



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9320
 DISTRICT GOVERNOR LIONEL HEATH
 2007 - 08



Governor's Monthly Newsletter
From the Lion's Den

December 2007

FAMILY OF ROTARY MONTH

THE FAMILY OF ROTARY

The Family of Rotary is one of the emphases of President Wilf Wilkinson. It does appear to be the odd one out compared to the other three emphases - Water; Health and Hunger; Literacy. Why should it be included?

Our president probably appreciates the importance of family more than most of us as he is one of ten children. But as big as his family is, it's nothing compared with the Rotary family. In addition to 1.2 million Rotarians, there are 250,000 Interactors, 170,000 Rotaractors, 150,000 Rotary Community Corps members and about 8,000 young people annually in Rotary Youth Exchange. Then there are the spouses, Rotary widows and widowers, and children of Rotarians. Altogether the Rotary family consists of about two million members and as such can achieve a great deal.

Our Rotary family is strong because, in addition to its size, it is close and is always forming new ties. We need to ensure that Rotary keeps growing – in all the branches of our family. When the present generation passes on, we need to have people in the wings ready to step into Rotary to carry on the wonderful work that our organisation does. We should always be looking for and inviting qualified men and women to join our clubs so that the world does not have to try to survive without Rotary.

The best family attendance at a dinner we attended during a club visit was at Kimberley South where IPDG Ethne and Wes were accompanied by their daughter and son-in-law (who are both Rotarians) and their baby grandson who wore a black tie as it was a black tie affair and a big badge proclaiming him to be a future Rotarian. Hopefully he was the only person in audience who slept through the whole of the DG's address.

THE FESTIVE SEASON IS THE IDEAL TIME TO ORGANISE A FUNCTION FOR THE FAMILY OF ROTARY IN YOUR CLUB AND COMMUNITY. YOU CAN SEE THE FAMILY IN ACTION AT OUR MANY **TREES OF JOY**.

THE FAMILY OF ROTARY IN ACTION



Proud father, President Robert Likhong of the Rotary Club of Maseru, looks on as his daughter Roberta receives her "package" from Youth Exchange Chairman, PP Pam Ellis, for her Youth Exchange trip to North America next year.

The "senior" members of the Youth Exchange family, the students at present on exchange in South Africa, played a vital part in the orientation of the outgoing students at Blanco over the weekend of 1-2 December. The contributions they made towards assisting the outgoing scholars during the formal sessions, valuable as it was, probably did not match the advice given during the free time the incoming and outgoing students shared.



Gabriel (Lukhanji Sunset & Brazil), Hannibal (Queens-town & Denmark), Marius (Grahamstown Sunset & Switzerland), Carmen (Germany & Klerksdorp) and Tyler (King Williams Town & USA) on parade at the YE Orientation session.

BILL GATES CHALLENGES ROTARY



Last week Bill Gates donated \$100 million to The Rotary Foundation for the eradication of Polio and he challenged Rotary to match this amount. Rotary agreed to do so over the next three years. The polio eradication grant is one of the largest challenge grants ever

given by the Gates Foundation and the largest grant received by Rotary in its 102-year history.

Polio must be eradicated and not controlled. If it is only controlled, countries must continue with expensive immunisation drives and the disease will hang like the sword of Damocles over the children of the world. It is imperative for us to give Polio the knock-out blow!

Rotary has led the world in the fight against Polio both on its own and as part of a coalition that encourages the US government to spend more money on Polio eradication. Rotary is the top non-governmental donor and pips the US, which is the largest governmental donor. In addition, thousands of Rotarians have given their time and expertise to assist with the programme.

"The extraordinary dedication of Rotary members has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication," says Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "Eradicating polio will be one of the most significant public health accomplishments in history, and we are committed to helping reach that goal."

Those of us who have been in Rotary since at least the late 1980's have been involved in two big drives to raise funds for Polio. Since then, The Rotary Foundation has not wanted to put pressure on Rotarians and has depended on voluntary donations. Our district has made donations from its designated district funds to Polio each year but the individual and club donations have been more or less non-existent.

RI had already put out a challenge to all districts and to new clubs (those established after the fundraising campaigns) to make donations to the Polio fund. This only applies to Lukhanji Sunset at this time. We had already increased our usual donations from our district funds before the appeal came out.

You will notice that in the Directory for May clubs are encouraged to make a contribution towards Polio. Early in 2008 the Rotary Clubs of Potchefstroom Sunrise and East London Sunrise are due to be chartered. Why not make a contribution in the name of the new club nearest to you to Polio as a gift from your club on the occasion of its charter?

DONATIONS COUNT TOWARDS YOUR EREY AND TOWARDS PAUL HARRIS RECOGNITIONS.

An interesting way to find out more about the Gates donation to the Foundation

Many, many questions are being asked. We need information. Rotary Foundation Trustee (and co-chair of the PolioPlus Partners Task Force) Lou Piconi has agreed to participate in an on-line discussion on this and other Foundation subjects. The International Computer Users Fellowship of Rotarians (ICUFR) has agreed to make its "Community Forums" Internet site available so that Rotarians around the world can discuss the Gates gift. The on-line discussion with Trustee Piconi will take place from 9h00 EST (about 17h00 our time) on Monday, December 10th and end at 20h00 our time on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. This will take place at the fellowship's web site <http://www.icufr.org>.

To ask questions and to participate in the discussion, Rotarians must register in the Forum before the time on the website. After you have accepted the terms, you will automatically go to the 'Registration' page. Please complete all 'required' information. After you "register", you will receive a confirming email from an ICUFR volunteer.

You may also enter the Forum as a 'guest' and read the discussion in the Community Forum but you will not be able to 'post' without registering.

DO YOU WISH TO SERVE ROTARY BEYOND CLUB LEVEL?

If you are interested in serving on one of the District Committees, please let Jaap Steyn know BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER. (Details in the Directory.)

Training will be held at various venues to assist you in your task.

IPDG Ethne and I found that placing people on committees was a difficult task.

On club visits I have been inundated with questions about how to get onto a district committee and complaints about why certain clubs are overlooked for district posts.

THE BALL IS NOW IN YOUR COURT. CHOOSE A COMMITTEE THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN; THEN CONTACT DGE JAAP AND PROVIDE HIM WITH:

A LETTER OF APPLICATION AND A CV OF YOUR ROTARY EXPERIENCE AND OUTSIDE EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO THE POST.

THE LATEST ON THE WHEELCHAIRS

A representative of The Rotary Foundation, PDG Elio Cerini from Italy, visited East London at the end of November in connection with the 20 containers with wheelchairs funded by a Matching Grant with Rotary districts in Great Britain, to investigate if we would be able to handle 5600 wheelchairs – more than double the biggest consignment ever sent out.

It appears he was highly impressed with what he saw so we expect him to recommend that we proceed.

The plan is that half the containers will go to Welkom, for distribution to clubs above the Orange River, and the other to East London for clubs south of the Orange River. PDG Elio will recommend to TRF that they come into the district over a two year period.

We hope the first consignments will be here before the end of the present Rotary year.

CLUBS ARE ENCOURAGED TO KEEP THEIR LISTS UP TO DATE AND TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THOSE MOST IN NEED SO THEY CAN RECEIVE WHEELCHAIRS FROM EARLIER CONSIGNMENTS.

OTHER NEWS FROM ROMEX

Henk Kayser has returned from a trip to Russia and Holland. In Holland he spoke to clubs and secured a lot of medical equipment, which will be coming our way plus €10 000.00 for a new clinic near Hamburg.

There is a fair amount of stock available at present, including forty metal double bunks with mattresses that would suit a home for street children or AIDS orphans.

After years of little trouble importing the medical equipment, Henk is having trouble with SARS and the Customs. This is putting up our costs considerably. If any Rotarian has contacts in government that can help with this, please contact Henk. He claims the stress is making him lose his youthful appearance!

Henk is most grateful to those clubs that have made donations to running costs for ROMEX. Clubs receiving goods are requested to make donations towards costs.

NEW STRUCTURE FOR GRANTS

At their October/November meetings, The Rotary Foundation Trustees and the RI Board approved a new structure for grants. The new models simplify Foundation programmes and focus Rotarian service efforts where they will have the greatest impact - in the Districts and at the Clubs.

Full implementation is planned for 2012-13, but some districts will pilot the plans from next year.

DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED ONCE THEY BECOME KNOWN AND ARE APPLICABLE TO OUR DISTRICT.

PERSONAL NEWS

SOUTH AFRICAN FOR HIGH RI POST

PDG Rodney Mazinter from Cape Town has been appointed to a top Alumni position at R.I. - the role of general coordinator of Rotary Foundation Alumni Coordinators.

Many Rotarians will remember his articles in Rotary Africa. We congratulate Rodney on his appointment and are pleased to see that South African Rotarians are being recognized.

EAST LONDON PDG's

I am pleased to report that PDG Charles Keast is looking much better and that PDG Tubby Grenfell returned home after receiving treatment in Jo'burg. He has to return for further treatment but is looking well and is very positive that his treatment will be successful. A sign of their progress is that they are both able to attend Rotary meetings.

DISTRICT WEBMASTER

Our webmaster Barry Downs is unfortunately in hospital again and the appearance of this bulletin on the website may be delayed.

I recently presented Barry with a Paul Harris Sapphire recognition from the district for his work on the district website. He was speechless when he received it – very rare for Barry. We wish him a speedy recovery.

MEMORABLE QUOTES from the DG's year.

On arrival on the 23rd floor of the hotel where we were to be trained in San Diego. IN THE EVENT OF AN EARTHQUAKE, DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR.

As we entered a president's home in a rural area: EXCUSE THE SMELL OF JEYES FLUID IN THE DOORWAYS. IT IS TO KEEP THE COBRAS OUT; UNLESS THEY ARE ALREADY INSIDE.

Rotary Shares at Christmas



Maureen joins me in wishing
Christian members of the Rotary
Family in District 9320
a **Blessed Christmas** and
wishing all Rotarians
a **Happy and Successful New Year**
in which you achieve all your
Rotary goals and attain your
personal dreams.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

The following need attention this month:
Further details are available in this month and last month's editions of Rotary Information and From the Lion's Den.
ALL CONTACT DETAILS ARE IN THE DISTRICT DIRECTORY.

ALL CLUBS MUST SUBMIT A CLUB OFFICERS REPORT FORM TO RI, TO DG LIONEL AND TO DGE JAAP. (See this month's Rotary Information.)

Applications for **ASSISTANT GOVERNOR** posts for Areas 3,6 7,9 and 12 should have reached DGE Jaap Steyn by now. He may accept late applications if you have forgotten.

Nominations for a member to represent the district on the **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** to appoint a **DIRECTOR** for our zone should reach DG Lionel Heath by 15 December.

Nominations for a Rotarian to represent the District on the **COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION** should reach PDG Ethne Papenfus by 15 December.

Applications for those wishing to serve on District Committees must reach DGE Jaap Steyn by the end of December.

Last date to benefit from lower registration rates for the **LOS ANGELES CONVENTION** is 15 December.

SPOUSE'S SPOT

Greetings to all Anns, Members of Inner wheel, and friends of Rotary.

We have in the last month seen the extent of our district - District 9320. It is geographically enormous and very diverse. We have visited clubs in the far north - Vryburg and Potch., the West - Kimberley, the East - East London area and the South - Jeffreys Bay and Port Elizabeth and very many in between. Without exception we have seen wonderful examples of how the Rotarians and the Anns /Inner Wheel members have embraced the present Rotary theme of Rotary Shares and they have shared so much with so many in their Service above Self projects.

We have travelled over 4000 kms in the past month, slept in very many different and very comfortable beds and met approximately 700 new Rotary friends! Thank you so much to each one of you. You have all gone out of your way to be welcoming to us in your homes, at your club meetings, at project visits and at our meals that we have shared. We have enjoyed each different visit to a rich variety of clubs and have appreciated being able to talk to so many of you.

Now it is your time to relax with your friends and family knowing that you have gone out of your way to make a significant difference to many folk in our District. For many of these people their Christmas celebration time is now over with your wonderful parties and gifts and outings but at Christmas time they will have good memories to reflect on how Rotary shared and cared for them. Of particular note have been the many clubs who have been involved with a Tree of Joy - the beneficiaries being the poor and needy of all ages and all races. Those who have donated gifts have mainly been the non-Rotarians in the communities. The Trees of Joy have provided a wonderful opportunity to share Rotary with fellow Rotarians and members of the public.

With very kind regards

Maureen.