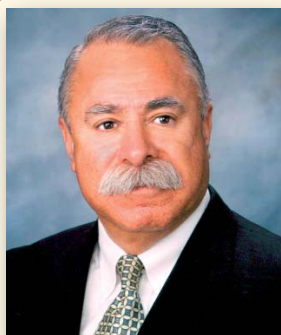




“Caravan of Dreams”



the Highlighter

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300

Eugene J. Hernandez, Governor 2008 - 2009

Volume 82, Issue 3

New Generations....

When One Size Doesn't Fit All

September is “New Generations” Month in the Rotary International calendar which gives us an opportunity to learn more about an exciting concept to attract potential, younger members. As stated last month, if membership is the lifeblood of Rotary, recent data indicates we are in serious need of a transfusion. The New Generations’ concept fills a significant void in terms of Rotary’s global growth, and it is a trailblazing attempt to make Rotary clubs more attractive to young people.

Structurally, these clubs do not differ from other Rotary clubs, except that their membership is geared toward young men and women between 21 and 40 years of age, a wide, non-restrictive range. Joining Rotary is difficult for them because they have little free time, limited financial resources, or because our Rotarian leaders may be inflexible when it comes to admitting young people. Most founding members of these clubs are past Rotaractors, Rotarian Foundation Alumni, former participants in Rotary programs, or the children or relatives of Rotarians, etc. In others words, they are persons who know about Rotary and our work. In this way, they are afforded the chance to remain in contact with us and to be part of our organization through Rotary Clubs for the New Generations.

The New Generation club meetings are usually shorter. They could be clubs that meet for breakfast, in the afternoon or in the evening after work. The business portion of the meeting usually lasts about one hour, which is spent making plans for service activities. These features hold down the cost of membership and better accommodate the hectic schedules of young persons.

The requirements for organizing these clubs are no different from the formal organization of any other club. There are no special rules, and they can be organized through Rotary



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International. They require the approval of the District Governor, who, together with the sponsor club, names a Rotarian to be in charge of the club extension activity. The main characteristic of these clubs is that they bring together young leaders who are capable of engaging in a more fluid intergenerational dialogue and who direct their most important service activities toward the new generations, especially children and youth.

Visit the La Jolla New Generations Club's website (www.ljnewgenrotary.org) to see the energy, vitality, and enthusiasm this type of club can generate. District 5300 has a provisional New Generations Club in the Upland foothills area. The Foothill Communities New Generations Club meets every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m., at the New China Restaurant, 2006 W. Foothill Blvd., Upland, CA 91786. Make a point to stop by and see these young Rotarians in action and lend your support by sharing your Rotary experiences.

Rotary Club of Alhambra Silent Art Auction

Donate art; Buy art; help end Polio with the Rotary Club of Alhambra

The Rotary Club of Alhambra is taking on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's "\$100 Million Challenge" by raising polio-fighting funds through a Silent Art Auction to be held on the evening of the club's annual Rotary Raffle, on Saturday, November 15.

Brash as the Alhambra Club might seem to some, its goal is not to achieve the entire \$100,000,000 at the auction, but with the donation of some beautiful artworks, and the escalation of bids typical of a silent auction, the club expects to significantly add to their other Polio-Plus donations, that include personal pledges and various fund-raising ventures.

If you would like to join the Rotary Club of Alhambra in fighting polio and, at the same time, have some fun and (possibly) acquire new artworks for your home or office: 1) call Dr. David Snyder, at 626-282-8493; 2) ask for a Silent Art Auction donor sheet; 3) fill out the sheet and deliver your artwork to Dr. Snyder's office, 22 South Chapel Avenue, Alhambra; 4) plan to attend the Rotary Club of Alhambra Rotary Raffle AND Polio Plus Silent Art Auction on November 15; and 5) bid, bid, bid, buy, buy, buy.

One of the bonuses of Rotary membership is the opportunity to give service, while at the same time enjoying the fun and fellowship of working with others who have the same "Service Above Self" goals. Add the Rotary Club of Alhambra Silent Art Auction to your calendar, and let's all bring closure to the dreaded disease polio.

DISCLOSURE – Bill Gates is not expected to be present at the November 15 event (but, who knows?)!

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Making the Rotary Foundation *Your Charity of Choice*

by **Craig Cox, Chair, Foundation Directorate, Altadena**

Several weeks ago I received a call from someone soliciting donations to a local law enforcement charity. This particular charity did important work and I was interested in helping. When I asked how much of my donation would actually be used by the charity, I was shocked by the response.

Fourteen percent of my contribution would actually be used by the charity! Only 14 cents of every dollar donated would actually be used to do the work I wished to support.

Most of us budget a significant amount of dollars on an annual basis to support our charitable interests. This is typically spent in smaller amounts across many organizations. **This year I would like you to consider allocating a larger portion of your charitable budget to one organization that supports the areas dear to Rotarians – the Rotary Foundation.** Throughout this Rotary year, my goal will be to help you understand the three primary ways you can support the foundation and how your contributions are used in District 5300 and throughout the world. We will look at the Annual Programs Fund, Restricted Giving (Polio \$100 Million Challenge, specific projects and grants), and the Permanent Fund (Bequests). I will try to explain how you can contribute to each, and the areas they support.

The Rotary Foundation uses a unique mechanism called the SHARE system that allows 100 percent of your contributions to the Annual Programs Fund to be used for Ambassadorial Scholarships, matching grants, Group Study Exchanges, and more.

At the end of every contribution year, your donation is divided into two funds: 50 percent to the World Fund and 50 percent to the District Designated Fund. The World Fund pays for worldwide programs available to all Rotary districts and clubs, regardless of specific contributions. The District Designated Fund supports programs that our District chooses to participate in, such as Ambassadorial Scholarships, matching grants, or Group Study Exchange. The funds are invested for three years and then distributed. This gives districts time for program planning and allows the Foundation to pay for administration and development costs. You are part of one of the great organizations for good in the world.

Your contributions to the Rotary Foundation will help to spread peace, foster understanding, eliminate disease, and improve lives.

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Sickle Cell Booth Brings Great Response

by **C. Ray Carlson**

Altadena Rotary's initiative in promoting awareness of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) at the recent Rotary International Convention proved to be a great success. Many stopped at our booth to hear about the disease and the enormity of the problem in Africa where a thousand babies and small children die every DAY. And it is an excruciatingly painful disease. Even those who survive to adulthood continue to have crises that send them to the hospital, as happened to Dr. Sylvia Whitlock's daughter Meredith who was planning to join her mother in the Convention booth but had to rush to the hospital instead.



From left to right, Julius Johnson Sylvia Whitlock, and Roger Brown

(Whitlock was the first woman president of a Rotary Club by virtue of a unanimous US Supreme Court ruling against gender discrimination by RI.)

Roger Brown, a director of the Sickle Cell Disease Foundation of California, spent the most hours in the booth, and his comments were:

“Wow! What a convention! I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of our good friends at the Altadena Rotary for arranging to get the booth for the Sickle Cell Disease Task

Force effort. I had an opportunity to speak with Rotarians from everywhere and get their input and feedback on the SCDTF initiative. To a person, everyone ... was completely supportive of the program with respect to the proposed screening, treatment center, training, and IT system in Ghana. Others were excited about the possibilities in other countries as well, particularly Nigeria. I have found a new appreciation for what the Rotary Club truly stands for - Service Above Self. What a great gathering of people!”

His best contact at the convention was the CEO of a management service company in Ghana that specializes in Project Development and Resource Management, and who is eager to implement the proposed SCD eradication program in Ghana.

Ray Carlson spoke about the project with a high level German Rotarian who raises large sums of money - 1 million Euro - for Rotary projects in Africa from the German government and the EU. He said he will ‘give it very careful consideration.’

Julius Johnson - an Altadena Rotary member - brought his son, Julius Jr., to participate in the booth and he, too, was excited to meet and share with people from so many countries.

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At one point, two Nigerians with the name Julius arrived so they shot a photo of four Juliuses. A World Health Fair exhibit invited Johnson to participate in their special display of health-related projects. Result: many more contacts were made.



Sylvia Whitlock at the Rotary International Convention Sick Cell Disease Booth

Incoming RI President D.K. Lee has urged Rotarians to focus on the 30,000 children under age 5 who die each DAY. Of that awful number, our innovative SCD project will impact 1,000 daily deaths, so we will be pursuing his personal agenda. Only \$5 per child for screening newborns will save a child, and the Ghanaian Government's National Health Service will cover that cost, but first, the screening and treatment centers, training and an IT system must be in place. The government of Ghana has been unsuccessful in raising the

\$750,000 needed for this training and IT system.

That's our task, and it is a huge one. We have divided the project into parcels that can be funded by multiple Rotary districts. But it will take large foundations, NGOs, and government agencies to match our funds and achieve goals for Ghana and other African countries over the coming years. Altadena Rotarians - with World Bank and US Department of State projects successfully completed, are up to the challenge.

Rotaract Youth Show Interest in Creating Jobs

by **Gary Clark**

The Rotaract Pre-convention met from June 12-14 - Thursday through Saturday - at the Los Angeles Convention Center and celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Rotaract in 1968. The 340 Rotaractors registered, aged 18 through 30, from 54 countries filled the three days with twelve workshops and five major plenary sessions around the theme Fellowship through Service.

Megan Cotugno, 29, a marathon runner, described her Rotary Moment in the Friday morning plenary gathering of Rotaractors. She excelled in Spanish language study but had remained uninterested in her mother's Rotary Club project of delivering wheelchairs to crippled individuals in Mexico, until she went along on one trip to help translate for her mother. When she lifted a crippled child into a new wheelchair, the little girl looked at Megan and said, "I will remember your face the rest of my life. You are my angel." Following that Rotary Moment, Megan became a Rotaract member and raised enough money running her next marathon to purchase 45 wheelchairs.

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While the Rotaract discussion groups considered the usual projects relating to clean water, wheelchairs, HIV, and physical needs, they showed a lively interest in entrepreneurship education and the potential to create jobs for themselves and all young adults needing productive work in their countries. Their hope for positive economic development rose as



Rotaractors at Preconvention Meeting

they learned that the World Bank will guarantee the start-up loans of specific local bank syndicates in certain countries to new businesses that could be started by youth ages 18-29.

New Rotary Moments sparked among the convention Rotaractors, when they heard from us of 170,000 youth in Armenia, students in Zambia, Nigeria, Uganda, Nazareth, and Native American youth who are learning how to write a business plan and create jobs for themselves and others.

The interest soared, when they learned that the

World Bank has formed the Global Fund for Youth Investment (GFYI) to provide support for micro-Small-Medium-Enterprise loans to youth under 30.

Abdallah Nehelba, a business development manager in Dubai, was especially excited by the new opportunity. He has a Civil Engineering degree and MBA from a university in Alexandria, Egypt.

Dr. Mandeep K. Pujara is a specialist in organic farming who is seeking to increase this type of farming throughout India and South Asia. He agrees that entrepreneurship education is the key to job creation.



Dr. Mandeep Pujara from India

Mona Arslan attends business school in Egypt and has been the Interact Coordinator for District 2450, which extends from Egypt to Armenia. She is eager to take the message of our entrepreneurship education program

throughout that large district.

Author's Note: C. Ray Carlson and I were represented at all plenary sessions and workshops throughout the three days of the Rotaract Pre-convention meeting. It is very important that our club get involved in the formation and support of a Rotaract Club in Pasadena.



Bulent Erbor from Turkey

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Peace Corps & Rotary to Collaborate in Job Creation for Youth?

by **C. Ray Carlson**

Rotary's Peace Corps Connection is featured in the August issue of The ROTARIAN Magazine and describes the many ways in which members of the two organizations have partnered since the Peace Corps' beginning in 1961, as a result of an executive order of President John F. Kennedy. Our good friend, Tony Bloome, collaborator on the Zambia



C. Ray Carlson (right) with Ronald Tschetter, Worldwide Director of Peace Corps

Youth IT project and member of Washington D.C. Rotary, provides a comprehensive list of ways that returned Peace Corps volunteers can offer Rotary Clubs. And of how Rotarians who have worked on overseas projects might be recruited to the Peace Corps ages 50+ program to assist anew in the great needs of developing countries. Bloome works for the Peace Corps now, following 11 years at the World Bank.

When I learned that Ronald Tschetter, worldwide director of the Peace Corps, would be speaking in Pasadena on July 24, I went to hear him. The church was filled with about 250 people who were obviously in the 50+ age category that the Peace Corps is seeking to complement the much larger category of recent college graduates that are usually associated with the Peace Corps but who rarely have the hands-on experience that older volunteers do. Four of the latter category gave testimonials of the enjoyment and fulfillment they felt as they found new meaning to their lives in serving and making a difference. They were quite frank about the difficulties they experienced in living without running water, electricity, refrigerators, air conditioning, and cars rather than rickety buses. But none would trade the experience.

Life is calling, How far will you go? is the title of a catalog that describes the opportunities provided by serving in the Peace Corps. The one that caught my eye was "Opportunities in Business Development" 'Some business volunteers teach in a classroom setting, which affords them a respected position in the community and paves the way to community-based business development projects, training entrepreneurs in the basic skills of small business development, advising Junior Achievement organizations!'

Whoa! It flashed in my mind that these are the kind of people we need to oversee our youth entrepreneurship education and job creation projects, in collaboration with local Rotary Clubs that have difficulty in finding members with the time and skills to devote to this. Peace Corps volunteers (PCVs) commit to serve at least two years after three months of training, and all expenses are covered by the US Government!

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When I met Director Tschetter after the meeting and told him about our extensive and growing program of teaching entrepreneurship and writing business plans as the fundamental need for forming new businesses that create jobs, he responded enthusiastically: "The in-country director must first be fully informed of the project, then the local government must approve it, then the Peace Corps office in Washington DC must approve it and start the recruiting process." It's a long process, but doable. He agreed that Tony Bloome could be the one to push the idea within the Peace Corps as well as his WDC Rotary Club.

I left the meeting filled with excitement as I thought of the possibilities, represented by my conversation with the director of the Peace Corps, of the administering of Rotary Business Plan Competitions in each country, and of the provision of seed capital through the Global Youth Investment Fund of the World Bank, and of the many thousands, millions even, of youth who will have a chance to find meaning and fulfillment in life through providing for their own livelihood where jobs are very scarce.

Montebello Hosts Rotary International Visitors

by **Anne Donofrio-Holter**

In conjunction with Rotary International's 99th Annual Convention, this year held in Los Angeles, the Montebello Rotary Club spearheaded an international hospitality night June 16 at Montebello's historic Sanchez Adobe. Aided by the Pico Rivera and East Los Angeles clubs, members welcomed over 75 fellow Rotarians to Montebello representing more than 10 countries including Nigeria, Canada, England, Great Britain, Brazil, Australia, the Philippines, Mexico, Bulgaria and the United States.

Several Rotary International hospitality nights were held around Southern California to give Rotarians a chance to meet in an intimate setting away from the hustle and bustle of a traditional convention.

Those visiting Montebello's adobe not only dined on the traditional foods of Mexico but were treated to an American favorite, ice cream, for dessert. Following dinner, the culture of Mexico came alive with the expert footwork of Folklorico dancers dressed in an array of colorful costumes.

In between sets, with the adobe sand beneath their feet, Rotarians danced to the sounds of American

rock and roll. The evening's highlight came, however, when the Rotarians and their guests formed one long international "conga line" and weaved their way through the adobe's courtyard led by Montebello Rotary president, Ted Jones.

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Photo Left to Right - Maria Jimenez-Jones, Ted Jones, Anne Donofrio-Holter, Larry Holter, Liz from Canada



"We had a wonderful time this evening," said a visitor from England. "This is such a beautiful setting." "We are so happy to have been able to join you," said a visitor from Nigeria. "We enjoyed getting to know each other better this evening."

Upon departure, each guest received a gift bag with a few souvenirs of their adobe visit including a personal photo taken during the evening.

ccc"It has been our pleasure to welcome our fellow Rotarians from around the world to Montebello," said Jones. "Whatever our native language or culture, we are bound together by the spirit of Rotary and its motto of Service Above Self."

Arcadia Rotarians Serve Others While Having Fun

by **Anne Donofrio-Holter**

In keeping with the theme of club president Bruce McCallum, "serving others while having fun," Arcadia Rotarians spent a recent Saturday evening at the Pasadena Ronald McDonald House. As part of the club's year long commitment to provide meals once a month, club members with grocery bags in hand, descended upon the house ready to cook. For families coming into Pasadena seeking advanced medical treatment for their critically or terminally ill children, Ronald McDonald House provides "a community supported home away from home." Located across from Huntington Memorial Hospital, the facility "provides families a place of warmth and comfort."

McCallum came up with the idea of serving the monthly meals following a presentation to the club by guest speaker Marchelle Sellers, who was instrumental in the establishment of

the Pasadena house. "It seemed like a perfect example of our club's theme this year," he said. "Serving others while having fun." Although Big Macs and "Hamburglers" were not on the menu, there were plenty of happy meals waiting as families returned from a long day at the hospital where they visited and cared for their loved ones.

The Arcadia Rotarians, McCallum and his wife Joanne, Eric and Janice Barter, Gerard Tamparong, Don Milefchik, along with Montebello Rotarian Richard Reyes, served up quite a spread – chicken, corn on the cob, potato salad, pork 'n beans, French bread and dessert. "All ten rooms at the house were



Arcadia Rotarians Eric Barter, Gerard Tamparong, Don Milefchik and President Bruce McCallum.

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occupied, each by a family with a desperate need being filled by the facility and its staff," said McCallum. It was our pleasure to make at least one of their evenings a little brighter even if they could not completely take their minds off their loved ones." "Even with weary smiles on their faces, there was little doubt that our hard work was greatly appreciated by the families," said Eric Barter. "Each of us is looking forward to this month's meal."

Welcome to the Centennial Hills Rotary Club

by **Joe Germain**

President Jim Cady presented a plaque proclaiming "Rotary Meets Here" to Howard Winters, President of the newest Club in Rotary International at their July 16 meeting. Howard was originally a member of our club, transferred to the North Las Vegas Club, and has now started The Rotary Club of Centennial Hills, which meets Wednesday mornings at the Silverstone Golf Club

Newly Chartered Rotary Clubs are exciting projects. Instead of a gavel striking a bell, a spoon on a water glass called the 17 in attendance to order. (This included the speaker, two visitors from the Northwest Club and fifteen of their own.) The American flag was present and properly saluted, but did not have its own stand. No banners were displayed from members of visiting clubs. The Four Way Test was printed on the back of a program instead of hung from a banner.

Pins had been distributed to the members at last week's meeting and not all had them yet. The charter has not yet been delivered to the club although it has been issued.

Yet you knew you were in a Rotary meeting. Fines and happy bucks were collected. The speaker presented a very interesting program and our club's presentation was received with enthusiasm and excitement. Several people made suggestions as to where to hang the plaque to attract the most attention to Rotary and to adding membership to their club.

It will be interesting to go back in a year and see what has happened. The area is one that is growing rapidly and Howard is a visionary to see the potential for the growth of our organization into this new area of Las Vegas. Fundraising will take hold and community service projects will be started by that time. It is exciting to have seen a small part of the growth of Rotary and I am marking this week on my calendar to re-attend next year and see the difference.



Las Vegas Northwest President Jim Cady presents Rotary Plaque to Centennial President Howard Winters.

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Pancakes & Sausage

by **Patty Fallahee**

It's Sunday, August 3, what a great day for our fantastic pancake festival – which was quite successful in bringing out the community and lots of Rotary fellowship. And, I dare say, pancakes and sausages galore. Someone



Rotarians Cooking Sausage – Craig Cox (l) and Brian Hayes



Full Table – Community enjoys a great breakfast in Alta Loma Park, Altadena

mentioned having a sausage eating contest, and my mind got to thinking: wouldn't it be fun to introduce the first annual sausage hall of fame?

We could have a charity face-off and challenge other local nonprofit clubs to the challenge of eating the most sausages in 2 minutes.

You may wonder how we could possibly cook that many sausages on our propane griddles. Well, I hear there is a grill weighing in at 53,000 pounds and 65 feet long. With that kind of equipment, there would be no shortage of sausages and many fluffy pancakes to boot. Just a little food for thought!

Many thanks to everyone for participating and making this festival a great success. We easily had over 250 guests attend this year, which is an increase from last year. Kudos to us all.

I look forward to overseeing a variety of vocational projects in the upcoming year, such as, the entertaining Dan Stover Contest, the educational 4-Way Speech Contest, and reintroducing the

George Henzel Ethics Essay Contest. I am excited that I have the opportunity to serve in this area, because I love competitions – especially when a cash prize is involved and, not to mention, the infamous GOLD STAR.



Overview of serving area



Stiltwalker helps prepare breakfast for the community

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Corazon Youth Boot Camp Underway

East LA Rotary Launches Program to Create Jobs in Mexico

by **C. Ray Carlson**



Logo for Corazon Boot Camp

Yorke of Altadena Rotary about the youth entrepreneurship programs being conducted in various countries. “That’s exactly what our youth need, can you help us?” she asked. “The Superbuild program of constructing houses for a few needy families is very important, but our youth need jobs and careers that will give them a meaningful future.”

Javier Espinoza of East LA Rotary accepted the challenge to fulfill Corazon’s dreams for the hundreds of youth they impact each year. Victor Tapia-Montaña, Operations Director, and Ms. Magally I. Kantún Rascón, Administration Director, are teaching along with Espinoza.

Unemployment is very high in Mexico, especially among youth. The population expands by 1-million each year, so that many new jobs must be created to take care of that growth, but even more for the many already unemployed. Amazingly, youth can be taught the basics of starting a business by learning how to write a business plan. Even if they don’t actually do so, they become more employable when they know the basics of business and the importance of the bottom line. With a huge market in the

US just hours away, and with high inflation in China and costly shipping from there to the US because of high energy prices, the future for Mexican youth can be bright.

Back home for the weekend, Javier Espinoza expressed his enthusiasm and excitement



Classroom setting for Corazon Boot Camp

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for this new program and what it can mean when expanded in the Fall and eventually to all of Mexico with the help of many other Rotary districts in the US and Mexico. A graduation of this first class will be held on Saturday, July 26, when the youth present their business plans and receive certificates of achievement and awards. Members of District 5300 clubs are invited to attend and catch a vision of what this



Classroom setting for Corazon Boot Camp



Classroom setting for Corazon Boot Camp

program can mean for the youth of Mexico.

East LA Rotary urges more clubs to get involved in this Baja Program. Even though ELA Rotary is a small club, seven of their members have donated \$107 each to adopt students. South Pasadena Rotary and members have donated more than \$500. A few other clubs have donated \$200 each. But more funds are needed, according to Espinoza.

From Mountain Bikes to Wheelchairs

Two Bikes Can Change a Person's Life

by **Tony Hill**

Danielle Yariv is Executive Director of Intelligent Mobility International (IMI), a Pasadena based company of which the local community can be very proud. Her organization's goal is to assist the disabled in third world countries by providing them with wheelchairs. We were told that this organization is the byproduct of a class at Cal Tech called Product Development for the Developing World. The idea is to create a model that will allow simple, efficient and low-cost wheelchairs that can stand up to the rugged conditions present in many parts of the developing world, and can be made in the local communities using local workers and materials available in that community.

The intent of IMI is to create a manufacturing model that, once refined, can be replicated throughout the third world. To establish such a model, IMI partnered with a business in

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Guatemala called Transitions Workshop. This is a business set up and run by local disabled people in Guatemala to assemble adult wheelchairs. Together they chose a unique wheelchair design using parts from mountain bikes. They were able to get the bikes from the largest manufacturer of mountain bikes in South America at cost. At present, these wheelchairs have a per unit cost of \$150, but the goal is to reduce that per unit cost to \$90.



We were advised that there are approximately 300,000,000 disabled throughout the world, and approximately 20,000,000 of these require wheelchairs. Therefore, this is a program with the potential of helping many disadvantaged people through the world. There are other



programs that provide wheelchairs to the poor in third world countries but, for the most part, they just ship the chairs to the local community. Over time, the chairs break down and fall into disuse because of the difficulty in getting spare parts. In the case of the IMI chair, all materials, including spare parts, are readily available in the local community. This program has secondary benefits as it

uses the disabled to run the local assembly process as much as possible, so it provides jobs for the disabled. In addition, they work with those providing micro enterprise loans to allow people in the local community to do this as a start-up business.

Corn Flakes in Zambia?

From an email from Princess Chileshe to C. Ray Carlson - July 22, 2008

Hi grandpa! How are you doing? I am doing great, and school is okay though the lecturers have gone on strike. How are work and the rotary? I hope all is well.

Grandpa, I have been thinking, how possible is it for you to help me find a scholarship so that I can do a degree program in food science and technology next year? I want to send you a revised copy of our business plan next week. We have changed our line of business, as so many milling companies have opened since the time we suggested our plan. But there is one area of business that has been neglected in Zambia.

My lecturer and I had a chat last month about this, and I thought hard about it. (I have not mentioned this to you, but last month I was asked to help the students from agriculture-economics on how to write business plans; I was flattered and glad to advise them).

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Did you know that there is no company in Zambia that makes Corn Flakes? And corn flakes can actually be made from maize corn. It would be a good idea if I learned more about food production because it would open my mind about the agricultural business I want to venture into, and Dr. Kalikiti advised that it would be better if I get some education about food science. Then I would understand my business even better.



Princess Chilesche

I have been looking at some of the agriculture institutions in America to see which ones offer this kind of degree, but I have no idea how to go about getting the application and the scholarship.

I want your opinion and advice on the matter.

Please convey my love to grandma.

Your granddaughter always. Princess.

If you have any ideas on how to help this charming young lady who visited our club a year ago, let's hear them. C. Ray Carlson (ray@rotapreneur.com)

Note: The twelve Zambian students took to calling C. Ray Carlson "Grandpa" as he was shepherding them first around Washington DC and then around the LA/Altadena area.

Meeting the Stars:

My First Rotary International Convention

by By Hal York

Rotary International held its 99th convention June 15-18 in Los Angeles under the motto Meet the Stars. The concept stars was purposely meant to be ambiguous. The skies were cloudlessly clear, and, in spite of LA's bright lights, some of the brightest stars came out at night. Shortly after sunset, both Mars and Saturn were prominently visible, while the Moon grew to full. The Hollywood Bowl event was held under the stars, and Rotarians had the opportunity to experience another type of star on its stage.

The true meaning of Meet the Stars became apparent at the convention itself, however. I am still trying to sort out and categorize the plethora of impressions and to recover from last week's emotional encounter with Rotary's stars, namely with those who have dedicated themselves to Service above Self. It was a humbling experience for me.

How can I explain my impressions from my first RI Convention to someone who has never been there? I feel like someone trying to explain the joys of parenthood to a childless couple. Words seem so inadequate: "It was a rewarding experience," "It was mind-blowing," and "Wow" seem so insipid.

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The experience began on the Gold Line Metro on Sunday. Rotarians were clearly identifiable by the Rotary wheel on their shirts, blouses, blazers, and proudly displayed pins. Conversations were quickly initiated, and, over the course of the next four days, I met dedicated Rotarians from every continent during my commute on the Gold, Red, and Blue lines. On two such commutes, Harold “Andy” Anderson, a Salvation Army Colonel, Choir Director, Rotarian, and 17-time RI Convention participant shared with me his worries for the closing ceremony. He was supposed to direct the convention in singing “Auld Lang Syne” together with Pasadena’s POP Orchestra, but was given too little direction of how he was to enter onto the stage and how he was to be cued. I watched with apprehension as the final event unfolded and shared in Andy’s initial discomfort. Ultimately, it went well, and Andy helped preserve a long-standing Rotarian tradition.

I met many District Governors, District Governors-Elect, Presidents, Presidents-Elect, simple Rotarians like myself, and non-Rotarians, who have worked with the organization and share many of its goals. I experienced Michael Josephson of the Josephson Institute for Ethics in the second plenary session and in a break-out session. I immensely enjoy his daily 90-second sound bites on radio, but in person ... for 90 minutes ... mind-blowing. The plenary talks on Polio Eradication and Polio Plus ... wow. The accomplishments of and remarks by 2007-08 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award recipient, Dr. Young-Woo Kang, blind since a playground accident at the age of 16 ... truly humbling.

I met Tony Bloome of the Washington DC Rotary and the Peace Corp. After a few minutes, I felt like I had known him for a long time, since Ray Carlson always cc-ed me on his emails with Bloome and vice versa. He was one of the driving forces behind the Zambia IT Youth project. On the day of their breakout session on “Importance of Income-generating Strategies for Young People in Combating HIV/AIDS,” Bloome and Carlson invited me to be the Master of Ceremonies, directing panel members Tony Bloome, Ray Carlson, and Bob Selinger (Newport-Irvine Rotary) as they discussed the Zambia Youth projects conducted in Lusaka and Livingston. This caught me somewhat by surprise. Luckily, I had written about the Zambia project in several earlier articles and, substituting for Mike Noll, had made a presentation on the topic at the recent District 5300 Convention, so I was not completely unprepared.

One of the active participants of this well-attended breakout session was Stephen Lewis. I did not know who he was as I took his pointed questions and passed them on to Carlson, Bloome and Selinger. During the next day’s Plenary Session, Lewis talked about Health Needs in Africa. For me this was the most significant presentation of the entire convention. Had I known what I later learned from Lewis’ talk, I would have tried to spend more time learning from him. I will have to write about Stephen Lewis in a later article.

Unfortunately, time is running out; Jacque Foreman is eagerly awaiting my article, and my wife Barbara wants to leave for our weekend trip. So, more will follow later...

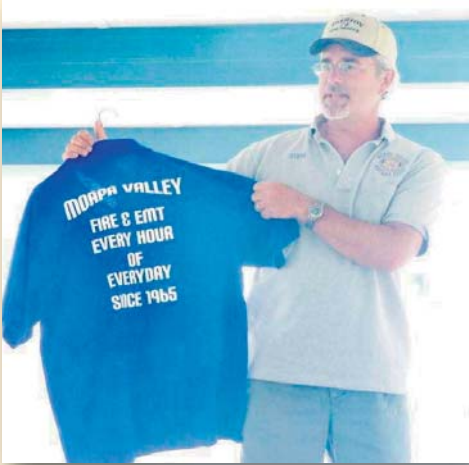
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Rotary Club of Moapa Valley Hosts Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation BBQ

Submitted by **Chris Green**, Photos Submitted by **Rachel Brandes**

To honor of the volunteer spirit that makes our community strong, the Moapa Valley Rotary Club sponsored a BBQ Dinner for all Moapa Valley Volunteer EMT & Firefighters on Saturday, May 31, in the Moapa Park. All available Fire & Rescue Stations made their way to the park to enjoy a meal cooked up fresh by local Rotary members.



Rotary President Steve Gets speaks to Moapa Fire District volunteers and presents each a commemorative Polo Shirt.

The combined unincorporated rural communities of Moapa, Overton, and Logandale are located roughly 70 miles north of Las Vegas and currently have a total of 59 volunteers who respond when residents dial 911. Rotary President Steve Getz explained that when their beepers chime they respond; it doesn't matter where they are or what they are doing.

"I think that is pretty incredible," Getz said. "Every hour of every day for 43 years, these volunteers have responded to the need." Any 911 call of emergency, accident, or fire anywhere in the Moapa Valley from the Lincoln County line to Echo Bay, on I-15 from mile marker 75 to 105 goes to the three Moapa Fire and Rescue stations. And for 43 years, no matter what the day or time, good or bad weather, we know someone

is there to come to our aid. These volunteers leave their life, home, work, family, or church to be where they are needed. We wish to thank all the friends and neighbors that have volunteered and still volunteer."

In addition to honoring the volunteers with a BBQ, the Rotary Club had asked members of the community that have received the volunteer services in the past to sponsor a shirt. A total of 38 community members stepped up to the plate and sponsored a shirt. In addition, community members were asked to write a short letter about the service they had received. These letters were attached to the shirts and given to each volunteer during the luncheon.

The shirts are a nice royal blue polo style that reads "Moapa Valley Fire & EMT" on the front and on the back, "Every Hour of Every Day Since 1965."

Logandale Chief Scott Beckstrand and Moapa Chief Charlie Lindsey along with their



*Feeding the dedicated Fire and EMT Volunteers was a pleasure as they certainly demonstrate the Rotary Motto: **SERVICE ABOVE SELF.***

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Rotarians Dennis Anderson and Master Chef Dr. Larry Moses prepare a great meal for local Fire and EMT Volunteers in the park.

crews were in attendance. Unfortunately Overton Chief Matt Nelson and his crew received a call just prior to the lunch. And as if to demonstrate the life of our local volunteers, just as a group sat down with their plate to eat, another call came, and more volunteers rushed away from their meals.

Through the efforts of local Rotarians, enough money was raised in grants, sponsorships, and other generous donations to cover the costs of the meals and shirts for every volunteer. There was even extra money left over that will be used to help with the training of EMTs.

The Rotary Club of Moapa Valley expressed its appreciation to those who helped make this Volunteer Appreciation BBQ a success. Lin's Marketplace gave a great price break on the steaks, Sugar's Homeplate Restaurant provided dessert, and the Mesquite Resort Association and the Moapa Town Advisory Board provided funding.



The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

by **Bob Novell**

Group Study Exchange. During the Spring of next year, we will do a Group Study Exchange with District 2430 in Turkey. The exchange team consists of a Rotary leader and four young non-Rotarian professionals, ages 25-40, that will spend five weeks traveling in Turkey, where they will learn about Turkish culture, something about how their vocations are performed in Turkey, and finally, share information with their Turkish hosts about America and our District. The Turkish exchange team will be doing the same things as they travel through District 5300. Our team leader will be Doug Fowler (Apple Valley) and the alternate team leader will be Firat Tunay (Rancho Cucamonga) who will spend the coming months selecting team members and preparing the team for this cultural and education experience of lifetime. Larry Skaggs from the Green Valley - Henderson Rotary Club chairs our GSE program.

Foundation Training in Advanced Gifting Techniques. Two Saturday-morning seminars at Etiwanda Gardens and Las Vegas took place during August where 70 Rotarians gathered

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to talk and share ideas about giving techniques that can be used for supporting The Rotary Foundation. Frank Hall (Arcadia), Bob Novell (Arcadia), Joe Luby (Green Valley Henderson), and Tom Yuzer (District 5330) led these seminars which covered gifts to the Annual Program Fund and Polio Plus campaign, bequests from estates, annuities, gifts of real estate and marketable securities, and much more.

Polio Plus. Our new Rotary year also begins with a commitment to support the Polio Plus program, our final effort to eliminate polio. Rotarians in the District will be asked to donate \$50 per year for the next three years to complete the commitment that Rotary made over 20 years ago to free the world of this disease. PDG Margaret Cooker from the Victorville Rotary Club will lead this effort.

Giving Results for the Rotary Year Just Ended. During the year just ended, District 5300 Rotarian gave \$495,000 to the Annual Program Fund (50% of this money will be available to the District during District Governor Nominee Roger Schulte's year for humanitarian grants and scholarships), \$157,000 in restricted gifts for Polio Plus and matching grants, and \$80,000 for the Permanent Funds. Our thanks go out to everyone who made these gifts to the Foundation possible which provide the resources to make the world a better place through our polio, educational, and humanitarian grants' programs.