra Rotary is proud to announce that our membership goal for the year – 10 new members – has been achieved, and that, at the moment, we're working to over-achieve that goal!

Recognizing the efforts of those who propose and sponsor new members, President Dave Daley recently presented 2007-2008 membership sponsors with new Sponsor pin, a classy new pin for some classy sponsors.

High School Students Conduct Mock Presidential Debate at Alhambra Rotary by Bill Kinman

Although some of the candidates had already dropped out of the race, and those who remained looked quite different than they normally look on television, the Rotary Club of Alhambra recently enjoyed a Presidential Debate (mock style) conducted by students in the Alhambra High School "Advanced Placement" Government Class.

Ten year veteran government teacher Johnny Lau indicated that this project was one way that the students, nearing voting age, "could engage in the process." And engage they did, scrupulously representing the candidate whose name they adopted for the day, responding, in character, to numerous questions on a wide range of issues.



You may not recognize them from this Alhambra Rotary Club picture (although our photographer is quite professional), amongst those represented in this picture, along with Club President Dave Daley, Government Teacher Johnny Lau, and School Superintendent/Rotarian Donna Perez, are: Barak Obama, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Fred Thompson, Rudy Guiliani, and Mitt Romney.

Alhambra Rotary has always been impressed with the caliber of students who participate in our 4-way Test Speech Contest and the Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship Contest, and these Advanced Placement students were no less impressive in their presentations.

Although the campaign may be winding down, there may still be time for your club to arrange such a debate – even in the fall when there will be only two (maybe three) candidates. Your students will, I'm sure, be just as sharp as ours, and it is always a wonder to see how accomplished these young folks are. Why not give your high school a call?

Interactors doing Yeoman's work on Christmas Tree Lane

by Jacque Foreman, Sparks Editor, Altadena

Since the third weekend in February, Altadena President Grace and her Interactors have been coming out to work on Christmas Tree Lane — almost every weekend, and some weekends both days.

Because of all this help, the lights are now down two weeks earlier than they would have been without them.

In order to work as efficiently as possible, we need three to five people on the ground for every ladder climber. Except for Easter weekend when Grace came by herself, three to six members of PHS Interact have come to work every weekend, and they really work!

“The Lane” has three ladders, and that means for the days that we have a full complement of ladder climbers, we need nine to fifteen people in the ground crew. Climbing up and down ladders is very tiring, so it helps if we have four to six climbers so they can rotate to work on the ground.

Thanks to Rotarian David Steinbacher and another friend of mine, Scott Bryant, we've had all the ladders working.



Light bulbs are sorted by color after they are taken off the lines.



Interactors and others pulling down light strings.



Two interactors pulling down lines of lights.

GLENDORA ROTARY RECOGNIZES WORTH CITIZENS WITH “OSCARS” by Pat Janes, pictures by Bob Lohrs

The Rotary Club of Glendora held its annual fundraiser “Oscar Night” February 23, at the Glendora Country Club. Under the theme, “Rotary Goes Dancing With The Stars”, the event wins critical praise from its fellow members and community leaders! Now in its fifth year, this popular event honored three very special volunteers from Glendora, presenting them with their very own Oscars:

Tristian Monterastelli received her Oscar from club President Gordie Norman for her “Letter to Soldiers” program , in which she put together a group of young people that write letters every day to our soldiers serving in Iraq and other places.



Glendora Mayor and club member Ken Herman presenting Oscars to Mike Schneider and Phil Huisman

Glendora Mayor and club member Ken Herman presented Oscars to Mike Schneider and Phil Huisman for their work with a food donation program called the “Shepard’s Pantry”.

Honoring these very special citizens is the Glendora Rotary way of showing appreciation for their hard work and dedication to those who selflessly serve our country and community!

Oscar Night is Glendora’s only fundraiser that raises money to fund the many projects that this club is supporting. This year was a banner year, and along with its Mini-Grant Program for the Glendora Teachers, the club is able to support its many community and international projects.



Tristian Monterastelli and Club President Gordie Norman