



In this letter:

- New Generations Month – September
- PR Money for Your Club
- **The Foundation Event South Puts on the RITZ . . . October 14 (page 2)**
- Foundation Seminar Success (page 2)
- Did you Do the Dues?
- Group Study Exchange with Central Mexico (page 3)
- “Lead the Way” graphics (page 3)
- Recognition: The Four Avenues of Service Citation (page 3)
- History Corner: GSE explained (page 3-4)

Dear Rotarians,

New Generations Month Marks Rotary’s Unforgettable Impact on Young Lives

“What was the best part of your Rotary Youth Exchange year?”

This question was recently asked of a former Youth Exchange Student who returned from Germany for a visit. Instantly, Phillip responded, “The part that was Rotary. Getting to know Rotarians, who they are and what they do to make life better for everyone who comes in contact with them.”

In this district, I’ve seen how you involve young people with your clubs, through Youth Exchange and also through Group Study Exchange, Interact, Students of the Month, and other activities. We can be proud to offer young people these pivotal, life-changing and memorable

To me, that’s really what makes Rotary’s New Generations Month meaningful. Congratulations!

PR Money from Rotary! Public Image Grants approved

Applications due October 31.



The Rotary International Board of Directors recently approved funds for grants to assist Rotary clubs and districts in their outreach efforts to the general public, promoting Rotary and improving Rotary’s public image. The grant will enable Rotary clubs to place limited Rotary billboards, banners, and TV and Radio Public Service Announcements in their local TV and radio stations, or newspaper supplements that feature local Rotary stories.

For the 2006-07 Rotary year, clubs will be approved for funds up to US\$3,000 per grant to support projects taking place during the current Rotary year. Applications must be submitted by 31 October 2006. For more information and an application, go to rotary.org/support/prtools/awards/pr_grants.



***“Puttin’ on the Ritz for Foundation”
The 2006-07 Foundation South Event
An Evening of Recognition and Celebration
Saturday, October 14
Reception at 6 p.m., Dinner at 7 p.m.
Dancing to Singin’ DJ Joe Gadziwicz (Sebastopol Sunrise)
Sheraton Hotel, Petaluma Marina***

Honoring those who take the time to travel, write grants and see projects through to completion with Foundation funds . . . Honoring those who give so generously to The Rotary Foundation . . . and honoring those indispensable Club Foundation Chairs who help make it all happen. Take this opportunity to celebrate, and to meet Rotary World Peace Fellows, studying at the Rotary Center for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution program at U.C. Berkeley.

***Black tie optional & fancy dress
\$60 per person, includes dinner and table wine
Purchase tickets from Club Foundation Chairs; by October 7 please.***

Plan to spend a gala evening in a beautiful setting with a fine meal and wines of the region. Raffle tickets purchased at your club meetings during the next month will be eligible for a drawing that evening. Prizes will include the awarding of at least two Paul Harris Fellowships, and gifts donated by the Rotary Clubs.

More information: Helaine Campbell, Foundation South Event Chair,
Helaine@sonic.net



Foundation Seminars

We often hear about WHY to give to The Rotary Foundation . . . but last month’s successful Rotary Foundation Seminars also explained HOW clubs use our district’s share of those contributions for projects that change lives.

Presentations are also available to your club, and our district committee persons are happy to work with you on the mechanics of grants. *It’s just as important to use the Foundation as it is to contribute!*

Thanks to all the seminar presenters for taking the time to help disseminate the Rotary Foundation information.



??? Club (Past) Dues ???

Our District Treasurer reports that several clubs are late in paying their District dues. This places a great burden on R.I. headquarters, and poses a real record-keeping problem locally . . . so, please, check with your Club Treasurer to be sure that this crucial club function is handled!

Find 2006-07 Graphics!

The 2006-07 “Lead the Way” theme graphics, and pictures of 2006-07 Rotary International President Bill Boyd are easy to get. To update your bulletin or website, simply go to www.rotary.org, then to the “Downloads” tab, then to “Graphics” and there you are! If you are still displaying Carl-Wilhelm as the R.I. president, click yourself into the current year asap!



Health and Education is theme:

2006-07 outgoing Group Study Exchange

Applications for Team Leader to MEXICO available shortly!



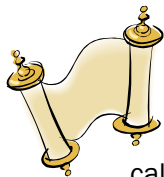
The District GSE Team, under the very capable leadership of Jacqueline Debets, will have the applications for GSE Team Leader available shortly. Our 5-member Group Study Exchange Teams consist of four non-Rotarians ages 25-40 and one Team Leader Rotarian. Presidents, please identify prospective GSE Team Leaders in the next few weeks, and pass on the contact info for Jackie, jrdebets@sbcglobal.net; 445-7747 (B); 826-2441(H)

The 2006-2007 GSE exchange will be with District 4150, our Festival of Brotherhood District in Guadalajara. The focus will be on health and education, while the incoming team will not be a focused group. The Committee plans to have the GSE team selected by November 1st. Please appoint a liaison person to work with the Assistant Governors and GSE Committee in planning visits to your areas.

Four Avenues of Service Citation

This is a Rotary award that is given to deserving Rotarian who is nominated by their Club President. Sitting Presidents are not eligible. Applications are on the Rotary web page.

Historical Corner by PDG Jack Vallergera (Healdsburg)



Group Study Exchange (GSE)

The very first activity of The Rotary Foundation was a scholarship program called Visiting International Student Activities (VISA). The second was Group Study Exchange, and it began in 1965 as an all-male program. Today, the program is open to non-Rotarians of both genders between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five.

In GSE, two districts participate in and exchange with each other sending and receiving teams in the same year. Members of a team all are non-Rotarians except the Rotarian leader. Team members visit with their professional counterparts in the country visited. They visit factories, schools, businesses, various institutions, etc. For example, one team consisted of a banker, a naturalist, a computer technician, a cattleman, a veterinarian and a photographer.

It's been said that the team member is neither a tourist nor a day traveler, but a receptive professional with enough experience to appreciate the opportunity. Recently, a team to India included a cardiologist. Upon learning that the state they visited had only one cardiac surgery center, and being very impressed with this center, he returned with a cardiology team to help develop other centers in the state.

Selection

In our District, the GSE Committee first selects the team leader from those proposed by the clubs. The Team Leader participates in selecting the four members of the team. All members receive instruction about the visit and about Rotary.

After the selection is completed, the team receives instruction about their GSE visit. Language is an important consideration when the receiving country is not English speaking, especially for the Team Leader, and language instruction may become part of the orientation process. In the district they visit, the team is expected to speak before Rotary Clubs, and possibly other groups

The District Governor selects an exchange country before assuming office, and meets with the other District Governor while at the International Assembly, where District Governors are trained each year. Often, the DGs try to schedule the visit so that the visiting team will be at the District Conference in each respective district. Occasionally, the two teams will meet together in one and/or both countries.

Impressive!

One former team member stated, "that his experience was one of the richest and most rewarding of experiences..." Our District has had exchanges with the following countries: Africa (countries of Benin, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Siena, Leone, Toga, all on one visit), Argentine, Austria (with representatives from Hungary and Croatia), Chile, England, France, Finland Germany, Honduras, Central America, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Sweden and Viet Nam.

Group Study Exchange is one of Rotary's most impressive programs. Please support it by recommending outgoing Team Leaders and Team Members, and by helping to host incoming GSE teams when they visit your area.

Thank you again!

I have visited 22 clubs and heard about the wonderful projects Rotarians in our District are working on. I am continually amazed at the generosity of our District Rotarians, not only in financial contributions but their valuable time. George and I appreciate the warm hospitality clubs have extended and making us a part of their Rotary Family.

***Yours truly,
DG Erna***