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TAG SALE UPDATE

We still need tag sale items, and it's terrific weather to start your spring cleaning. If you can't bring items to Jackie's shop, please go ahead and bring them to the meetings, and I'll see to it that your things get put in the collection.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be a fundraising committee meeting immediately after our regular meeting this Monday night. All are welcome to participate.

INK & TONER CARTRIDGES, CELL PHONES AND MORE

We're still collecting ink and toner cartridges, cell phones, and other electronic recyclables. The club gets a small commission for everything we turn in, so please bring your empties next week!

POLIO PLUS UPDATE

As of last week, the club was \$381 short of meeting its polio plus goals. I have since donated another \$100 to eradicating polio, closing the gap to \$281. Tom Hylinski offered to provide a \$150 matching contribution for the remaining \$281, so please if you can spare it, let's reach our goal this week!

HOW ROTARIANS CAN BEST HELP HAITI

By Arnold R. Grahl Rotary International News -- 5 March 2010

Almost two months after a powerful earthquake shook Haiti, signs of devastation are everywhere, underscoring the long road to recovery that lies ahead.

RI President John Kenny, who visited Haiti in late February, urged Rotarians to work with District 7020 's Haiti earthquake relief team coordinating aid to the nation.

"What they are basically saying is, 'What we need is money,' so they can buy locally the implements that are needed to help the reconstruction," Kenny said.

More than 250,000 people are estimated to have died in the 12 January earthquake and aftershocks in Port-au-Prince, with another million homeless.

Kenny said he felt it was important to visit Haiti "to show that Rotarians worldwide care about the plight of their fellow human beings, many of whom have lost everything."

He found that the destruction was even greater than he had expected.

"When you see it on television, it's one thing," he said. "But to actually be there and see some of these buildings the way they are and to know that there are people underneath that rubble -- the sheer magnitude you can't quite capture in film."

Accompanying Kenny on his 23 February trip were Past RI Vice President Roberto Valentín; Rotarian Charles Adams, who is coordinating a disaster relief committee in the neighboring Dominican Republic; and Ramiro Sánchez Melo, governor of District 4060 (Dominican Republic).



Adams (left) and Kenny (with mask) prepare to tour a hospital facility in Port-au-Prince. Kenny urged Rotarians to coordinate relief efforts with District 4060. "They know what's needed, and it's constantly changing. For example, they had three surgeons in at one time -- that was their particular expertise -- but there was nobody there to treat. The next week they were gone, and there were three or four patients." Photo courtesy of District 4060

Past RI Director Barry Rassin and Past District Governor Richard McCombe also made a trip to Port-au-Prince earlier in the month to meet with Rotary leaders involved in relief work. Both are involved with organizing the aid effort in District 7020, which covers Haiti along with 10 other Caribbean nations and areas.

In addition to money, the district is asking for large tents that can serve as classrooms, recreation areas, community centers, or therapy shelters. Nearly all of the schools in the capital were destroyed by the earthquake.



Medical supplies and equipment, classroom materials, and agricultural tools are also needed. While food, water, and temporary shelter remain important, a report by District 7020 leaders notes that work needs to begin on sustainable housing to provide jobs, shelter, and an infrastructure to support residents. Relief workers are also being cautious about handing out free food and water because a substantial part of the economy is based on small farms and businesses, and street vendors who sell produce and other staples. Too many free items can put single-family businesses in trouble and trigger a downward economic spiral.

"The best form of aid that Rotarians can now give is cash to the Rotarians in District 7020 so that it can be used to purchase supplies of food and materials locally, protecting the local economy," Kenny said.

The RI president added that Rotarians must now help in the medium- and long-term recovery, which Rotary is set up to do well.

Rotarian Claude Surena, head of the Haiti Task Force and president of the Haitian Medical Association, is representing District 7020 on the government's Post Disaster National Assistance Committee, focused on long-term recovery.

"The road to reconstruction will be a long one," Kenny said. "But I know that Rotarians will continue to play an effective part all the way."

CHILEAN DISTRICTS AID QUAKE VICTIMS

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 2 March 2010

Rotary districts in Chile are organizing efforts to aid tens of thousands of homeless people in areas devastated by a powerful earthquake and tsunami that struck the country's Pacific coast on 27 February.

Chile's government, along with other international aid organizations, has supplied food and water to desperate survivors as the death toll has risen to nearly 800. Many coastal towns were destroyed, first by the 8.8 magnitude quake, then by surging tsunami waves.

Luis Veliz Severino, governor of District 4320, has allocated an initial US\$9,500 to relief efforts.

Four clubs in the hardest-hit areas of Bío-Bío and Maule have set up donation drives for clothes, shoes, and blankets.

A ShelterBox response team is en route to Chile's capital, Santiago, to deliver an initial shipment of 448 ShelterBox containers. The Rotary Club of Santiago will conduct an emergency meeting on 3 March with the ShelterBox team to decide where to distribute the containers.

"The full extent of the damage in Chile is yet to be seen, but there will undoubtedly be a need for emergency shelter," says John Leach, head of operations for ShelterBox.

"Our response team will work closely with Rotarians in Santiago to make sure the aid reaches the people who need it most."

Six Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars who were in affected areas have reported in safe.

RI President John Kenny offered condolences via e-mail to governors of districts 4320, 4340, 4350, and 4360 in Chile. He asks Rotarians to learn the latest on Rotary's relief efforts and how they can help as it becomes available at www.rotary.org.

THE FOUR-WAY TEST DISSECTED

By Arnold R. Grahl Rotary International News -- 2 March 2010

In 1932, Herbert J. Taylor wrote down four questions on a small white piece of paper to serve as an "ethical yardstick" for his employees.

His simple creation has come to be known as [The Four-Way Test](#). Revered by Rotarians, it has been translated into more than 100 languages and recited weekly at club meetings around the globe.

When Merv Hecht, a member of the Rotary Club of Santa Monica, California, USA, challenged the notions behind the test as unrealistic and impractical in today's world, his letter in the December 2009 issue of *The Rotarian* prompted a flood of responses, many in defense of the test.

"Is it the TRUTH? The truth is variable," Hecht writes in his letter, reflecting on the first tenet of the test. "It used to be the 'truth' that the world was flat. And if you didn't accept that truth, you were burned at the stake. Then for many years it was taught that the world was round. Now they say it's elliptical because of the pull of gravity. Which is true?" He goes on to argue that what is fair for some is seldom fair for all, and that the final two points of the test are "not the way the world works." ([Read the full letter.](#))

Hecht says he is surprised by the response his letter has received. "It was a spur-of-the-moment letter, but in thinking about it now, I think it's a reaction to the black-and-white attitude that is permeating our society," he says. "Absolutism is dividing our fellow Americans as well as our international friends. The Four-Way Test is another of these absolutes that fails to train people to see the grays in social relationships. Perhaps Rotary, one of my very favorite organizations, could be improved with a new Four-Way Test that includes an openness to other points of view."

Below are a few of the many responses that have poured into *The Rotarian*'s mailbox.

Dale Bailey, of San Diego, California, USA, agrees with Hecht: "You're right -- The Four-Way Test is obsolete. We now live in a world where absolutes only erode our freedoms. Truth is now only that which benefits the bearer."



THE CHARM



John Collier, president-elect of the Rotary Club of West U (Houston), Texas, USA, writes: "If I am committed to the truth, I do not deceive people. I am transparent. I am committed to full disclosure and the truth as I know it, because deception is a practice that tries to persuade someone to believe a lie."

Marsha Doyle, treasurer of the Rotary Club of Lamar, Missouri, USA, responds: "The Four-Way Test isn't supposed to be easy. I believe it is supposed to make one think hard and search to the heart of every matter to ensure that the one asking is diligently seeking integrity. We try and fail now and then, but we try. We succeed far more often. Rotary should continue to promote the test as a standard to which all persons of integrity and goodwill can aspire."

George Paden, a member of the Rotary Club of Sand Springs, Oklahoma, USA, and district Rotary Peace Fellowships chair, says: "I respectfully submit that 'this is not the way the world works' is precisely the reason every member of Rotary should totally embrace the principles set forth in our Four-Way Test. Rotarians do not work the way the world works. Rotarians are not people who are motivated by what's-in-it-for-me or what-have-you-done-for-me-lately kinds of thinking."

Connie Cockcroft, president of the Rotary Club of Athens, Pennsylvania, USA, writes: "The Four-Way Test is the purest, most humble way to gauge the ethics of our professions."

JOKE OF THE WEEK

An American, a Finn and a Swede are in the sauna together. Suddenly there is a "beep beep" sound, and the American starts to look at the palm of his hand.

"What are you doing?" asks the Finn. The American replies

"This is the latest Motorola technology. I've got my pager embedded in the palm of my hand, so I don't have to carry it around any more."

Then the familiar old Nokia ring tone is heard, and the Finn starts looking at the palm of his hand.

"What are you doing?" ask the other guys. The Finn replies

"This is the latest Nokia technology. I've got my mobile phone embedded in the palm of my hand, so I don't have to carry it around any more."

The Swede thinks to himself that he'd better not be outdone by these guys, so he leaves the sauna. In a couple of minutes he returns, and there is toilet paper hanging out of his bum!

"What the hell is that??" shout the other guys in unison.

"I'm getting a fax." says the Swede

MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Mar 8 th	McGivney Cancer Center - Hamden
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 24 th	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

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

