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A COUPLE OF WEEKS OFF...

In case you all have been missing The Charm; my sincere apologies for the missing issues and backlog of articles. It would seem I made a good judgment in obtaining an extended warrantee for my computer.

ROTARACTORS CAMP FOR 'INVISIBLE CHILDREN'

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 29 May 2009

Rotaractor Alyssa Herter and a fellow member of her Michigan, USA, club joined hundreds of demonstrators camping out on the streets of Chicago in May to call attention to the abduction of children in northern Uganda.

The Rescue, as the event was dubbed, was part of an international demonstration organized by Invisible Children, a nonprofit media-based group that raises awareness of children forced to become soldiers in Uganda's civil war. Demonstrators set up an encampment for six days, which culminated in an appearance on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* on 1 May.

"It was an incredible experience," says Herter, a member of the Rotaract Club of Kalamazoo and cochair of the club's international service committee. "Everyone was so passionate about this cause. We really want people to become aware of the atrocities going on with these children."

Chicago was the last stop in a 100-city, 10-country awareness campaign. In each city, participants marched by foot to a local site, set up tents and wrote letters for a political or cultural figure to come and "rescue" them by making a public statement on behalf of the child soldiers.

The Kalamazoo club, certified in March, designated Invisible Children its primary project, says Herter, who got involved in the movement three years ago after viewing the group's documentary, *Invisible Children: Rough Cut*, released in 2003 and [widely viewed on the Internet](#).

Club members plan to raise awareness by holding fundraisers on the campus of Western Michigan University and in Kalamazoo and by hosting free screenings of the documentary.

"So many people are in the dark about the issues in Uganda," says Herter. "Hopefully the initiatives we take will make a difference. Anyone who sees this heartbreaking documentary will be moved to do something."

Herter hopes that her Rotaract club can help counter some of the negative stereotypes of younger generations by showing the community that young people do care about being socially responsible, she says.

"I'm so proud of how quickly our club became involved with Invisible Children," she says. "Now, being involved in Rotary's incredible network, I can imagine our club accomplishing so much more."

IRAN RELEASES FORMER ROTARY SCHOLAR, JOURNALIST

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 19 May 2009



The 11 May release of former [Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar](#) and U.S. journalist Roxana Saberi, imprisoned in Iran on charges of spying, brought elation and relief to people worldwide, especially to Rotarians of Fargo, North Dakota.

Saberi, a Fargo native, was arrested in January and initially accused of working with expired press credentials, but authorities later charged her with espionage. Her release came after an Iranian appeals court reduced her eight-year prison sentence to a suspended two-year sentence.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Fargo, Saberi was selected as a 1999-2000 Ambassadorial Scholar to attend the University of Cambridge, where she studied journalism.

Fargo club president Joel Fremstad wrote a letter to Mohammad Khazaei, permanent representative of Iran to the United Nations, and Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, explaining Saberi's connection to Rotary and its mission and requesting her release.

Fremstad, who worked on Capitol Hill in 2003-04 for U.S. Representative Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota, contacted his former boss to express concern on behalf of all Rotarians in the state.



Pomeroy, who was a Rotary Scholar in 1975-76 at Durham University in England, got involved and worked closely with the U.S. State Department on Saberi's release. Days before she was freed, he contacted Khazaei for an update on her situation.

"A lot of people, including Iranian officials, coordinated together so that the proper diplomacy [could] take action in Saberi's release," says Fremstad. "Everyone was excited and relieved to hear the good news."

"In North Dakota, when a friend or neighbor is in trouble, we come together and lend a hand," says Pomeroy. "That was especially true in Roxana's case, where countless individuals and groups came forward to offer their support."

"As a fellow Rotary Scholar, I am especially proud of the work Rotarians did on Roxana's behalf throughout this ordeal," he says. "We don't know what ultimately led to Roxana's release, but I am confident that the rallies, letters, and countless displays of support for Roxana back home played no small part."

Gary Nolte, past governor of District 5580, who helped select Saberi for the Ambassadorial Scholarships program, rejoiced after hearing the news of her release.

"It was an absolute rush when I heard," says Nolte, a member of the Rotary Club of Moorhead, Minnesota, USA. "Saberi is extremely intelligent and confident. During the scholarship interview process, it actually seemed like she was interviewing us. She had everything going for her."

Saberi, whose father was born in Iran, holds dual U.S.-Iranian citizenship. She moved to Iran in 2003, where she worked as a freelance journalist for the BBC and National Public Radio. She plans to return to Fargo, where her family lives.

"We're all very much looking forward to her coming home," says Fremstad. "I'm sure there will be a great celebration upon her return."

REUSED CANES, WALKERS GET PEOPLE MOVING

By Jennifer Lee Atkin Rotary International News -- 10 June 2009

A disabled grandmother in the Usa River Valley is unable to leave her house and yet has to take care of 12 grandchildren, many orphaned by AIDS. A carpenter living nearby needs crutches before he can walk.

These are images that stay with David Talbot, a professional photographer and member of the Rotary Club of Mountain Foothills of Evergreen, Colorado, USA.

The founder of [Crutches 4 Africa](#), Talbot is committed to collecting discarded crutches, canes, walkers, and wheelchairs and delivering them to disabled people in need.

Because of the program, the Tanzanian woman now has a wheelchair, the grandmother has a walker, and the carpenter has crutches and the supplies to produce them for people in his community.

The organization has distributed 6,000 mobility devices to people in Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda over the past four years, with a goal of one million units within 10 years.

"The need is obvious to anyone who's been to Africa," Talbot says. "You just open your eyes and look, and you see these people everywhere."

By conservative estimates, 15 million people in Africa lack adequate mobility devices, he says.

A polio survivor, Talbot first witnessed this need in 2005, when he went to Uganda to work on a documentary film. Back in Colorado, he began partnering with Rotary clubs, schools, and businesses -- some as far away as New York -- to collect crutches.

In the United States, Talbot notes, doctors often allow patients to use only new equipment because of insurance requirements and malpractice concerns. As a result, devices that are no longer needed pile up in homes across the country. "I see crutches at yard and estate sales all the time," he says.

Many U.S. hospitals have a surplus of used crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs.

"I met a guy who works at a landfill in Denver who told me that they had buried a whole trash bin full of crutches and wheelchairs that had come from a hospital," Talbot says. "The stuff we throw away can be used."

Crutches 4 Africa ships the devices by ocean liner, and Talbot and other volunteers fly to various countries in Africa -- often with dismantled crutches packed into their luggage -- and work with local Rotary clubs to manage distribution. Each pair of crutches costs about US\$3 to ship, Talbot says, but the clubs and other connections can help lower that amount.

The organization's most recent distribution to Kenya and Tanzania in February and March got a boost when a Denver business associate put Talbot in touch with a member of the band Steppenwolf. The rock star was going on safari with high-end tour company Abercrombie & Kent and arranged for 350 units to be loaded at no cost aboard the tour's chartered Icelandair plane in unused cargo space.

Talbot looks over an image of two brothers in Uganda, one pulling the other along on a scrap of old blanket because he couldn't walk.

"It's not a good way to travel," Talbot says. "We have what they need -- let's give it to them."



Talbot collaborated with Steve Baroch, of the Rotary Club of Castle Rock High Noon, Colorado, on the Kenya and Tanzania trip. See [Baroch's winning photo](#) in *The Rotarian*'s annual photo contest.

THOUSANDS AT ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 9 June 2009

More than 25,000 Rotarians and volunteers from 35 districts worldwide rolled up their sleeves to improve their communities as part of Rotarians At Work Day.

Started in 2006 by the late Bob Watson, past governor of District 5340 (California, USA), [Rotarians At Work Day](#) happens the last Saturday in April each year and challenges clubs around the world to carry out hands-on service efforts in their community.

"It truly is a grassroots project," says Pamela Russell, governor of District 5340. "The day is a great opportunity to revitalize your club, bring in new members, and generate publicity for Rotary."

Watson's vision was that by 2014, every club and Rotarian would participate, says Russell.

"Imagine the impact when all clubs come together and perform community service projects," she says. "Thousands of people will benefit both indirectly and directly from just our one-day efforts."

Here are a few of the projects that Rotarians carried out around the globe on 25 April:

- To emphasize the importance of bicycle safety, 15 clubs in District 1410 (Åland Islands; Finland) collected 2,000 knapsacks for bike helmets and delivered them to local schools.
- Members of the Rotary Club of Vasco da Gama, Goa, India, helped build two large steel lockers for a school in Chicalim.
- More than 100 Rotarians and Rotaractors from District 9200, which covers five countries in eastern Africa, planted trees, painted rooms, and repaired cow sheds for the Morning Star Children's Ministry for orphans in Nairobi, Kenya.
- A joint effort between the Rotary clubs of Ensenada Riviera, Baja California, Mexico, and Newport-Irvine, California, provided more than 100 new chairs to a primary school in Francisco Zarco, Mexico. Rotarians also painted part of the school, cleaned up the patio, and planted trees.
- The Rotary Club of Carlsbad, California, started a sustainable vegetable garden at a local homeless shelter, allowing residents to grow their own food. Rotarians also painted several areas of the facility.

Learn how your club or district can participate in the 2010 [Rotarians At Work Day](#).

UGANDAN CENTER HEALS THROUGH DANCE

Rotary International News -- 12 June, 2009

in front of a black curtain draped over a clothesline, several children dance in a dirt clearing that constitutes their front yard.

The [Bitone Center for Disadvantaged Children](#), located in Kampala, Uganda, is home to two dozen children ages 8-18. Many are orphans; others have lost their homes or been estranged from their families by disease, war, or economic hardship. The Rotary clubs of Kampala-East and Traverse Bay Sunrise, Michigan, USA, are providing support to the facility with help from a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant.

Bitone means "talents" in Luganda. The center was founded in 2004 by Lawrence "Branco" Sekalegga, who serves as its executive director and teaches the children traditional Ugandan dance, music, and theater. By connecting the children with their heritage and providing basic food, shelter, and education, the center strives to give them new hope and build their self-esteem.

On a visit to Bitone, Rotary International Senior Photographer Alyce Henson shot individual students using a technique known as time sequencing with continual shutter bursts with a Canon EOS 1D Mark II camera, at an aperture of f/5.0 and a shutter speed of 1/125. Using Henson's work, Photography Coordinator Miriam Doan created this essay, which showcases the children's skills, personalities, and exuberance -- all expressed through the healing power of art.

INDONESIAN CLUBS HELP 2,000 CHILDREN

By Peter Schmidtke Rotary International News -- 4 June 2009

Syahrul Gunawan looked in the mirror and touched the reflection of his nose and lips.

The seven-year-old boy, who had received surgery for clefts on both sides of his upper lip, smiled at his mother and exclaimed how handsome he was. Thalca Hamid from the Rotary Club of Surabaya Central, Indonesia, recalls how the boy's mother told Hamid she had given her son a normal life.

"At times I feel like crying when I hear about these children," Hamid says, "because friendships from all over the world can change a child's life."

Gunawan was among the first children in 2001 who received cleft lip or palate surgeries through the efforts of Hamid and the Surabaya Central club. Since then, 2,000 children have undergone surgery with help from Australian, Dutch, and Indonesian Rotarians, among others.



Two Matching Grants have aided this effort, the most recent of which was cosponsored by District 1610 (The Netherlands). This second, US\$45,000 project provided surgeries to 149 impoverished children in 2006-07.

Hamid, an orthodontist, and two other Surabaya Central Rotarians arranged patient transportation, educated parents about postsurgical care, and provided children with books and toys. Rotarians also recruited local villagers to talk to rural families who may not realize the benefits of the surgery.

"The children and their families have unbelievable pressure and stress because many feel that such defects are a curse," Hamid says. "Previously, few in our community realized how complicated this defect is."

Fast facts:

- Cleft lip and/or palate is the most common facial birth defect, affecting one in 700 babies worldwide and one in 500 in Asia.
- Cleft lip and palate defects can interfere with eating, speaking, and breathing and can cause dental problems, ear infections, and hearing loss.
- A cleft lip can range from a notch in the upper lip to a larger split extending into the nose.
- A cleft palate is an opening in the roof of the mouth ranging from a small malformation to a large separation of the palate.
- Babies can be born with both a cleft lip and palate or just a cleft in one area.
- The ideal age to receive corrective surgery is between 10 and 12 weeks for cleft lip and between 9 and 18 months for cleft palate.

Sources: University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine; American Academy of Otolaryngology

KOREAN, GREEK ROTARIANS MARK A FIRST IN POLIO ERADICATION

By Joseph Derr Rotary International News -- 3 June 2009

A team of Rotarians from Korea and one from Greece became the first from their respective countries to volunteer during a National Immunization Day (NID), which occurred 1-2 March.

Working with local teams from numerous agencies, the volunteer groups administered drops of oral polio vaccine to children in two regions of Uttar Pradesh during a massive immunization campaign that targeted all children under age five in the country.

In Meerut, the 18-member multidistrict Korean team walked house to house to help ensure that every child was immunized.

Team leaders said that this year's RI theme, *Make Dreams Real*, was the motivation behind volunteering for the event.

"Taking part in the NID was an extremely rewarding experience for our team. We did something very positive and tangible for the final push to eradicate polio worldwide," says Ju Hwa Jeong, governor of District 3690, who led the Korean volunteers to India. "Our team was pleased to be the first group of Korean Rotarians to take this kind of action, inspired by RI President Dong Kurn Lee, who has inspired not only Korean Rotarians this year but the worldwide membership to eradicate this terrible scourge."

While the Korean volunteers tackled the streets of Meerut, a 22-member team from District 2470 (Greece) worked in Moradabad and its environs, going door to door to administer vaccine to all young children.

Greek team leader Hara Papadaki, of the Rotary Club of Pendeli, said one of the most successful moments of the NID was when the team immunized 56 children all at once in the Moradabad railway station.

She said the NID was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. "I am proud for the contribution of Greek Rotarians to the global effort for making India a polio-free country."

Papadaki added that the trip to India would not have been possible without the support of Mary Delivoria, governor of District 2470, and Yogesh Mohanji Gupta, governor of District 3100 (India).

"Until polio is eradicated worldwide, every child remains at risk," said Katerina Kotsali, a member of the Pendeli club. "Though we are close to reaching our goal, we must continue our efforts until each and every child is protected against the tragic consequences of this disease."

Read about [two Interactors from Florida, USA, who took part in the same NID.](#)

YOUNG CLUBS WELCOME ALUMNI INTO ROTARY

Rotary International News -- 28 May 2009

A five-year-old Japanese Rotary club is expanding its membership by recruiting Rotary Foundation and Rotary International program alumni.

The Rotary Club of Kanagawa Shonan, Kanagawa, which began as a gathering of young professionals, was chartered on 15 December 2004 with 23 former Ambassadorial Scholars, Group Study Exchange team members, and Rotary Youth Exchange students. The club now has a few members who have not participated in Rotary programs, but it continues to actively recruit alumni.

Club leaders hope their example will inspire other young professionals to join Rotary.



The Kanagawa Shonan club is different from typical Rotary clubs. The average age of its members is 38, and the club dues of ¥70,000 (US\$740) are about a third of the dues for other Rotary clubs in Japan. Because many members speak English, they have been able to make contact with clubs outside of Japan and cooperate on World Community Service projects.

The club's first Rotary Foundation Matching Grant project financed the digging of three wells and the repair of a fourth in 2007, helping 10,000 children in the Philippines gain access to clean water. During another international project, club members raised money for young survivors of the 2004 tsunami in Thailand by setting up a booth in their community to sell handkerchiefs that the children had painted.

On the Philippines water project, the Kanagawa Shonan club cooperated with two other alumni-formed clubs: the Rotary clubs of Colombo Reconnections, Western Province, Sri Lanka, and Mandaluyong-Pasig-San Juan, Metro Manila, Philippines.

All three share another connection: Lina Aurelio, past governor of District 3800 (Philippines), helped charter the Philippines and Sri Lanka clubs in 2002, and met with Japanese Rotarians during the RI Convention in Osaka, Japan, in 2004. The Kanagawa Shonan club was chartered later that year. Aurelio maintained contact with all three clubs, linking them by e-mail.

A fourth alumni club, the Rotary Club of Osaka Next, Osaka, was formed in 2007. Another, the Rotary Club of Chubu Nagoya Mirai, Aichi, recently received its charter.

Recruiting alumni has been an important focus of Rotary's membership development efforts. A [2006 report](#) on alumni recruitment from the RI Membership Development Division found that 58 percent of clubs admit they don't recruit alumni, and as few as 22 percent of clubs both recruit alumni and have alumni as members. Only about 3 percent of current Rotarians are program alumni.

The [2007 Council on Legislation](#) adopted changes that made it easier for alumni to become Rotarians.

Adapted from an article in the 2008-09 English edition of The Rotary-No-Tomo, the certified Rotary regional magazine serving Japan.

PAKISTAN MOVES ON POLIO IN CONFLICT

By Dan Nixon Rotary International News -- 27 May 2009

Pakistan's effort to eradicate polio is moving ahead, despite the displacement of up to one million people by the military conflict in the country's North-West Frontier Province.

Among the positive developments reported by the [World Health Organization](#):

- As of 19 May, nine immunization teams had vaccinated almost 17,900 children under age five on the three main transit routes out of the conflict zone.
- More than 87,000 displaced people are living in 26 camps in the province. Mobile teams have gone tent to tent to immunize 6,890 children and are deployed at registration points to vaccinate newcomers.
- Almost 870,000 people -- about 90 percent of the total displaced population -- have registered as living with relatives or friends. Immunization teams are being trained to cover communities hosting displaced families to ensure that the children are vaccinated against polio and receive vitamin A supplements during National Immunization Days (NIDs) 28-30 May. Subnational Immunization Days are scheduled for 22-24 June.

WHO officials say it is vital to reach children of displaced families, because access to these children has been hampered by the poor security situation in the province.

To promote the upcoming NIDs, aimed at reaching 33 million children nationally, Rotarians and social workers joined a walk against polio in Karachi on 21 May, led by the city's deputy mayor, Nasreen Jalil.

"After the walk, the deputy mayor gave polio drops to kids and appealed to all citizens to participate," says Aziz Memon, a member of the Rotary Club of Karachi, Sind, and past governor of District 3270 (Afghanistan; Pakistan). "Because of the presence of the deputy mayor, the event was covered by all print and electronic media and will create a lot of awareness."

CHESS FELLOWSHIP STAYS ONE MOVE AHEAD

By Ryan Hyland and Arnold R. Grahl Rotary International News -- 2 June 2009

Gone are the days when it took a couple of years to complete a chess match by mail.

Now, instead of licking a stamp and mailing their winning moves, the members of the [International Chess Fellowship of Rotarians](#) can capture the king with a click of a mouse.

By playing through e-mail, players can finish matches in a few weeks. But Internet correspondence did more than just speed up games, says fellowship chair David Smith. It fostered closer friendships, better communication, and a stronger sense of fellowship.

"Technology has definitely made international play among Rotarians more feasible," says Smith, a member of the Rotary Club of Barkingside, Greater London, England. "It's easier to meet new players, exchange thoughts on current events, and share information on what one another's club is doing."

Smith adds that it's easy to participate in the chess fellowship because face-to-face meetings are not necessary to be active.



Since it was formed in 1977, the fellowship has hosted booths at many RI conventions, including almost all the U.S. sites and many international ones. At the 2008 RI Convention in Los Angeles, a record 20 new members joined. The fellowship's low annual dues of US\$25 appeal to Rotarians, Smith says.

"Fellowships are an important part of Rotary," he continues. "Combining the two pleasures of my life, chess and Rotary, brings me great personal satisfaction."

[Rotary Fellowships](#) offer Rotarians the opportunity to make friends with others in Rotary who share a common vocation, hobby, or recreational interest. From antique cars to yachting, Rotary Fellowships have been busy.

- The [Antique, Classic, and Historic Automobile World Fellowship of Rotarians](#) will be spending much of June on a car tour through North Wales and the West Midlands. The tour will finish at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, England, coinciding with the 2009 RI Convention.
- The [International Fellowship of Rotary on Stamps](#) produced stamps to raise funds for PolioPlus, which have been selling in the Netherlands, with 10 stamps per sheet. The stamps, designed by Rotarian Anthony van Vliet, feature an End Polio Now design.
- More than 2,000 Rotarians and Rotaractors from around the globe make up the [Environment Fellowship of Rotarians](#). "We have fun while sharing key information about successful Rotary projects as a means to encourage more Rotary clubs to achieve environmental projects," says fellowship president Marco Kappenberger. In June, the fellowship will launch [an e-mentoring program](#) through a project of the Rotary E-Club of Latinoamérica, Quintana Roo, Mexico, which will link Rotarians with Rotaractors in an online mentoring relationship.
- The [International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians](#) continues to expand. In March, a new fleet was chartered in the Philippines, in conjunction with a medical mission to administer tetanus, diphtheria, and flu shots to employees at the Manila Yacht Club. "Three more fleets are to be chartered in America, another in Spain, and hopefully one in Tasmania, which shows the Yachting Fellowship is still expanding," says Terry Stretton, the fellowship's international vice commodore.

BIG GREEN BOX WEEK PROMOTES DISASTER RELIEF

By Arnold R. Grahl Rotary International News -- 18 May 2009

Tents and shelters will be popping up all over England and beyond in support of ShelterBox, as the organization founded by Rotarian Tom Henderson launches [Big Green Box Week](#) 18-25 May.

The week is designed to raise money and awareness for the grassroots relief organization, which is best known for its big green boxes delivered to disaster sites.

The boxes contain a tent, blankets, water purification and cooking equipment, basic tools, and other necessities to help a family of 10 survive for six months.

ShelterBox is asking Rotarians to help promote the organization's disaster relief work by holding a dinner party, organizing an auction, or pitching a tent in their yards, among other ideas. A photo competition throughout the week will award prizes to the best picture in a variety of categories, including the most innovative shelter, unusual place to pitch a tent, or most people gathered in a tent.

Big Green Box Week coincides with the launch of ShelterBox's new partnership with the Scout Association, a move to expand the organization's reach and help it meet its goal of assisting 500,000 people a year by 2015. Supported by Rotary clubs around the world, ShelterBox has helped more than 800,000 people in 57 countries since its inception in 2000.

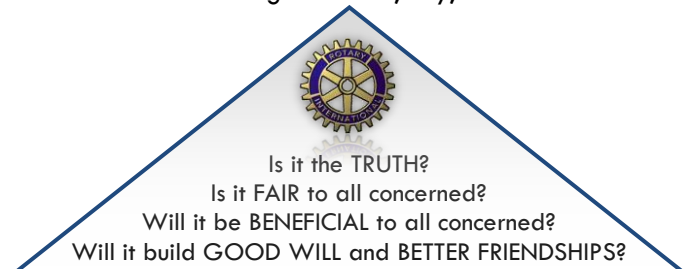
"In a lot of the disasters we get involved with, the Scouts are on the ground alongside our Rotary friends," said Henderson during a recent visit to RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA. "They are a disciplined group of people who know about tents. They bring a calming influence to what we do."

"In Nakuru, Kenya, we put up a refugee camp in a sports field. Here we are nine months later, and Scouts are still in that camp," he added. "Every day, they get up and they go around and make sure those people are OK and that the tents are fine."

Rotarians have been a part of ShelterBox from the beginning. Henderson, a civil engineer and former search-and-rescue diver for the British Royal Navy, founded the organization with the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, Cornwall, in 2000. Since then, more than 7,000 clubs have helped send boxes to disaster areas. Henderson will be a speaker at the [2009 RI Convention in Birmingham](#), 21-24 June.

- Visit the ShelterBox [Web site](#) to find out more about Big Green Box Week.
- Read a story about [ShelterBox's response after the earthquake in Italy](#).

Of the things we think, say, or do...





JOKE OF THE WEEK

Unemployment was so high in Ohio that the governor had posted guards along the state border. One day two Kentuckians tried to cross into Ohio.

The Ohio border guard asked the first Kentuckian: "What do you do for a living?"

The Kentuckian answered "I'm a pilot".

The border guard said, "We need pilots in Ohio so you can come on over." He then asked the second Kentuckian "and what do you do?"

The second Kentuckian said "I'm a woodcutter".

The border guard said, "Sorry, but I can't let you in. We already have plenty of woodcutters in Ohio."

Looking confused, the second Kentuckian asked "How is he going to pilot if I ain't cutting it?"

MEETING SCHEDULE

Jun 15 th	Andrea Beaudette - Relay for life
Jun 21 st -24 th	International Convention – Birmingham UK
Jun 29 th	Officer Installation Dinner
June 30 th	Ambassadorial Scholarship Application Deadline
Jul 6 th	NO MEETING
Jul 13 th	Mike Healy – Sleeping Giant Build
Jul 20 th	Cook Out at Camp Mountain Laurel (YMCA) 6-8PM