

DG Erna Stevenson 2006-2007
Rotary District 5130 News
Issue 7, January 2007



DG ERNA's Newsletter

In this issue:

- President Bill Boyd's surprising thoughts on "real community needs"
- The unexpected discoveries of Youth Exchange
- Same old same old in Membership?
- Convention time in Salt Lake City!
- Rotary goes fly fishing on the Klamath

Dear Rotarians,



TO ALL OF YOU FROM GEORGE AND ME!

JANUARY IS ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH.

How does your knowledge of Rotary stack up? Do you know which year the following events took place?

1. When was the first RI Convention in Chicago?
2. When did the National Rotarian magazine debut (precursor to The Rotarian)?
3. When were the first International Rotary Youth Leadership Awards held?
4. When was the first club outside the United States chartered? And where?
5. What was Rotary's first service project?

Answers at end.

RI PRESIDENTIAL DINNER
"REFLECTION" Moment

Last Wednesday, 29 Rotarians from District 5130 had the opportunity to hear RI President William "Bill" Boyd speak at the Presidential Dinner in Santa Clara . . . along with about 900 Rotarians from around California and beyond! I have been asked to share the "Reflection" that I presented at that dinner and here it is.

Happy New Year!

This year we are asked by President Bill. to Lead the Way. This, my friends, is a significant challenge. One that can alter our lives and our world.

Lead the Way. What is being requested of us . . . and how do we answer?

How do we Lead the Way, knowing that we may not see what opportunities and difficulties the Way will present?

Clearly, it isn't just about Leading the Way ourselves, as Rotarians it is a challenge to invite and inspire others to join us as we Lead the Way to enable and encourage leadership in a world that needs it more urgently than ever.

We are asked to work harder, smarter, with more passion, greater vision and humanity. How do we measure our answer to this challenge, Lead the Way? How do we know the quality of our progress?

By looking at those around us, at both our peers and the generations that follow. To what extent have we inspired and helped them.... To take responsibility?....To prepare for the unpredicted? To give their best?

As always, our world offers great challenges, in health, the environment, education, literacy and prosperity . As always, our answers will shape the very quality of life and survival in the unknowable future.

*This year, we are asked by Rotary to Lead the Way. And we answer with joy and determination . . . YES, we say. We will lead with confidence . . . now and in the unknowable future. YES, we will meet new tests and initiate new solutions. We will guide new leaders. Together, side by side, and tonight, as we welcome a new year, we answer: YES. We will **Lead the Way**.*

NOTES FROM RI PRESIDENT BILL BOYD'S DINNER SPEECH SANTA CLARA, CA JANUARY 3, 2007



We in Rotary are fighting wars: against polio, for clean water, for food for people. **And when you fight a war, you need to come from a strong moral base.** Our strong moral base is the core of Rotary values: integrity, honesty, tolerance – our strength comes from the fact that we are different, but united in fighting those wars. Our skills, and the autonomy of our clubs, gives us strength from the bottom up.

We find our satisfaction in helping others. Rotary has helped to make the world a “global village.” A UNICEF official stated that Rotary “has the strength of a government but the heart of a parent.” And, our strength comes from dealing with *people*, not governments.

While it's easy for us to assume what someone else needs, we must instead listen to people and discover the "real community needs" based on the local country's culture. For instance, we have built schools in Turkey....that **would have taken 2 generations to get built by the government because of red tape.** We have helped establish Blood Banks in India....to overcome the problems of poor people selling their blood, and the issue of that blood being infected with diseases.

One astonishing program that Rotary has discovered by seeking to fill a local need, is the provision of sanitary napkins to young girls in Kenya. Studies have shown that without such protection, **the girls would typically choose not to go to school.....**and the average Gross Domestic Product of a country can be directly related to the educational level of girls there. Additionally, girls who skip school are far more likely to get – and spread – AIDS. So, a project that might never have been discovered is today helping both the economy and the future of the population in Kenya....not simply helping young girls with an embarrassing personal problem.

Mother Theresa said, "In this life we cannot do great things. We can only **do small things with great love.**" We in Rotary can do the small things that provide people with what they really need. We can do that for people instead of the letting it be done by groups who foment terrorism. An Air Force General, after a tour around the world looking at the root causes of terrorism, reported: **"The humanitarian work of Rotary will do more to diminish terrorism than all the militaries of the world..."**

Be proud of the work you do in Rotary, for all of the small things you do add up to a very great thing.....and I thank you for all you do.

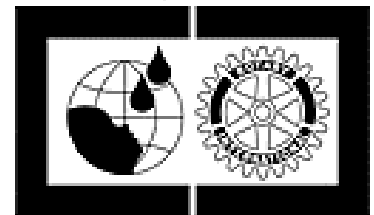
(Notes courtesy of Barbara Beedon and Dale Ann Knight)

DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR CLUB NEWS TO PDG CHARLIE KELLY, cdkukiah@pacific.net, TO INCLUDE IN THE WHEELNEWS.

POLIO ERADICATION

Recently, PDG Larry Myers, District 5130 Polio Eradication Chair, send out an update on Polio. NOW is the time to recommit ourselves to ensuring Polio is eradicated once and for all. We are close, but not there yet. Please! Make your contribution to Polio Eradication today! Remember! It is only a breath away from our doors as we are such a mobile society. We can save our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren such suffering and heartache by making a small contribution today so we can continue to fund NID days. **DO IT TODAY!** (It will count towards your PH).

PolioPlus



Rotary International



SAME OLD SAME OLD?

Can doing the same thing over and over again get us new, better, amazing results?



Not likely! That's why clubs with successful membership growth and retention are introducing fresh ideas and taking new looks at their approach and procedure.

- Try radical new ideas such as "Club in a Club" or "3-member Teams"*
- Ask a visitor from another club for a frank appraisal of your meeting's appeal
- Make a change in meeting routines, set-up or usual practices . . . just for the heck of it.
- Get out of the comfort zone to find out WHY members are, or are not, inviting prospective members to attend your meetings.

*To learn more, to share what you're doing that's working, or to arrange confidential consultation, please contact our District Membership Chair, Maureen Merrill, 544-7286, maureen@harrismerrill.com.



PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP DATA AT WWW.ROTARY5130.ORG TO SEE IF YOUR CURRENT NUMBERS ARE ACCURATE!

EASY TO GO . . . SO CLOSE TO HOME! 2007 RI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The RI 2007 International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, is a wonderful opportunity to meet Rotarians from 168 countries and learn about all the wonderful things that are happened through The Rotary Foundation and Rotary Clubs around the World. Hear fantastic speakers and the best part will be it is here in the USA and affordable. Go to the RI web site, www.rotary.org and register today.

There will be a social reception for all District 5130 participants!



History Corner

Youth Exchange

Every year about 10,000 Rotary host families and their Youth Exchange guests (young men and women between the ages of 15 and 19) go through this experience. This concept of youth

exchange began in the mid-1920s in Rotary clubs and districts in Europe.

The first youth exchange plan was initiated in 1939 between District 107 in California



and districts in Latin America, this program was proposed originally in 1929 by the Rotary club of Kabenhavn, Denmark. In 1970, the R.I. Board of Directors approved a set of guidelines for international Youth Exchange, which is administered and financed locally by districts and clubs.

The sending club and district makes most of the arrangements and may pay incidental expenses of an exchange student. In one recent year 35,900 young men and women went abroad through this program. In this program a young person visits another country for a year, under the sponsorship of a Rotary club and district. The visit need not be reciprocal, but usually is in the true spirit of exchange.

The young participant stays in the home of a Rotarian in the host country and the Rotary club of the host country sends a young person to the sending club and district. If the visit is a year the student will stay in more than one home. Because of the vast orientation programs in clubs and districts the great majority of exchanges have seen successful.

A **French** student wrote of an exchange to Austria. “How to create friendly ties between persons from different cultures? It is sometimes miraculous, but this is what Rotary – with its desire to promote

understanding—manages to do with ease. The group’s solidarity, kindness, and tolerance were put to the test—but not only did we become better acquainted, we also learned more about ourselves and making in general.”

A student from a small town in **Illinois** who spent a year Down Under said; “I know I have changes as a result of my year in **Australia**. I feel much older, more knowledgeable about others and myself. Our Exchange opened doors I didn’t know existed.”

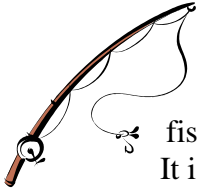
A **Japanese** girl wrote of the many exchange students whom she befriended while in **Canada**. “I was at first irritated with the slow and easy-going **Latin Americans**. I at first thought other **Asian** students got together by themselves too much. I first did not understand the **European’s** sense of humor. I first could not get used to the gaiety and the language of the Australians. But...they are all from their own cultural background, education, climate. I will stop of a moment and think before judging when I encounter something strange in the future, and I am fairly sure I will find reasons for the differences.”

Because of their youth these students are in a position to add an ambassadorial dimension to cultural exchange.

PDG Dave Dillon, the Rotary Club of Eureka, Chaired the Youth Exchange Committee in our District in the 1980s until 1990. At one of the annual dinner meetings he coordinated each year for the students going back home and those outgoing to other countries he asked a girl going back home to Australia what her memory of this country would be and her very quick response was, “all money the same color!” Because of his enthusiastic work with youth Exchange, Dave was presented with the District Rotarian of The Year Award in 1989-1990!



ROTARY ON THE KLAMATH



The International Fellowship of Fishing Rotarians is coordinating a fly fishing event on the Klamath River. This will be a non-competitive fly-fishing for half-pound steelhead. It will be held the last weekend in August. It is open to all Rotarians and fiends. For immediate information, contact Mike Kuczynski (mike@eurekaflyshop.com) or Jack Vallerga (jgvallerga@sbcglobal.net) it is important that you use Rotary On The Klamath in the Subject Line! In your email please let us know the name of your Rotary Club.

We will be looking forward to hearing from you

Tight Lines
And
Enjoy Rotary,

Jack Vallerga
jgvallerga@sbcglobal.net

Answers to Rotary Awareness Month Quiz:

1. 1912
2. 1911
3. 1959, in Australia
4. 1910, in Winnipeg, Canada
5. A public toilet ("comfort station") in Chicago

Yours in Service

DG Erna