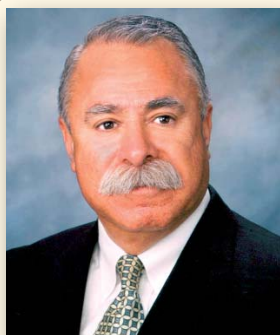




"Caravan of Dreams"



the Highlighter

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300

Eugene J. Hernandez, Governor 2008 - 2009

Volume 82, Issue 12

Fun, Service and Fellowship While Making Dreams Real!



June is Rotary Fellowship month in our Rotary calendar year and my last month as your Governor. As I reflect on my year, many fond memories of service and fellowship jump out at me. The first and most memorable was visiting each and every club in our District, and hearing and seeing the incredible work by Rotarians occurring in our local communities and world-wide. Many of these activities were recognized at our District Conference.

One of the greatest challenges I faced was whether to participate in this year's Project Corazon event or cancel due to Narco-Terrorism and the Swine Flu permeating Mexico and its border towns. After much research and soul searching, I opted to continue with our event. A caravan of 82 fellow Rotarians and family friends ventured to the rural village of Cerro Azul, Tecate, Mexico, and built a house and a computer center for a school that services 500 young Mexican children. The fun and fellowship through service that we all

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experienced truly created Rotary moments and personified “Service Above Self.”

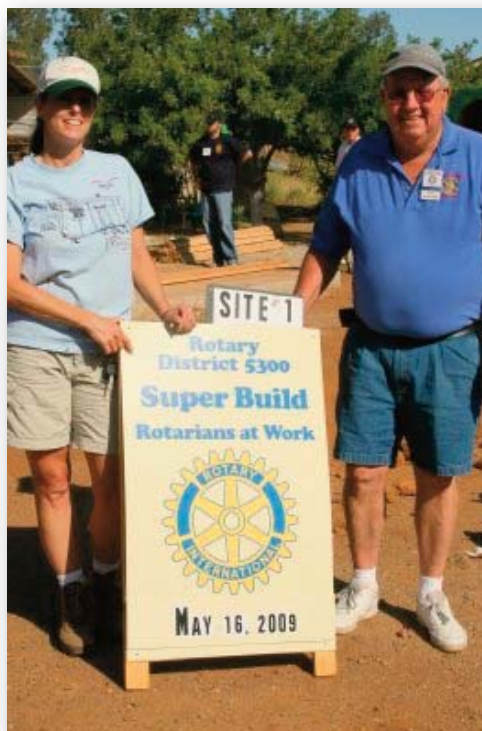
This year’s District Conference was another memorable highlight. We began by caravanning to beautiful Palm Desert and gathering at the J.W. Marriott Resort and Spa Oasis.



Group 1 at Project Corazon Site 1



President Don Brown from Victor Valley Sunrise enjoying his work



Project Corazon Executive Director Maria Avellaneda and Chair Ken Rowland (RC of Claremont Sunrise)



Group 2 at Project Corazon Site 2

Each year, the current RI President sends a representative to each district’s conference. This year, President, D.K. Lee sent Dr. Edgar C. Hatcher, Jr. and his spouse, Jo Ann, as his able representatives. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Ed, who proved to be a stately, Southern gentleman in every sense of the word (and a very good golfer). Jo Ann was a

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lovely addition to our gathering and it was a genuine pleasure for all getting to know them. Their experience and knowledge was evident in Dr. Ed's motivational and moving speeches.



PDG Ernie Jensen (RC of Arcadia), Gail Jensen, Jo Ann Hatcher, Dr. Edgar Hatcher



Governor Gene and the Hatchers standing by a working Iron Lung in the House of Friendship

The purpose of the District Conference was to further the object of Rotary through fellowship, inspirational addresses, and the discussion of matters relating to the affairs of clubs in the District and Rotary International generally. I believe our District Conference did succeed in highlighting successful accomplishments and projects of each of our clubs and their members. It was truly a celebration of our clubs' hard work. I particularly enjoyed presenting the Governor's Choice Awards to thirteen "unsung heroes" who work day in and day out to make their clubs run smoothly, without the fanfare or notoriety of more glamorous assignments.

Consistent with our successes in the past, we highlighted our Foundation programs, such as, Group Study Exchange Team from Turkey, Ambassadorial Scholar, Christie Shu,



(L to R) Alhambra President Mitch Drasco, Rotarian Sam Knowles, recipient of Governor's Choice Award from Governor Gene



(R to L) Rancho Cucamonga President Joe Bert, Rotarian Firat Tuncay, recipient of Governor's Choice Award from Governor Gene

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and National Immunization Day presentations to a very enthusiastic audience. The unveiling of the Best-named Polio Pig in the District gave us the opportunity to reflect on the amazing work Rotarians have done to raise community awareness towards our epic battle to eliminate the scourge of polio. Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Boulder City Sunrise and their entry, “Franklin Rootabout.” District awards were presented, during each of the Plenary Sessions, but with a Hollywood flare like none other we have experienced.



Group Study Exchange Team (GSE) from District 2430 – Turkey



(L to R) Future Ambassadorial Scholars, Benjamin Lin, Christie Shu (current), Alberto Ramos, Nicole Runge



Youth exchange Student, Elena Capaduci (Italy), Linda Logan Chair, and Youth Exchange Student, Momoko Abe (Japan).



Governor Gene standing next to Jeff Li (RC of San Gabriel), the winner of the Dan Stover Music Competition, with his fellow competitors David Warner, Garrett Smith, Kelly Jung and Jason Boada.



Governor Gene awards Boulder City Sunrise President, Goldie Begley, with the Best-named Polio Pig award - “Franklin Rootabout”.

The Saturday evening banquet program, which consisted of the competitors of the Dan Stover Musical Competition, was one of the highlights of the conference, as they were our entertainment for the evening. Truly, dreams were made real that night.

In closing, I wish to express my gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all my fellow Rotarians who made my year as your Governor the experience of a lifetime. As I now move in to a supporting role for Governor-Elect, Tom Novotny, I will carry with me the honor of having served with the best.

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Highlights of the District Conference...



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Expect the Unexpected with Rotarians at Work

by **Gene Morrill**, *President of the Rotary Club of Glendora*



Unexpected visitor with President, Gene Morrill



The bear was exhausted watching how hard the Rotarians and Cub Scouts were working

Rotary Clubs throughout the southland worked together on April 25, 2009. District Governor, Gene Hernandez, asked all the Rotary clubs in District 5300 to join in a day of work on "Rotarians at Work Day." Glendora Rotary Club teamed with Cub Scout Pack 490 to help in the cleaning of Counter Pine Trail in Dalton Canyon.

The day was very productive. The group cleared over half a mile of brush, fallen trees and made the trail safe for hikers. When finished, the group barbequed hot dogs for lunch and, while eating, an unexpected visitor arrived for lunch as well. A small brown bear came into the picnic area looking for a snack. The bear found a spot at the edge of the campground and watched us and, in turn, we kept an eye on him as well. The bear slept while we ate, then came over and checked for leftovers when we left.

I would like to extend my thanks to all who participated.



Glendora Rotarians and Cub Scout Pack 490 gather for Rotarians at Work Day

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Montebello Rotary Club Awards Teacher Mini-Grants

by **Anne Donofrio-Holter**

The Montebello Rotary Club recently presented a total of \$2200 in mini-grants to teachers Marino Angulo and Gilbert Gomez of Montebello High School and Christina Retana of Wilcox Elementary School.

Angulo and Gomez's project, entitled "Advance Placement Review Sessions," will provide lunch for 150 students participating in a Saturday study session for upcoming United States history and American government advance placement exams. "Our students have been practicing all year for the exams. The Saturday session is the final major review and we use this day to give the students a three-hour practice exam," said Gomez. Successful scores on advance placement exams earn high school students college credits. "We are very grateful to the Montebello Rotary Club for their support and for providing us with the funds needed to keep this project going," added Gomez, who becomes the first teacher to be awarded a mini-grant from the club two years in a row.

Retana's project, Wonderwise Science Program/Disney Animation Magic, is a computer-based project that allows fourth grade students to act as scientists. "The project begins with students learning the basics of PowerPoint," said Retana. "They will use the program to make a presentation on one of the scientific disciplines they chose to learn about." Students will then use the Wonderwise program to investigate different scientific fields.

The program concludes with a trip to Disneyland where students will participate in an animation project with Disney Imagineers. "What students learn about animation from the Imagineers will be included in their PowerPoint presentations and will be presented to parents at a GATE (Gifted and Talented Students) meeting," added Retana.

Montebello High School principal Jeff Schwartz and Wilcox Elementary School principal Leo Gallegos were on hand to thank the club members for their support and generosity.



Montebello Rotarians pose with mini-grant winners.

This year the club, which has been awarding mini-grants for the past twelve years, received several applications. Rotarians Phyllis Murakawa and Gabriel Robles met with school personnel to discuss the need and benefit of each application. Mini-grants are awarded for any activity or project that enhances the teaching process for a large number of students and offers a long-term benefit to the school. There must be limited or no other funds available from the school district or other sources.

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The Rotary Foundation – Financial Markets Impact Program Activity

by **Jonathan Majiyagbe, 2008-09 Chair, The Rotary Foundation Trustees**

Dear Rotarians,

At our April meeting, The Rotary Foundation Trustees examined how the current global economic crisis has affected the Foundation's ability to support Rotarians' good work worldwide. Like all foundations, we have experienced substantial unrealized investment losses, forcing us to suspend Matching Grant applications in March of this year. These losses will also have an impact on the amount of money available for program awards in the coming year.

In determining our program and operations budgets for 2009-10, the Trustees made some very difficult decisions. We were fortunate to have the Future Vision Plan to help us focus strategically on what we believe to be best for our Foundation, next year and beyond. For example, funds for polio eradication — our top priority — remain secure, as do the resources to launch the Future Vision pilot in July 2010. We will, however, accelerate the elimination of several programs slated to be discontinued in 2010-11. Effective 1 July 2009, the Foundation will no longer fund the following:

- Rotary Grants for University Teachers, except for grants already awarded
- Volunteer Service Grants
- Cultural and Multi-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships, except for grants already awarded

In addition, the World Fund allocation for Matching Grants was reduced to US\$9.5 million for 2009-10, about 70 percent less than the original budget for 2008-09. Districts are encouraged to use their District Designated Fund (DDF), which is secure and not affected by budget cutbacks in any way, to help carry out their humanitarian service projects. Keep in mind, however, that DDF may not be used to support program activities that have been eliminated.

The budget for Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants was also greatly reduced and will only support new projects that are part of our alliance with USAID to improve water and sanitation in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, and the Philippines. We have also suspended some other activities for 2009-10, including the Scholarships Fund Pool for

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Low-Income Countries, Regional Scholar Seminar Grants, the Rotary Alumni Celebration at the 2010 RI Convention, and training for Rotary Foundation alumni coordinators.

Looking ahead, the Trustees agreed that World Fund Group Study Exchange (GSE) partner districts will spread their exchanges over two years in fiscal years 2010-11 and 2011-12, with one team being funded in each of the years. GSE funding determination for 2012-13, the final year of the program before the Future Vision Plan is implemented across the Foundation, will be made in April 2010.

More information about the impact that budget decisions will have on grant application processing for Educational Programs and the Humanitarian Grants Program is available on <http://www.rotary.org/> www.rotary.org.

We understand that many Rotarians will be disappointed by one or more of these cutbacks. Given the current economic situation, however, it was essential to reduce the Foundation's 2009-10 program budget to \$153.3 million, which is slightly less than the projected actual for 2008-09 and \$27.1 million less than the original 2008-09 budget. Our 2009-10 operations budget, including staffing for the Future Vision pilot, is \$43.1 million, about \$1.6 million under last year's budget. Thanks to cost-cutting measures this year, however, we anticipate the 2008-09 projected operations expenses to come in at about \$4.6 million under budget.

As troubling as our current economic situation is, we must remember that our Foundation experienced tremendous growth when investment markets were favorable. In good years, we were able to provide tens of millions of dollars to address critical problems in every part of the world. I have every hope that we will once again have a bounty of funds to disperse so that Rotarians can continue to do good in the world for decades to come.

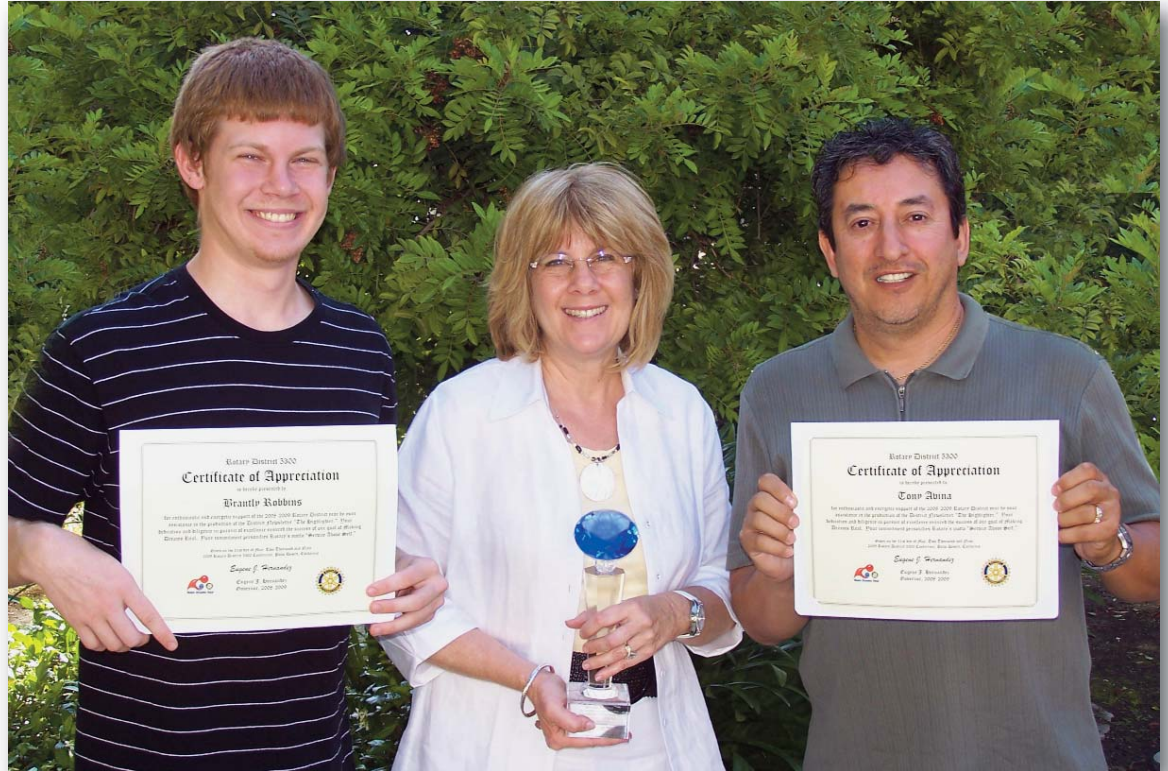
That outcome depends in large part on the continued support of our 1.2 million Rotarians. Although we have had to suspend some of our activities, there can be no moratorium on humanitarian service in Rotary. I am happy to report that Rotarians are continuing to give generously to our Foundation; year-to-date total contributions are higher than last year at this time. Without this support, the program cuts would have been even more painful.

As we work through this economic crisis together, I urge every Rotarian to make a contribution to our Annual Programs Fund by 30 June. Your gifts will strengthen our long-term ability to respond to urgent humanitarian needs and work for a world at peace. I promise you that the Foundation Trustees and our staff will endeavor to protect, maximize, and leverage our Foundation assets as much as we possibly can in today's volatile economic climate.

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Special Award received by publisher of 'The Highlighter' newsletter



Benham Advertising recieved an award, along with certificates of appreciation, for having contributed with design and production of 2008-09's "The Highlighter" newsletter. (left to right) James Robbins; Production Artist, Melinda Robbins; Chino Rotarian, Tony Avina; Art Director.

We would like to thank Rotary for entrusting us with the design and production of "The Highlighter" newsletter. At Benham Advertising, we have been delivering excellent work to our clients for years, and we are proud to add Rotary to the list.