



ROTARY DISTRICT 6920

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REGISTER NOW FOR THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

After April 3, the availability of rooms will decrease and the cost of registration and room reservations will increase!

You can register and link to hotel reservations on line at our district web site www.rotarydistrict6920.net or you can use the printed form you received in the February District Newsletter. Additionally, you can download the form from the web site.

The District Conference in Savannah on May 4-6 promises to be a grand party and fun experience for all who have the opportunity to come and enjoy.

Georgia State Governor Sonny Perdue has been invited to be our keynote speaker for lunch Friday. Other speakers include Rotary International President Bill Boyd's representative Rolf Horndler, a past Rotary International Director and a sitting trustee of The Rotary Foundation. Special guest John Osterlund, Ambassadorial Scholar Rotarian and manager of The Rotary Foundation.

Take action and register today. ASK your fellow Rotarians to attend their District Conference, celebrate Rotary and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

- DG Bill Blankenship

John Osterlund to Speak at District Conference

Born in Oak Park, Ill., John Osterlund grew up in Sebring, Fla. After graduating from the University of South Florida with a B.A. in Political Science, John became interested in the Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship program. John was awarded a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship for the academic year 1987-88. With his Scandinavian heritage, it was to John's advantage that he was placed at the University of Stockholm.



John Osterlund

John received his M.S. degree in History Education from Florida State University. After graduate

school, John moved to Fort Lauderdale to become the Legislative Aide to State Senator Tom McPherson and to be an adjunct history instructor at Broward Community College. Working in state politics, John gained extensive experience in media relations and fund raising. John went to work as the Administrative Assistant to the Majority Leader of the Florida House of Representatives, Rep. Anne Mackenzie.

The Rotary Foundation is one of the largest charitable organizations in the United States in terms of fund-raising and international grantmaking. As the General Manager of The Rotary Foundation, John

oversees the operations of five divisions: Humanitarian Grant Programs, Educational Programs, PolioPlus, Fund Development and Planning and Administration. In 2005-06, The Rotary Foundation was successful in raising \$162 million. John served as the Associate Director of the Foundation's \$80 million Polio Eradication Fund-raising Campaign - a campaign conducted in one year which raised \$135 million to further Rotary's goal of eradicating polio.

John is married to Elizabeth Gaizutis Osterlund. The Osterlunds live in Evanston and have three children: two sons, Benjamin and Peter, and a daughter, Abigail. John is a member of the Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club, a Paul Harris Fellow and a benefactor.

Rookie of the Year to be Announced at Conference

Does your club have a new member who has hit the ground running and accomplished good works or a specific project? We are looking for Rookie of the Year applicants who deserve special recognition for their contributions to your community and for their contributions to Rotary.

Each club is different and each club has many different ways to perform community service. Your club's Rookie of the Year could be selected as our District Rookie of the Year at the District Conference by a selection board composed of the College of Governors.

The proposed Rookie of the Year should have less than 24 months as a Rotarian on May 1, 2007. There are no forms. The recommendation should be a narrative of 2-3 typewritten pages endorsed by the club's board and include the signature of the club president.

Presidential Citations Deadline Fast Approaching

The Presidential Citation is given by the Rotary International President. You must complete the certification form in order to be considered for this award and forward the form to the District Governor at P.O. Box 931, Kingsland, GA 31548. Clubs must undertake a well-rounded program of activities in support of the Family of Rotary and within each of the four Avenues of Service listed on page 29 of your Rotary International Directory & Handbook/2006-2007 that you

received at last year's District Conference. If you do not have your directory, e-mail Paula Goodnow, with your fax number, at paulagoodnow@hotmail.com and she will fax you a copy.

To qualify for a citation, the club must (1) determine the minimum number of activities your club must accomplish in the Family of Rotary and within each Avenue of Service; (2) review the menu of suggested activities in each category, select those your club will achieve by the deadline, and set them as goals; and (3)

complete the Presidential Citation Certification form once the goals have been met and send to your district governor by April 1, 2007. Your governor must certify the club size and activities your club has achieved by signing the certification form. He must then send the certification form to RI by April 15, 2007.

Clubs that qualify for the Presidential Citation will receive a certificate recognizing their outstanding achievement.

Get Empowered to Keep Clubs Vital at 2007-08 Membership Conferences

To promote membership growth, RI President-elect Wilfrid J. Wilkinson invites you to join him in one of seven presidential conferences about sharing the magic of Rotary. The conferences will be held in Canada and the United States in July and August, and each one opens with an evening reception followed by a one-day meeting.

Conference locations and dates are Philadelphia, 13-14 July; Nashville, Tennessee, 20-21 July; South Bend, Indiana, 27-28 July; Denver, Colorado, 3-4 August; Vancouver, British Columbia, 10-11 August; San Jose, California, 17-18 August; and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 24-25 August.

The conferences are intended for all Rotarians who are committed to strengthening Rotary membership, but especially club and district membership development committee members, club presidents and officers, and district-level officers including governors.

The meetings are designed to empower Rotary clubs to take up their own membership initiatives that will help Rotary stay vital and growing in the years to come. Participants will learn about and discuss practical ways to identify and recruit new members, retain existing members, and extend Rotary through new clubs. Participants will also discuss how clubs and districts can effectively manage change.

"In order for Rotary to continue to meet the ever-increasing demand for humanitarian service, we must continue our work toward membership retention, growth, and development," says Wilkinson. "We must build stronger clubs, and keep Rotarians informed, connected, and involved."

Conference participants will attend at no cost to Rotary International, meaning participants will cover their own registration fees, as well as travel, lodging, and meal costs. Further details, including conference venues and program information, will be posted on RI's Web site and announced in other Rotary International and local media when available. Registration and arrangements are being handled at the local level.

Eradicating Ivory Coast Guinea Worm

Source: Medical Assistance Programs (MAP) International - USA MAP International

Website: <http://www.map.org>

She remembers the pain well.

Agnes Kossia managed an occasional smile as she talked about the parasite that, years ago, began to force its way through the skin of her lower left leg. She can't remember how long it lasted, but it seemed to be weeks before the parasite was gone and she was free of the agony it had caused.

Though unheard of in the West and eradicated in Asia, dracunculiasis, or Guinea worm, is a water-borne parasite still found in nine African countries, among them Ivory Coast, where Kossia lives with her 10 children in the village of Palla. The worm may grow to lengths of four feet inside a victim before working itself out over a course of one to two months through the person's lower extremities.

Guinea worm spreads through contaminated drinking water, and so Ivory Coast cases decreased dramatically in the early 1980s - from more than 67,000 cases in 1966 to less than 2,000 cases in 1985 - when more than 12,000 new water purification pumps were installed in villages like Palla. As pumps broke and villagers returned to untreated water supplies, however, incidents began rising, and in 1991 nearly 13,000 cases were reported.

"There is really nothing to do if we don't have clean water," Kossia said through an interpreter. "When our pump broke, we had no way to fix it. We had no way to get clean water. And we had no way to avoid diseases like Guinea worm."

Medical Assistance Programs (MAP) International is part of a country-wide effort to provide Ivory Coast villages with water filtration systems and to repair pumps that are no longer operable. Thanks to a grant of more than \$52,000 from Rotary International Foundation and Rotary Clubs of Brunswick and Glynn County, Ga., Atlanta West End, Atlanta Airport and District 6920 (in cooperation with Rotary Club of Abidjan Golf in Ivory Coast), MAP has been able to repair an additional 57 water pumps and construct 800 water purification filters in villages like Palla.

"It is very important that we be able to avoid diseases from unclean water," Kossia said. "If we get sick, we often have no way to go to the hospital. Even if we can go, we cannot afford the medicines. What MAP is doing is very important because now we have clean water again."

MAP, which has been working for years to eradicate the disease in Ivory Coast, has helped decrease the number of cases significantly. In 2006, there were just 5 cases reported throughout the entire country - and none of them were in Palla.



Agnes Kossia uses one of two water purification pumps that MAP International has repaired in her Ivory Coast village of Palla. MAP has used a Rotary International grant of \$52,220 to repair 57 such pumps in Ivory Coast villages.
MAP International

Register online for the District Conference at
www.rotarydistrict6920.net



Rotary District 6920 Newsletter

The Membership Minute

Prospective and new member kits now available

Is your club looking for prepackaged information to give to prospective or new members? The *RI Catalog* now offers two new kits that can help.

The Prospective Member Information Kit (423-ENB) provides a general overview of Rotary's history and programs and includes publications such as *What's Rotary* (419-EN) and *This is Rotary* (001-EN). The New Member Information Kit (426-ENB) provides a more detailed overview of the history, structure, and programs of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation and includes publications such as *Rotary Basics* (595-EN) and *The ABCs of Rotary* (363-EN). Both of these kits can be ordered from the RI Catalog or the Shop page at www.rotary.org.

Consider enhancing the kits by adding your own club brochure or newsletter and the most recent edition of your regional Rotary magazine.

Recognition of Membership Development Initiatives

Does your club have a unique and successful membership development strategy? Rotary International recognizes clubs that develop and implement creative strategies that promote membership in their area. Each year, district governors can choose up to three clubs per district to receive a certificate of recognition for fulfilling one of the three areas of membership growth and development:

- Retention
- Recruitment of qualified new members
- Organization of new Rotary clubs

To be considered for this award, download the club submission form from the Membership page at www.rotary.org and submit a detailed explanation of your club's strategy, initiative, or program to your district governor by **15 April**.