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BOARD APPOINTMENTS

We're very pleased to welcome Jackie Kaywood and Charlie Roderick to the Board of Directors for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Please join us in congratulating them.

SPECIAL MEETING AT THE TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER

Please be aware that the regular meeting on February 24th will be held at the Turkish Cultural Center on Campbell Ave. in West Haven.

727 Campbell Ave, West Haven CT 06516

[Click for Directions](#)

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some different food and learn about another part of our American culture. (I for one am looking greedily forward to some Kabobs.)

MESSAGE FROM DG COLIN GERSON

I have a very busy week last week - attending a Hamden Rotary polio fundraiser on Monday, visits to North Haven and New Haven Rotary Clubs on Tuesday, visits to Devon (to present a charter to the Laurelton Hall Interact Club) and Guilford Rotary Clubs on Wednesday, a visit to Cheshire Rotary on Thursday, and to Orange Rotary on Friday. This past Saturday, DGE Julie held an excellent pre-PETS seminar in Orange (with a 4 way speech contest), and on Sunday, I was happy to attend Ridgefield Rotary's very successful "Taste of Ridgefield".

This week I have already visited Fairfield Rotary on Monday, New Haven on Tuesday, Wallingford Rotary and Ridgefield Rotary on Wednesday and Seymour-Oxford this morning. I hope to attend Westport Sunrise Rotary on Friday.

Here is an update of current happenings:

1. District Haiti Relief: So far we have raised well over \$20,000. The list of donors is set forth on the district website. \$10,000 was wired to the Haiti Relief Committee of Rotary District 1060 (Dominican Republic) ten days ago and another \$10,000 will be wired in the next day or so.

I truly appreciate your generosity. I received the following message from Mr. Charles Adams, one of our contacts at the Haiti Relief Committee, who sent me the following message yesterday:

" . . .we are able to buy medical supplies at the best wholesale prices without commissions or markups . . . we buy them in the DR . . . We ship them to Haiti . . .so far all of our purchased medical supplies have been flown in by donated aircraft . . . They go straight to the Rotary warehouse and distribution system in Port au Prince, although their route is often circuitous since we have no slot in the airport. This means that sometimes we fly them into a northern airstrip, unload, then fly them by a Missionary Air Flights craft to Port au Prince. They are allocated and distributed under the direction of Dr. Claude Surena . . . Claud is a dear friend, is the president of the Haitian Medical Association, and is the person President Preval appointed to supervise all medical supplies and services from all sources coming into Haiti during this emergency."

2. Just Footprints. I am forwarding \$4,000 to Just Footprints to sponsor children with HIV/AIDs or cancer to enjoy a week or two at Colin's camp in the area of Pretoria, South Africa in early April. If you wish to give to this wonderful cause, please send me a check payable to "Rotary District 7980 Foundation, Inc." and make a notation - Just Footprints.

3. Red Hearts/Purple Pinkies Dinner: Registrations are coming in so we will definite move forward with this fundraiser! 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 12th at the Country House in East Haven (Route 80). Registration form is on the district website. Please join us!!

4. 2010-11 Grants Seminar: 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 20, 2010 at the Sheraton Four Points in Meriden. This is very, very important for clubs to learn how to apply for Foundation grants for the 2010-11 year. A registration form is on the district website.

5. RYLA: Friday-Sunday, February 26-28, 2010 at Homewood Suites in Stratford. Applications are due tomorrow and can be found on the district website under Vocational service.

6. GSE Inbound Lunch at the New Haven Country Club: Sunday, April 18. Join us in welcoming the teams from Sydney, Australia and Pretoria, South Africa. The registration form is on the District Website under Committees - Rotary Foundation - GSE forms and resources.

7. District Conference, Burlington, VT: April 30 - May 2 Registration is coming along nicely. If you haven't registered yet, please do so now! To register, please visit the homepage of the District Website. PDG Jim Lang and North Haven Rotarian Mark LeSage and I are heading up to Burlington next week to work on the AV arrangements for the Conference.



RI DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE

The Nominating Committee for RI District 7980 Governor (2012-13) has selected BRIAN AMEY of the Rotary Club of Newtown to serve as the 2012-13 District Governor.

Brian is a past Assistant Governor for Area 3, a current member of the District Finance Committee, and the current District Significant Achievement Awards Chair. His occupation is retail banking.

Pursuant to Section 13.020.8 of the By-Laws of Rotary International, any club in the district which has been in existence for at least one year as of July 1, 2009 may propose a challenging candidate for governor-nominee.

A club in existence for less than one year as of July 1, 2009 may propose a challenging candidate provided such candidate is a member of that club. The challenging candidate must have been duly suggested to the nominating committee.

The name of the challenging candidate shall be submitted pursuant to a resolution of the club adopted at a regular meeting. The club must file the resolution with the undersigned no later than February 20, 2010.

HEALTH CAMP KICKS OFF INDIA IMMUNIZATION DRIVE

By Dan Nixon Rotary International News -- 2 February 2010

A free health camp in New Delhi helped set the stage for India's 10 January National Immunization Day (NID).

Organized on 7 January by the Rotary Club of Delhi South Metropolitan, Delhi, with support from the India PolioPlus Committee, the camp provided underprivileged residents with checkups, consultations, and information on a wide range of health issues.

Health camps are often held before NIDs in India to encourage people to participate in polio immunization activities. Rajashree Birla, an honorary member of the Rotary clubs of Bombay and Mulund, Maharashtra, joined Lakshmi Mittal, who leads ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steelmaker, and his wife, Usha, in inaugurating the New Delhi camp. Birla and the Mittals are major contributors to Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

"It is the conscience of corporate families like them who inspire people to give so that the vulnerable and underserved can fare better in their lives," said Past RI President Rajendra K. Saboo.

"The global fight against polio is being fought mainly in four countries, which include India," said RI President-nominee Kalyan Banerjee. "It is a responsibility that we all share and at this stage must be addressed with urgency and utmost sincerity, so that children in India, mainly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, are saved from falling prey to polio."

Rotary Foundation Trustee Ashok M. Mahajan, a member of the International PolioPlus Committee, expressed his admiration for the dedication that Birla and the Mittals demonstrated in visiting the camp.

Birla -- whose late husband, Aditya Birla, founded the Aditya Birla Group, a Fortune 500 company -- [has contributed \\$2 million to Rotary's challenge](#). She thanked Rotary for working to address the health care needs of the disadvantaged. "The disparity in the ratio of medical doctors to patients is very high in India, and there are many who remain unattended [when it comes to] medical care," she said.

Birla also called Rotary's effort to eradicate polio inspiring. She urged all people to spread the end polio message in their area of influence, including to co-workers and business associates, and leverage their connections to reach out to parents in the slums.

"Children in the age group of one to five years must be immunized against polio lest they be crippled for life," said Usha Mittal, [who has made a \\$1 million gift to Rotary's challenge](#). "My family and I feel privileged to be able to contribute to Rotary for making India polio-free."

POLIO PLUS CHALLENGE GRANT STATUS

Rotary International News -- 29 January 2010

As of 31 December, Rotarians have [raised approximately \\$107 million](#) for the \$200 Million Challenge. These contributions will help Rotary raise \$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$555 million will directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families.

As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high.

MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT JOHN KENNY

Each of us has, at one time or another, been asked the question, what is Rotary? There are many ways to answer, depending on the questioner, the context, and the time available.

The shortest and simplest answer is that Rotary is the world's oldest service club organization. This is, of course, an accurate but necessarily incomplete response, for any true understanding of Rotary must include an explanation of how we in Rotary strive through our service to achieve more than the goal of each individual project.

By working together in our clubs, our districts, and internationally, we strive to establish the simple foundations of a better society: friendship, trust, honesty, and hope.



The structure of Rotary, along with our international club projects, helps make friendly connections between Rotarians in different countries.

Our emphasis on ethical and honest behavior works to build strong and open relationships between people and nations. Our service projects in water, health and hunger, and literacy help eliminate many of the practical obstacles to peace. And our Rotary Foundation and Rotary Youth Exchange programs go a step beyond by training the leaders of tomorrow to be active builders of a more peaceful world.

These programs help shape responsible citizens of better communities -- people who will have a broad and nuanced perspective, enhanced by opened eyes and open minds. They will be indelibly marked by their experiences, and throughout their lives -- both now and in their later careers -- they will not keep the benefits of these experiences to themselves. These are the people who will help build the kind of future that we as Rotarians strive to create through our every action.

What is Rotary? It is a network of people who care -- people who are both realists and optimists. We recognize the challenges before us and our own limitations; we also recognize our abilities and our responsibility to use them to the fullest. If we are ever to realize Paul Harris' vision for Rotary as an organization that promotes goodwill among nations, then, as he wrote, "the hearts of men must be so touched and molded that mutual understanding and goodwill will take the place of fear and hatred." In this, World Understanding Month, we do well to remember these words -- and to remember as well that in all of our service, we reach for the larger goal of fellowship, understanding, and peace.

John Kenny
President, Rotary International

NEW BENEFIT OFFERED TO MEMBERS

By Janis Young Rotary International News -- 29 January 2010

Rotary International and Citrix Online have teamed up to give Rotarians, districts, and clubs a 60-day free trial and a 15 percent discount on two web conferencing tools.

[GoToMeeting](#) by Citrix Online allows presenters to share their computer screen with up to 15 meeting attendees. Users can change presenters and exchange keyboard and mouse control during the meeting.

Unlimited meetings with VoIP and phone conferencing are available for one flat rate.

Citrix's [GoToWebinar](#) provides an easy way to create, convey, and record online presentations for audiences of up to 1,000 people. It allows users to disseminate information quickly without the hassle and costs of travel.

Sam Hummelstein, executive secretary of District 6150 (Arkansas, USA), and Jerry Smith, district trainer, have used GoToMeeting for training purposes.

"If you are doing district-level training, you are obviously dealing with multiple locations, as clubs may be two or three hours apart," Hummelstein says. "Not traveling is a tremendous advantage."

Smith agrees, adding that "for teaching, it is easy to give control of the online session to the students so they can do hands-on exercises or show me their specific issues."

Both Rotarians also see the tools having advantages at the club level. Smith says club board meetings might be better attended using GoToMeeting than asking people to stay extra time after a regular club meeting. Hummelstein sees possibilities for expanding the reach of club projects, special events, and fundraisers through GoToWebinar.

RI is using the Citrix tools to conduct many committee meetings.

"Even though most RI committees are composed of members from all parts of the world and from different time zones, we've held very successful and productive meetings using GoToMeeting or GoToWebinar in the past year," says Irving J. "Sonny" Brown, RI Communications Committee chair. "The savings in both time for all parties and money for RI, in terms of travel to Evanston, lodging, and meals, are substantial."

Brown said his committee will be recommending RI use the tools for more international committee meetings.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Feb 8 th	Student of the Month Dr. Tisa Wenger –Yale Divinity School
Fri	Feb 12 th	Red Hearts – Purple Pinkies Polio Plus Fundraiser Registration forms on the District Website
Mon	Feb 15 th	Members of the club will be discussing their religious backgrounds.
Sat	Feb 20 th	District Foundation Seminar – Four Points Sheraton in Meriden.
Mon	Feb 22nd	Rotary's 105 th Anniversary Meeting to be held at: The Turkish Cultural Center in West Haven 727 Campbell Ave, West Haven CT 06516 CLICK FOR DIRECTIONS
Sat	Feb 27 th	District Leadership Seminar
Sat	Mar 13 th	World Rotaract Day
Mon	Mar 15 th	Student of the Month
Mon	Apr 12 th	Student of the Month
Sat	Apr 17 th	District Assembly – Meriden
Sat	Apr 24th	Community Tag Sale Fundraiser with Amber Alert Registrations and the Gas Card Raffle drawing Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church @ 600 Shepard Ave.
Fri-Sun	Apr 30 th -May 2 nd	District Conference – Burlington VT
Mon	May 10 th	Student of the Month
Sun-Wed	Jun 20 th – 23 rd	International Convention Montreal