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## "LIES, DAMNED LIES, AND STATISTICS"

At this week's meeting I'll be discussing the results of the club survey, what it means, and how we can make the best out of the next Rotary year.

In addition to reviewing the survey results, I'm going to spend some time thinking with you about the future of the club.

My only requests are:

1. Please come and hear what I have to say.
2. Please be prepared to laugh, ponder, and ask some direct questions.

## DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

You all have received emails from Cathy, Lynda, and myself about the District Assembly on Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup>.

There are some very specific reasons I'd like to ask at least half the club attend this year.

Chief among reasons, since District 7980 is one of 100 districts in the world to participate in RI's Future Vision Pilot, the club has some very specific responsibilities with regard to applying for Global Matching Grants (which can be used both at home and abroad).

Here are some specifics you can learn more about at District Assembly:

- The minimum Global Matching Grant RI will fund is \$30,000, up to \$60,000.
- Global Matching Grants require two sponsor clubs in different districts, which for the next three years must also be part of the 100 pilot districts.
- Global Matching Grants now require club level accountability. That said, there are specific reporting and functional requirements which must be adhered to in order to maintain the club's good standing with RI.

Lynda will be registering members who want to attend, and Cathy points out that for any member who wants to attend, this event is paid for by the club.

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING RESCHEDULED

Because there were so few of us at last week's meeting, I postponed the fundraising committee meeting to this week.

This committee is open to all willing members (like all other board and committee meetings), and I welcome your input.

## APPOINTMENTS AND SELECTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

Our By-Laws are going to be reviewed in the coming months, but within the requirements of the existing by-laws, the following appointments and selections have been made for next year's board.

Position	Filled By
Secretary	Ted Lipkin
Treasurer	Cathy Forsberg
Past President	Rich Miller
Sergeants at Arms	John Nolan Jackie Kaywood
Vocational Service Chair	Betsy Gorman
International & Rotaract Service Chair	Mohammad Elahee
Community Service Chair	Jeff Williams
Club Service	President-Elect
Amber Alert ID Chair	John Judd
Program Chair	Charlie Roderick
† Membership Chair	Betsy Gorman
† Foundation Chair	Tom Hylinski
† Service Project Chair	Charlie Roderick

† Non-Voting Board Position

As you can see there are several new positions in the directorate which I'll take a just a few minutes to describe.

### FOUNDATION CHAIR

This position, filled by Tom Hylinski, was designed by Rotary International to help clubs accomplish two objectives:

1. Educate the membership on the objectives of The Rotary Foundation, as well as the outcomes foundation giving offers.
2. Help the club meet Foundation fundraising goals for:
  - a. Polio Plus
  - b. Annual Programs Fund
  - c. Permanent Fund

I asked Tom to take this position for a variety of reasons, to include his successes in coordinating our recent Polio Plus Fundraiser, but also his manner of delivering critical messages.



# THE CHARM



Although this is currently a non-voting board position, I would like the board to consider this position in the pending by-laws review as a voting position.

### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

I asked Betsy to fill this new RI position because there is a demonstrated need to accomplish two critical club objectives:

1. Improve and enhance fellowship among existing members, and improve the relationships between members and the board.

I feel this is a necessary precursor to the second objective:

2. Increase the membership.

In the course of my PETS training this past weekend, four statistically key factors were laid out which are required to maintain and grow membership:

1. An environment with great fellowship.
2. Service Projects which engage the whole club.
3. Knowledge about Rotary.
4. Promoting leadership from within (something I'm personally very keen on).

The data revealed that if even one of these factors was off, then it was very likely that the club would be stagnant or lose members; a concern which many of you raised in the survey.

Betsy and I will be working very closely together on this. We both feel that having more members is really incidental by comparison to how good we all feel about our membership in the club.

### SERVICE PROJECT CHAIR

Although I scared Charlie half to death when I first proposed he take this new RI position, I later clarified my request, as I'll do here.

One of my personal frustrations has been that our programs and service projects have often not been funneled through a single coordinating point, and I think many of the members feel at a bit of a loss to understand what the club is doing when.

I've asked Charlie to step up and not only be that point of contact for speakers as Program Chair, but also to help keep the club aware of Service Projects from whatever person or people they're being coordinated by.

So all said, if you're working on a Service Project, and whether you need help from other members or not, I'd like to make sure you're letting Charlie know about what you're doing (including the successes and challenges you have), particularly if you would like to have help from the other members.

I'd like to make sure we're collectively acknowledging our service successes and understanding our challenges.

### AMBER ALERT ID CHAIR

I've asked John to step up and sit on the board next year as Amber chair to help the board understand the unique challenges Amber has.

We've had tremendous success with this initiative, to include a gubernatorial citation from Jodi Rell herself, but there's still a great deal of work to do.

Again in my PETS training this weekend, one of the President-Elects from Massachusetts cited that Amber Alert ID programs do not exist there because of red tape and funding issues. Although it may not be in the club's interest to help other clubs in Massachusetts start a program there, it is in the interests of the Amber Alert ID program that IDs and tracking systems are available nationally.

John's personal involvement in this project makes him a natural leader for this board position, and I think we'll find his input both constructive and instructive.

### A LITTLE ABOUT ME & MY LEADERSHIP STYLE

Folks who know me pretty well know that I tend to do things a little bit differently. I've found this is as much a function of my personality as it is a reliance on personal experience.

The first thing I'll share with you is that I'm a lazy person.

My Dad once told me that if I was ever in a position to appoint or hire others, I should try to get lazy people. The reason why, is because a lazy person, will always try to get it right the first time, because the last thing they want is to have to do it over again.

The second thing my Dad told me was that I should also make sure that those same folks are smarter than I am.

I'm very pleased to say that in addition to the wealth of each of your individual experiences, that I really value your ideas, and admire you for them.

Each of you have some very specific individual qualities that frankly I hope to borrow from and hopefully adopt.

10 things you should know about me personally:

1. I can be stubborn, but I'll never let a good idea go to waste.
2. If I am stubborn, it's generally because I don't fully understand what you meant.
3. I think formality has its place, but it's generally not for use among friends, except to entertain.
4. I don't believe in compromise. Whenever folks feel the need to compromise, they generally just haven't thought of a better idea yet. Compromise, by definition, is a verb: *to sacrifice integrity*.
5. I insist that you insist.



# THE CHARM



6. The discussion isn't finished until everyone is satisfied, but that doesn't mean everyone will be satisfied today.
7. If you think I need a good swift kick in the pants, you darn well better get your foot moving.
8. I'm never afraid to be told I'm wrong. I'm always afraid of thinking I was right, only to be proven wrong. (See the bit about lazy people above)
9. Strong opinions are always best served with evidence. For this reason I welcome them.
10. All ideas are welcome. Bad ideas will be discarded. Good ideas will be considered. The right idea will be applied.

I hope reading through to the end of this was worth it for the humor, and I hope the insight.

I can't thank you all enough! ☺

## WHAT'S YOUR EREY STORY?

Rotary International News -- 12 March 2010

During a trip to Niger on a Volunteer Service Grant, Ernie and Sally Montagne of Arizona, USA, saw firsthand how The Rotary Foundation's humanitarian efforts are helping to break the cycle of hunger and poverty.

"The Rotary Foundation is our vehicle of choice to enable ordinary Rotarians to make a lasting difference in the lives of thousands of villagers in Africa," says Ernie.

Contributions to the [Annual Programs Fund](#) through the Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY) initiative are the primary source of funding for Foundation programs, including those that helped support efforts in Niger. These programs cover more than 160 countries and geographical areas on seven continents. ([Contribute now](#).)

Here is a small sample of projects made possible through EREY:

- In the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, Rotary clubs helped create Nueva Esperanza, (New Hope), a sustainable community in Honduras for poor families devastated by the storm. Using a Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant, Rotary clubs in Honduras and California, USA, provided books, computers, and medical equipment for Nueva Esperanza, helping families put their lives back together.
- With the help of a Rotary Foundation District Simplified Grant, the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville, Florida, USA, built a baseball field designed for local children with disabilities. The unique turf allows players using wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches to easily maneuver across the field with the help of an on-field "buddy" -- a volunteer, parent, or friend. (See this story in [a clip from RVM: The Rotarian Video Magazine, volume 4, issue 1.](#))

- A 3-H grant sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Calcutta Metropolitan, West Bengal, India, and Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, helped establish a half-mile concrete walkway in Nabapally, India, that serves as an escape route for villagers during annual monsoons.

## BIGGER, BETTER, BOLDER

By Jennifer Lee Atkin Rotary International News -- 9 March 2010

'Bigger, better, and bolder' was a recurring phrase at last week's institute for Rotary coordinators (RCs).

"Bigger, better, and bolder represents a change in attitude rather than in structure," explained Nico de Boer, an incoming Rotary coordinator from the Netherlands who will serve zones 13A and 18B. "It's a positive dynamic that will help Rotary reach its goals."

The four-day institute held in Chicago focused on defining the role of Rotary coordinator and discussing how the 41 incoming coordinators can help clubs and districts realize the three priorities of the [revised RI Strategic Plan](#) : support and strengthen clubs, focus and increase humanitarian service, and enhance public image and awareness.

The revised plan emerged from extensive research and Rotarian feedback -- including a survey of 14,000 Rotarians worldwide -- that showed that "Rotarians want growing, vibrant, and innovative clubs," said RI Director Tom Thorfinnson during the institute's opening plenary session. The phrase "bigger, better, and bolder" came from that concept, and Rotary coordinators are charged with supporting clubs and districts to help make the idea a reality.

"Rotarians are looking for change, but they need to be able to take practical steps toward that change," said Canadian Dean Rohrs, incoming Rotary coordinator for Zone 24 West. "And they need to take ownership in order for change to occur."

Having bigger and better clubs is not solely about increasing the number of club members and programs, said Thorfinnson. Bigger clubs have a diverse membership that reflects the demographics of the local business community, along with strong membership recruitment and retention efforts. Better clubs are balanced in Rotary's four Avenues of Service, have strong strategic planning and leadership development processes in place, and embody Rotary's core values.

"Fun is a part of what I consider to be a Rotary core value," Thorfinnson added.

"When you make a club better, you often will find that it is bigger as well," noted RI President John Kenny in a Monday morning address.



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## WHAT IS A BOLDER CLUB?

Promoting bolder clubs involves empowering club leaders and "stepping out of the box a bit," Thorfinnson said. "We want to foster flexible and innovative clubs. The leader must determine where the club needs to go and take that club there."

While bold moves will vary by culture, bolder clubs in general are those that take action to solve community problems, develop and become known for signature service projects, and promote the networking opportunities that Rotary clubs offer to their members, he said.

Rotary coordinators will be one leg of a three-legged stool supporting clubs in each Rotary zone, said Duane Sterling, Rotarian coordinator for the 2010-11 RI president, who moderated the institute. The other two legs will be the regional Rotary Foundation coordinators and the zone's RI director.

"Clubs with high expectations for their members and for their club are bigger, better, bolder clubs," said Bevin Wall, incoming Rotary coordinator from Zone 33 in the United States. "Some clubs are afraid to spend \$10 on a good idea."

But he said it's important for clubs to find ways to foster innovation while respecting tradition. "Our job is to help them succeed."

Rotary coordinators will begin their terms on 1 July (including our own Past District Governor Ernie Louise for the entire Zone 32).

## NEW GENERATION LIFTS UP THE NEXT

By Maureen Vaught Rotary International News -- 9 March 2010

The Rotary Club of Central, Hong Kong, understands the value of helping young people reach their potential.

Over a third of its 33 charter members come from a Rotary background, having been involved in Rotary Foundation programs, Rotaract, or RYLA, or as other members of the family of Rotary. So it's not surprising that the club's first service projects would involve helping youth.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tai Po, the Central club was chartered in June. Just two months later, the club was awarded a Rotary Foundation District Simplified Grant of US\$2,000 in support of a Make a Wish project to help children, ages 7 to 14, who have migrated from mainland China assimilate into their new culture.

"Through group activities and workshops, we hope to develop their interpersonal skills and boost their self-confidence," says charter president Fonia Wong, a former Group Study Exchange team member and Rotaractor. "We also hope to enhance their understanding of Rotary to pave the way for future involvement in Interact or Rotaract."

In cooperation with the HKSKH Kowloon City Children and Youth Integrated Service Center, the club has organized a variety of activities, including a community service project, a visit to an amusement park, and a tour of a local television station.

Following the visit to the TV station, the club held a series of six journalism workshops on writing and photography. In April, the young people used their newfound skills to "cover" the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Kowloon children and youth center.

"We want to encourage the children to pay attention to the daily news and develop confidence in expressing themselves through words and photographs," Wong says.

With an average age of 33 and professional backgrounds as varied as public relations, investment banking, and entertainment, members of this New Generations club didn't lack for extracurricular activities, but they chose Rotary.

The Central club's launch "was a dream come true for several RI- and district-driven initiatives to retain scholars and alumni within the Rotary family and extend the service platform to the younger generation," says Tai Po club member Claire Mak, who serves as District 3450 Governor Ada Cheng's special representative to the Central club. "It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with a bunch of enthusiastic, fresh Rotarians with a clear vision to serve."

## WORLD ROTARACT WEEK?

Rotary International News -- 8 March 2010

Rotaract clubs around the world are celebrating World Rotaract Week, 8-14 March, honoring the chartering of the first club in North Carolina, USA.

During the week, Rotaract clubs are asked to partner with their sponsor Rotary clubs to complete a service project together, attend each other's meetings, and encourage a nearby Rotary club to sponsor a new Rotaract club in its area.

Rotaract enjoys a 42-year legacy. In the late 1960s, noting the success of the recently formed [Interact](#) program, for youth ages 14-18, the RI Board realized the need to provide opportunities for service, activity, and fellowship to young adults no longer of Interact age. The name [Rotaract](#) (derived from "Rotary in Action") was selected to show the program's close affiliation with both Rotary and Interact clubs.

RI President Luther Hodges inaugurated Rotaract in 1968, with the Rotaract Club of North Charlotte becoming the first club. The club received its charter on 13 March and had 21 members.

Within a day of the first club's certification, the Rotaract Club of the University of La Salle was chartered in Tacubaya, Mexico. The Rotaract club of Secunderabad, India, was certified the following week.



Since the 1950s, many Rotary clubs had been starting unofficial clubs for young adults, fueling Rotaract's rapid growth in its first few years. Rotaract grew from 21 clubs in 1967-68 to 289 clubs a year later. There are now more than 8,000 Rotaract clubs in 167 countries and geographical areas.

Rotaract clubs were originally open to young men and women ages 17-24. Since 1971, young adults ages 18-30 have been welcomed.

Rotaractors are active in their communities all year long. Below are a few examples of projects sponsored by Rotaract clubs:

- Rotaractors in District 3450 (Hong Kong; Macau; Mongolia) are holding a walkathon during World Rotaract Week to help feed the hungry.
- The Rotaract Club of Women's Christian College, India, organized the Street Suraksha rally against domestic violence in August, drawing more than 1,300 Rotaractors from clubs in District 3230. The club also held an interactive seminar focused on legal and emotional issues surrounding domestic violence.
- The Rotaract Club of Queenstown, Singapore, raised money for educational supplies and one-year scholarships for 80 elementary and high school students in Dong Thap, Vietnam.
- Members of the Rotaract Club of Napindan, Philippines, collaborated with the Philippine Rotaract clubs of Fort Bonifacio Global City and Wawa Youth Movement to plant 1,000 trees to prevent soil erosion and flooding along a dike road in Taguig City.

## ROTARACT HOCKEY TEAM SCORES FOR POLIO

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 11 March 2010

A junior hockey team made up of U.S. Rotaractors scored a goal for polio eradication by raising thousands of dollars for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

The [Twin Cities Northern Lights](#) hockey team, a nonprofit organization based in Minnesota, traveled to British Columbia, Canada, to play five exhibition games against Canadian hockey teams before February's Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The team comprises members of the [Rotaract Club of the Athlete Village, Minneapolis-St. Paul](#). Half of the admissions proceeds from the exhibition games supported Rotary's challenge, and the other half benefited the local Canadian Rotary clubs that sponsored the exhibitions, which were played in different communities in British Columbia. The team also raised money through the sale of hockey jerseys, temporary tattoos for fans, and special events during the games.

Some of the fans had their pinkies dyed purple to raise awareness of polio eradication. Purple dye is used to mark the fingers of children who have been immunized during National Immunization Days.

The Rotaractors also promoted literacy and health education among schoolchildren in the communities where they played. In addition, during a stay in Vancouver, the team and coaches participated in events associated with the Olympic torch relay and took part in volunteer activities for the Winter Games.

### SPORTS AND SERVICE

Team owner and trip coordinator Stephanie Smith, a member of the Rotary Club of Bloomington-Daymakers, founded the Rotaract club with the goal of bridging sports and community service.

"Our team's mission, not only during the Olympic trip but throughout the whole year, is to foster goodwill and to help build better communities using sports," says Smith, who was an athletic trainer at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. "We're demonstrating a model for mobilizing sports teams to accomplish the worthy causes led by Rotary clubs worldwide."

"We're about hockey first. We enjoyed the international competition," says Rotaractor and team captain Garrett Windle. "But we're about service too. The trip was packed with service opportunities, and Rotary helped open those doors. I'm glad we could help bring awareness about polio and the good Rotary is doing."

Smith's mother, who is a polio survivor, joined the trip and visited clubs to share her story.

"She gave a personal voice to what we are trying to accomplish," says Smith. "It was important for her to remind Rotarians of the urgency of completing Rotary's goal of ending polio."

Rotaract club president Steve Dus says the trip was an eye-opener for everyone.

"Although we've heard many times about polio, meeting Stephanie's mom and hearing about the challenges she faced strengthened our resolve to do our part to help eradicate this crippling disease," he says.

The hockey team aims to raise \$30,000 this year for polio eradication.

## SUPPLYING CENTRAL AMERICA WITH SAFE, FUEL-EFFICIENT STOVES

By Peter Schmitke Rotary International News -- 4 March 2010

Six years ago, Rotarian Nancy Hughes had a career-defining experience as a volunteer with a U.S. medical team in Guatemala.



# THE CHARM



She met an 18-year-old indigenous woman who had lost the use of her hands at age 2 after falling into a cooking fire. Hughes learned that the common practice of cooking over open, indoor fires led to a high incidence of burns and smoke inhalation, especially in children. The team's doctors restored function to the woman's hands, and her expressions of gratitude spurred Hughes to search for a way to prevent such injuries.

In 2004, Hughes, a member of the Rotary Club of Eugene Southtowne, Oregon, wrote the first of five Matching Grants that provided more than 2,300 safe stoves in Guatemala over a three-year period.

She discovered a less expensive, lighter prototype, however, in a 50-pound portable stove called the Ecocina. The stove resembles a large cement flowerpot and has a partially covered top and a sheltered opening on one side. Designed by Larry Winiarski and Eugene Southtowne Rotarian Ken Goyer, the Ecocina is insulated to prevent burns and requires up to 50 percent less wood than an open fire. It also reduces smoke and carbon monoxide output by at least 70 percent.

In 2008, Hughes and five other Eugene Southtowne Rotarians founded [StoveTeam International](#). Aided by two Volunteer Service Grants, she and others from her club traveled twice to El Salvador and Guatemala to scout locations for Ecocina factories and educate communities and local organizations about the stoves.

That same year, a group of volunteers, including Hughes, constructed workbenches and storage areas for a factory near Sonsonate, El Salvador, that employs up to 15 workers. Two Matching Grants supplied raw materials and helped subsidize the \$40 cost of the stove to buyers. In its first full year of operation, the factory produced 6,000 Ecocinas and is now self-sufficient.

"We decided we were not about producing stoves; we were about producing factories to produce stoves," Hughes says. "And I really like the idea that we are providing people with employment."

"We are all very grateful because this has changed our lives," echoes factory owner Gustavo Peña, pointing to the company's positive impact on "all who do the factory work" and "all those families who receive an Ecocina."

Peña coordinates village Ecocina demonstrations with Peace Corps volunteers and solicits outside interest, including a recent order from the Mexican government for 3,000 stoves. He has also helped train owners for three factories in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. These Matching Grant-supported factories started producing Ecocinas in early 2010, and a fourth, independently funded factory will begin operating in Nicaragua in April. Rotary clubs in El Salvador and the Guatemala Sur club in Guatemala have contributed to the effort by overseeing distribution, assisting in construction, and offsetting the cost of the Ecocinas to buyers.

Since its founding, StoveTeam International has received approximately \$370,000 from 40 Rotary clubs, Foundation grants, and private donations.

"Demands for new factories arrive in my e-mail every week," says Hughes, who is planning operations in Fiji, Mexico, and Paraguay. "New factory owners are learning stove production and business practices and more and more people are receiving fuel-efficient stoves every day."

## JOKE OF THE WEEK

Two older men are sitting on a park bench outside their nursing home.

One says to the other, 'Man, when I get married again, I'm gonna do things a lot different.'

'How's that?' asks the other.

'Well, the next girl I marry is going to be YOUNG, have LOTS OF MONEY, and has...' clenching his hands in front of his chest, says, 'YOU KNOW.'

The other old man says, 'Look, I can understand why you want a woman that is young and rich, but...' holding his hands out similarly, says, 'why would you want her to have arthritis?'

## MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Eric C. Lind – Club Survey Results and PETS Outcomes Student of the Month
Mon	Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bill Llewlyn AG Fairfield - Scrubby Bears Community Service project
Mon	Apr 12 <sup>th</sup>	Eamonn "Sonny" Ryan (Owner of The PlayWright) - Ireland in America Student of the Month
Sat	Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>	District Assembly – Meriden
Mon	Apr 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tag Sale Planning
Sat	Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Community Tag Sale Fundraiser</b> with Amber Alert Registrations and the Gas Card Raffle drawing Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church @ 600 Shepard Ave.
Mon	Apr 26 <sup>th</sup>	Kyle Torres, Student @ St. Martin's de Porres Academy - Community Service Project to Address the needs of kids in foster care.
Fri-Sun	Apr 30 <sup>th</sup> -May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	District Conference – Burlington VT
Mon	May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Student of the Month
Sun-Wed	Jun 20 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	International Convention Montreal

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

