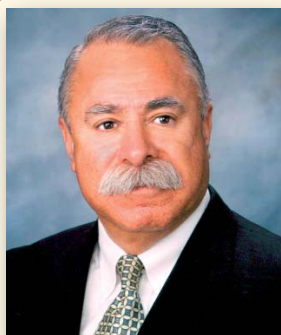




“Caravan of Dreams”



# the Highlighter

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300

Eugene J. Hernandez, Governor 2008 - 2009

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## Season's Greetings to the Family of Rotary

December is “Family” Month in the Rotary International calendar. How fitting it is to celebrate and reflect on the people we surround ourselves with all year long and particularly during the holiday season. We, as a District, have much to be thankful for - our families, our friends, our communities, and our country. People join Rotary for many reasons but many remain Rotarians because of a sense of belonging. I would like to challenge all our members to expand the meaning and definition of family as it pertains to Rotary.



Who is our Rotary Family?

- Fellow club members
- Spouses, children, parents
- Spouses of deceased Rotarians
- Youth Exchange Students and their families
- Interactors/Rotaractors/RYLarians
- GSE team members/Ambassadorial Scholars

Why is “Family” a focus of Rotary?

- Enjoyment
- Retention
- Recruitment
- Foundation support

How do we care for fellow Rotarians like family members?

- Remember birthdays and anniversaries
- Assist when they are sick, lonely, or having difficulties
- Share their grief during and after a death in the family
- Celebrate at births, weddings, and graduations

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How do we involve our own families in Rotary?

- At special family-oriented social events
- At club meetings for special programs
- Assistance at fundraisers
- In community service projects
- Hosting Youth Exchange and GSE teams

How can we care for spouses of deceased Rotarians?

- Invite them to join Rotary
- Invite them to special club events
- Send them “The Rotarian” magazine
- Send them club newsletters
- Call on them regularly
- Celebrate their birthdays

How can Youth Exchange Students become family members?

- Involve other club members to invite them to join in family functions
- Communicate with the student’s family back home
- Lifetime contact after the student has returned home

Invite RYLA, Interact, Rotaract students to join the family of Rotary?

- By Participation in:
  - Projects, fundraisers, Club and District social events
  - Christmas parties, demotion parties
  - District Conferences, Assemblies, Training
- Have them attend other Interact, Rotaract, and RYLA activities

How do we keep Foundation Alumni involved in Rotary?

- Invite them to join Rotary
- Invite them to speak at meetings
- Ask them to participate in club projects
- Communicate regularly when abroad
- Welcome them upon their return
- Inform them with The Rotarian magazine or club newsletter

During this holiday season, for those of us who are blessed, please remember all who are challenged. Even the simplest of gestures can have a profound impact on people, as reflected in the following poem:

*If you planted hope today in any hopeless heart,  
If someone’s burden was lighter because you did your part,  
If you caused a laugh that chased a tear away,  
If tonight your name is mentioned when someone kneels to pray,  
Then your day was well spent. (Author unknown)*

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## Annual Pancake Breakfast Held at End of Parade.

El Monte/South El Monte Rotary held its Annual Pancake Breakfast at the end of the Children's Day



*Members of the club at the breakfast*

Parade. They served over 400 diners. Arriving at 5:00 in the morning to set up, pancakes were flipping off the grills at 7:00 a.m. Over 20 Rotarians were involved in the operation



which went off without a hitch. Among the recipients of grants from this year's fundraiser was the Jerry Ortiz Boxing Gym which will receive \$250.00.

The Club meets every Thursday at Pepe's Restaurant on Valley at 12 noon and is always on the lookout for new members.

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## Industry Hills Veteran's Day

To celebrate this year's Veteran's Day, four of our military Veterans from the Industry Hills



Rotary Club made presentations revealing another aspect of their lives giving "Service Above Self." Gene Eddings - U.S. Army, Ron McPeak - U.S. Navy, Bob O'Connor - U.S. Marines, and John Kramar, U.S. Army.

*Gene Eddings, Ron McPeak, Bob O'Connor and John Kramar*

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## Fourth Annual South Pasadena Chili Cook Off

by **Dan Watson**

On Sunday, October 19th, the Rotary Club of South Pasadena held their 4th Annual Chili Cook-off. Each year the Fall fundraiser combines a fun afternoon of fellowship, good food, with funds raised for a special cause. For 2009, the Club chose the City of South Pasadena's Disaster Preparedness efforts. Money raised will be used to provide Disaster Preparedness Guides for all residents.

Contestants and guests gathered at the venerable War Memorial Building, an appropriate location for a heated battle. Fourteen entries were set up. The Celebrity Judges - Fire Chief

Jerry Wallace, Mayor Philip Putnam, and Public Safety Commissioner Elisa Mann - valiantly tasted all 14 entries. They came up with a four way tie for first place. After considerable give and take, and additional tasting, Dave Crawford's "Call of the Wild" (with elk meat) was chosen first place winner. Dave was presented with the coveted Chile Bowl Trophy. Also recognized was the "People's Choice" Award which went to Immediate Past President Althea Basset whose recipe was chosen by all the visitors as best.

The big winner, though, was the community of South Pasadena.



*Dave Crawford is presented the Chili Bowl  
for the best chili by President Tim Carruth.*

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## Montebello Rotary Participates in Annual ChildSpree

by **Anne Donofrio-Holter**

Members of the Montebello Rotary Club, along with other local service organizations, were up bright and early on a recent Saturday, when in partnership with Mervyn's, they treated 100 needy children, aged 5-12, to a back-to-school shopping spree.

Each year, approximately 15,000 children across the nation, selected through local schools and other organizations, are treated to a shopping spree thanks to Mervyn's partnership with service clubs and other organizations.

At 7am, Mervyn's Montebello opened its doors and the children, each accompanied by a chaperon, were escorted into the store. Parents provided a list identifying their child's needs. Mervyn's employees were on hand to make sure the kids got the best value for their dollar. The employees also collected money to offset any purchase that may have gone slightly over the \$100 allotted per child. Each child also received a backpack filled with school supplies.

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"When the alarm went off at 5 am this morning it sure was hard to get up," said Rotarian Rich Meadows. "But being here and seeing the smiles on these kids faces made it all worth it."

"This year's Rotary theme, Make Dreams Real with its emphasis on kids, fits right in with today's event," said Rotary president Ted Jones. "Kids love new clothes and this event gives parents a helping hand."



*Left to right – Norma Segoviano, Omar Rodriguez, Gabe Robles, Kimberly Napoli, Martin Castro, Anne Donofrio-Holter, Rich Meadows, Joanne Miceli, Pat Darcy, Robert Urteaga, Ted Jones.*

"ChildSpree builds the self-esteem and confidence of school-aged children by providing them with new clothes for school," said Mervyn's ChildSpree coordinator Anita Martinez. "This program is just one part of Mervyn's overall commitment to the community."

Since it's inception in 1993, Mervyn's has provided clothes for more than 170,000 needy children nationwide. Each Mervyn's store provides a clothing allowance of \$100 per child, approximately \$1 million each year.

Additional funds are then donated by participating organizations, such as local service clubs. This year's

sponsors included Wal-Mart Pico Rivera, Target Pico Rivera, Bimbo, Home Town Buffet Montebello, Hansen's Beverage, CVS Alhambra and CFI Construction.

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## Rotary Advanced Leadership Academy

by **Bill Kinman**

Ever wish you could have known how to avoid the argument that resulted in the loss of a club member, or several members? Ever wish you knew where to go to learn something about public speaking? Have a question about the new Club Leadership Plan? Want to know what insurance is necessary to cover an Interact volunteer day somewhere else? Want to know how to teach a session on something you know a lot about? Then the Rotary Advanced Leadership Academy may have an answer for you.

We train our governors at GETS and at the International Assembly; we train our presidents at PETS; we train our secretaries, treasurers, committee heads at the District Assembly; we train our board members at BODTS. However, until now we have not trained our district officers. Other districts have instituted training for district officers, and now district 5300 has done it too. Introducing: The District 5300 Advanced Leadership Academy.

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The Advanced Leadership Academy was the brainchild of Steve Garrett, and he has been the driving force behind it. The concept behind the academy is that there are several very important concepts of which charitable organizations need to be aware that are not being systematically taught on a district-wide level. Some of these have been brought about by changes in the law, some by trends noted in business and other areas of society, and some have been strongly suggested or mandated by Rotary International. Misinformation has been rampant in the District regarding these issues, and such misinformation may be harmful to some clubs. The purpose of the Academy is to build a cadre of people who have knowledge of such areas and who can be called upon for information and assistance whenever needed. You could be one of these people. We have offered a six-hour session on public speaking and a six-hour session on mediation (dispute resolution), and a six-hour session on stewardship to a select group to see if there was a positive response. So far there has been enthusiastic agreement by all attendees that these sessions were a) high caliber, and b) well worth the time they took on a Saturday.

Coming up this Rotary year are three or four more sessions. Ask your club President about the topic and the location. Oh, and you can call upon those who have been trained in dispute resolution for an outside, impartial mediator. Contact Steve Garrett (sg@stevegarrett.com) or Lee Mothershead (lmothers@pacbell.net).

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## Perfect Attendance Awarded

Congratulations to Rotary Club of Industry Hills President, Dr. John Kramar who received a 14 year Perfect Attendance award from District 5300 Governor Gene Hernandez at their meeting on during our District Governors Visit on Tuesday November 4, 2008



*Left to right – Club of Industry Hills President, John Kramar and Governor Gene Hernandez*

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## Rotarians Receive a Matching Grant

This is picture of the Rotarians after Industry Hills Board meeting at our District Governors visit on Tuesday Nov 4, 2008 where we were advised that we received a matching grant for our Thanksgiving Baskets that we will be delivering to needy families on Saturday Nov. 22, 2008. Any other Rotarians that would like to come and help us delivery baskets are welcome to come and help.



## Rodeo for Safety

For several years, the Rotary Club of Henderson has sponsored a Bicycle Safety Rodeo at the Robert Taylor Elementary School. This year the program was held on November 14 led by Rotarians Jim Reid, Dianna Fyke,

and Barry Thibodeau.

They were assisted by

many other community supporters. The student participants were taught the rules of the road including hand signals and the meaning of road signs. Over the past years, the Rotary Club of Henderson provided over 1200 bicycles to Robert Taylor Elementary School.



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## Eventful September, for Boulder City Sunrise Rotary

by **Goldie Begley – President Boulder City Sunrise Rotary**



*It was a wonderful Dress Up day for the gals. Sunrise Secretary Darlene and husband Vern Burk were titled Mr. and Mrs. KenDucky Derby.*



*And here they come, down the stream and under the bridge, 1500 yellow racing ducks paddling to be first to reach the catcher.*



*Just part of the KenDucky Derby Crew. Our bean counter, Eric Estes, Miss KenDucky Derby, Lexie Lagan, MC Mike Pacini, Derby Chairman, Duck I mean Doug Scheppmann and President and Duck Queen Goldie Begley.*

Two wonderful events happened in September for Boulder City Sunrise Rotary. We held our first annual KenDucky Derby at Cascata Golf Course. After holding a corporate golf tourney, 1000 golf balls were dropped from a helicopter for a closest to the hole prize. Hundreds watched and cheered on the 1500 yellow ducks racing down the lower streams of that beautiful course. Ladies with Kentucky Derby hats and men in golf attire enjoyed lunch in the dining room. Money from this event was used to purchase “The Relationship” bronze sculpture and to fund other projects and events celebrating the 20 years of community service to Boulder City. The sculpture, which is on permanent display, won the Peoples Choice award from Boulder City Art Scape downtown sculpture display.

Our second event was our annual WurstFest, which is held every year the last Saturday in September. Again this year, our brat grillers served over 4000 brats, sausages and hot dogs. The beer, margarita and wine booths did well. The Dummkopfs and Tommy Rocker drew a nice crowd.

Both the silent and the live auctions raised funds thru the donations of auctionable items from valley-wide businesses and residents.

With the generosity of the Family of Rotary, friends and businesses, Sunrise Rotary is able to accomplish a lot. We can now respond quickly and effectively to the needs of our youth, their organizations and projects as well as to individual needs of Boulder City. We can continue the mini grants for teachers, and help support those who have supported

us. Oh yes, and our signature project, the All Night Senior Party to keep the graduation seniors safe. That is our proudest moment!

The administration of our club is funded by member's dues and restricted funds. Our fundraising efforts are designated projects; however, all proceeds from the WurstFest go back to our community support through donations.

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If you would like to join some zany Rotarians for breakfast, we meet shortly after Sunrise, at 7 am, each Thursday at Boulder Creek Golf Club in Boulder City. See you at Sunrise!

*There was hail as big as golf balls! 1,000 golf balls dropped from a red, white and blue helicopter for a closest to or hole in one!*



## Thoughts about The Rotary Foundation

In the Rotary world, November is Foundation Month. Our Rotary world is made up of Rotary International (RI) with its 1.1 million members in 32,000 plus Clubs in nearly 200 countries and The Rotary Foundation (TRF) with its annual expenditures of over \$130,000,000 for educational, humanitarian grants, polio, and administrative expenses. When you combine RI and TRF, you have the most powerful worldwide service organization for doing good in the world. Our District 5300 Rotarians are part of one of the top Rotary Districts in the world in terms of supporting the Foundation with gifts, as well as using the educational and humanitarian programs.

- Annual Program Fund: Approximately \$114 million dollars was received worldwide last year by TRF for the annual program fund. 50% of those gifts are returned to the respective giving District three years later to be used for various Foundation programs. District 5300 Rotarians continue to be one of the top per capita giving Districts with annual gifts of \$185 per Rotarian.
- PolioPlus – The \$100 million Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Challenge: Approximately \$16 million dollars has been raised toward that challenge.
- Grants: Both the District Simplified Grants (\$35,000 available this year) and the International Matching Grants (\$100,000 available this year) are being used by our Clubs to obtain funding for local and international projects.