



From the Lion's Den

The monthly newsletter from the District Governor of District 9320

August 2007

MEMBERSHIP MONTH

MEMBERSHIP

During August we are encouraged to share with others what we have enjoyed and benefited from as Rotarians in our wonderful organisation.

CHANGING THE MINDSET

The first real challenge in the new Rotary year is to change the mindset of many Rotarians to accept the realisation that membership is everyone's responsibility. Without members we cannot support the Rotary Foundation, cannot carry out service projects and the many activities of this outstanding organisation.

MEMBERSHIP IS THE KEY TO SURVIVAL

From : The Membership Energiser;
Zone 10 Membership Newsletter.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

A club membership goal is the only compulsory goal for a club aiming for a presidential citation. At POETS there was some unhappiness that membership is more important than any other aspect of Rotary for attaining a citation. Increasing membership, however, is vital. Numbers in service organisations like Rotary are on the decrease worldwide. Rotary numbers remain fairly static but they should increase as Rotary has moved into new countries and new clubs have started.

We need to try to imagine a world without Rotary and other service clubs. In our district Rotary becomes more important as the needs in our communities increase. We need more committed members, not fewer.

They are out there but have never been asked!

CONSOLIDATION OF DISTRICTS

The importance of numbers has been emphasised as we had to vote in the district to see whether the members would consider merging with District 9270 (Natal).

The reaction was as follows:

Of the 51 clubs in the district 35 (68.63 of all clubs) responded. Of these, 31 (60.78% of all clubs and 88.57% of those that voted) voted against the merger and 3 voted in favour. This shows most members want to retain our district as it is, but to do so we need to increase our membership considerably. We have informed the General Secretary that the district does not favour any form of consolidation and we must now prove that we have the numbers to continue on our own.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Each club and Rotarian has resources to get new ideas if the old ones are not working. Over the past three years we have had excellent articles on membership from PDG Bev Radue in *Rotary Africa* and I am sure we will have the same from PDG June Webber from Cape Town.

At their training session in Colesberg this year presidents received a *Membership Development Resource Guide* and a *New Member Orientation* booklet.

Our zone, district, and club goals encourage us to contact what Past RI President Bhichai Rattakul referred to as "our lost assets" – our Rotary Alumni. For us these are mainly outgoing GSE members who all expressed an interest in joining Rotary at their interviews, but very few have. PDG Trevor Long and his Ann, Denise, have been busy collating lists of alumni and we shall be sending these to clubs in the near future so they can recruit alumni in their area.

DIVERSITY

One of our Zone membership goals is:

Each club should be encouraged to reflect the diversity its community.

Our district goals echo similar sentiments.

We live in a district with a total population of about 12 million of whom about 400 000 are white. This means that in our district 85% to 90% of our Rotarians come from about 3% of the population. We need to make our clubs more representative of the population. Explanations about why we can and do not are countless but are usually excuses.

We need to look to the districts to the north of South Africa. White members were originally in the majority and now that is not the case and the clubs are thriving. A look at their donations to Rotary Foundation referred to later will show this.

EXTENSION

Another Zone goal reads:

New clubs should be formed where the community can sustain a viable club, and meeting times should be diversified to suit different categories.

I am delighted to report that two potential clubs in the district have been given provisional status as Rotary Clubs. They are both breakfast clubs and already provide opportunities for make-ups for early risers. Their names may change, but they are at present the provisional Rotary Clubs of East London Sunrise and Potchefstroom Sunrise. We congratulate the Rotary Clubs of East London and Potchefstroom that are sponsoring these clubs even though they may lose some members, but they know Rotary in the district will gain.

Application forms have been formally handed over to those planning the establishment of the Rotary Club of Mdantsane outside East London and the plans to get the club under way are progressing.

INCENTIVES

Clubs with membership below 20 have been offered special incentives to increase their numbers. Details have been sent to these clubs. Any club that started the new year with fewer than 20 members and has not received information about the incentives must contact me.

New legislation allows for new members who have been active Rotaractors within the previous two years will be exempt from paying an admission fee to join Rotary. In addition, Alumni whose classification has already been filled may be inducted into a club.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



LEADERSHIP CHANGE

It is with sadness that I have to report that Past RI President Bhichai Rattakul resigned as chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees on 1 August but will continue as a trustee this year.

He made this difficult decision to resign as chairman because of issues related to his health and that of his wife.

Those in the district who have had the honour to meet Bhichai know him as one of the great gentlemen of the world and his loss to Rotary will be immense. He has played a major role in the history of his homeland, Thailand, and will be remembered in Rotary for the theme of his presidential year that was so typical of him: Sow the Seeds of Love.

In keeping with the Foundation Bylaws, Trustee Vice Chair Robert S. Scott, of the Rotary Club of Cobourg, Ontario, Canada, will take over as trustee chair. A past RI vice president and director, Scott has served RI and the Foundation in many capacities over the years, most recently on the International PolioPlus Committee, which he will continue to chair. He plans to continue the focus on the 2007-08 Foundation goals that appear in our district directories. These goals were the "dreams" of Bichai Rattakul.

DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION

The figures for the amounts given to The Rotary Foundation per district for the 2006-7 Annual Programmes Fund have just been received. An amount of \$70 557.00 was budgeted for clubs and an amount of \$75 830.00 was eventually paid in at a per capita amount of \$63.88 per Rotarian.

Sadly this was the lowest per capita amount for the six Southern African districts. The average for the six districts of Southern Africa was \$87.79. The amount per Rotarian for District 9210 (Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Northern Mozambique) was \$140.26. (In all fairness we must record that Zimbabwean Rotarians are given a special exchange rate, but this is still a major achievement as the other countries did not benefit from the exchange rate.)

The August exchange rate of R6.85 is favourable – this may be a good month to make a donation.



**ROTARY IN THE
MOUNTAIN
KINGDOM
DISTRICT 9320
CONFERENCE
MASERU, LESOTHO.**

**DO NOT FORGET TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS
TO ATTEND THE ROTARY CONFERENCE
WITH A DIFFERENCE IN MASERU.**

Starts : 18:30 on FRIDAY 21 Sep.

Ends : After the banquet on Sun.evening 23 Sep.

- The registration form can be downloaded from the district website or you can register online at www.rotary9320.org.za
- Details of suitable accommodation and a draft programme are available on the same website.

The closing date for registration is 31 August and penalties will be paid for late registration. It is not fair to all organisers concerned if you register late, so we are following an RI practice of imposing a penalty on late registration.

**YOU ARE URGED TO ENSURE YOUR
PASSPORT IS UP TO DATE.**

**ALSO CHECK THAT YOUR CAR LICENCE HAS
NOT EXPIRED AS YOU WILL POSSIBLY NOT
LEAVE LESOTHO IN YOUR CAR IF IT HAS.**

FEMALE SPOUSES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THEM ON SATURDAY – See SPOUSES' SPOT.

**IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND, YOU MAY NEVER
BE ABLE TO TELL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN
THAT YOU ATTENDED A BANQUET WITH A
KING AND A QUEEN!**

We will be joined by PDG Raman Bhatia and his wife Deepa from Delhi in India. PDG Raman will be the RI President's Personal Representative.

**MEETING FREQUENCY PILOT
CLUBS SELECTED.**

We have been informed that three clubs have been selected as part of a pilot a project to test whether certain clubs will be allowed to meet less frequently than once a week. A number of clubs applied but the successful clubs are the **Rotary Clubs of De Aar, Gonubie and Maloti.**

We wish them well over the next six years while they participate in the pilot programme.

LITERACY

There seems to be some confusion about Literacy month celebrated last month. The official Rotary Directory states that March 2008 is Literacy month but the District Governor's Manual definitely gives July 2007 as Literacy month for this Rotary year.

Not confusing is news of an interesting new addition to Rotary's Literacy programmes - the **Computer-Assisted Literacy Solution (CALs).**

For many years Rotary has used and will continue to use the **Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE)** to help thousands of people learn to read. As computers become more widely available, this new offering will enable many more to improve their English reading and mathematics skills using the programme.

The Computer-Assisted Literacy Solution (CALs) is a self-paced, interactive program. It enables users of any age to improve their English and Mathematics skills in a measurable way. Clubs with access to broadband-connected computers should consider using CALs as an opportunity to help others, one person at a time, in the true spirit of ROTARY SHARES.

For more information, contact:

Richard E. "Dick" Hattwick, Assistant General Coordinator RI Literacy Resource Group
(561) 585-6440 richardhattwick@bellsouth.net
or visit the website: www.autoskill.com/rotary

AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN.

Rotary clubs are invited by Impumelelo, an 'Innovations Awards Trust', to submit projects for awards consideration. The organisation can be checked at and entry forms can be obtained from: www.impumelelo.org.za.

The primary call is for projects in which NGOs and a government agency have been involved that has met a major need of a community. A successful submission would mean a great deal of PR for the club, for the district and for Rotary and the club would receive a cash benefit for the project. Many of our club projects could stand a chance – there is nothing to lose and everything to gain. The return date is just round the corner, on 7 September. PLEASE ENTER AND WIN.

FAREWELL

We need to say farewell to PDG Rhys and Norma Rolfe who will be leaving the district to settle on the Natal coast. Rhys and Norma were the DG couple in 1994-5 and they have always lived up to the theme of their year – Be a Friend. We shall miss them in the district and wish them well for many happy years together enjoying their life at the coast after living inland for many years.

NEW GENERATIONS MONTH

NEXT MONTH IS NEW GENERATIONS MONTH. Please try to arrange something for the new month related to our new generations. Our district co-ordinator for New Generations is PDG Denham Nel and his contact details appear in the district directory.

IN MEMORIAM

Peter Brown of the Rotary Club of Algoa Bay passed away on 2 August in Port Elizabeth. On behalf of all members of the Rotary family in the district I express our condolences to Lorna and her family and to members of his club.

PETER was a stalwart of the club and spent a number of years as club secretary and right hand man, friend and mentor to a number of club presidents. He was a regular attender at POETS and Conference and was a well known and well loved member of our district family.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

SPOUSE'S SPOT

Greetings to you all at the beginning of August – Rotary membership month.

This month we think specifically about members – and that includes both our potential members and also the existing members. You are each a special member of your Anns' or Inner Wheel Clubs and as such can contribute whatever you are able to do. We are all talented in different ways and what we can do changes – the valuable advice from the older members of the clubs is always good to have. We each also need support from our club both in the good and happy times and in the times when we are under a lot of stress and sadness – Rotary Shares and cares. If you are short of members to help with projects do remember to contact the parents of the Interactors or Earlyactors in your area – they may be willing to help and could become “friends of the Anns” to be called on when you need extra help or when you have an interesting speaker at your meeting etc.

Lionel and I have been very fortunate to be able to share in various celebrations at Induction Dinners in the P. E. area and I have been very encouraged by the enthusiasm of the new leaders of the Rotary, Anns' and Inner Wheel clubs and of the club members that we have met.

Thank you to the clubs that have sent minutes of meetings and information about the club and members – it helps me to become better acquainted with your clubs before our visit and also enables us both to learn about the wonderful work that the spouses are achieving in the District. Well done to you all.

I have sent details to your club president about the Val Saunders trophy to be awarded at Conference – relating to projects in the 2006–7 Rotary year. I do hope that at Conference we will be able to see photographs, examples etc. of what you have achieved in your clubs so that ideas for service may be shared.

Conference plans are progressing well and I am looking forward to meeting many of you there. When you register, please register for the Anns' luncheon (and meeting) on the registration form.

With best wishes

Maureen.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN MASERU.
REGISTRATION CLOSSES ON 31 AUGUST.**