



Rotary District 6920

SERVICE Above Self

Dallas Simon, District Governor

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RI Director Ken Morgan to Attend District Conference

Rotary International Director Ken Morgan will be attending the District Conference in May. District 6920 is honored to have Ken and his wife, Winnie, be a part of our conference to be held May 5-7 in Augusta.

Ken is executive director of an insurance trade association in North Carolina. A Rotarian since 1983, he has served RI as district



Ken Morgan

governor, RI training leader, and committee member. He has also twice served as a Council on Legislation representative, consultant to The Rotary Foundation/Development Committee, zone institute general chair, USA/Canada coordinator for the Foundation Alumni Resource Group, and chair of the Multidistrict PETS Committee.

He is a recipient of the RI Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award.

Register Now for RI Convention

Don't miss the opportunity to join thousands from around the world to kick off Rotary's second century of service at the 2006 Rotary International Convention in Malmö, Sweden, and Copenhagen, Denmark. Not only the first Rotary celebration in the Nordic region, the convention will also be the first to embrace the hospitality of two host countries.

Governor-Elect Bill Blankenship will have Southland breakfast tickets soon, so plan to make this a part of you experience while there.

This convention presents a remarkable opportunity to build bridges of friendship and service with fellow Rotarians. You'll come away with new ideas and inspiration that will resonate into the future.

This year registering for the convention is easier than ever. Rotarians should register online using "Member Access". It's fast and easy, while being secure and instant. If you can't register online, or if you're not a Rotarian register via mail or fax using the registration form, which can be downloaded from the RI web site.



Vince Dooley Will Open Conference

Athletic Director Emeritus Vince Dooley will be the speaker at the opening luncheon of this year's District Conference, slated for May 5-7, at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Augusta.

"The conference is very fortunate to have such a great opening speaker with such a long heritage of success at the University of Georgia," said District Governor Dallas Simon. "Our thanks go to Billy Franke of The Augusta Rotary Club for making all of this work."

There is perhaps no one person more singularly identified with the University of Georgia than Vince Dooley, the architect of the athletic program's modern-day explosive growth and the shepherd of all things "dawg."

In 1964 Dooley, at the age of 31, was hired by athletic director Joel Eaves as head coach of the UGA

football team and served in that position until 1988.

In 1979, Dooley was named athletic director and dedicated the next twenty-five years to Georgia Bulldog athletics until his contract was not renewed in a highly publicized power battle with university president Michael Adams in 2003. As a football coach, Dooley is among a fading group of leaders whose entire careers unfolded on one campus. As an athletic director, Dooley presided over numerous changes in the appearance of the UGA campus through the construction and expansion of its athletic facilities.

In 2004 the U.S. Sports Academy presented Dooley with the Carl Maddox Sport Management Award, an award given annually to an individual for contribution to the growth and development of sports through management practices. Also in 2004, Dooley was inducted into UGA's Circle of Honor, which is the school's highest tribute to former athletes and coaches.



Vince Dooley



SERVICE Above Self

District Conference May 5-7 in Augusta
Register On-Line Now

Ending Polio: Rotary's Promise to the World's Children

The following article was written by the Public Relations Division at Rotary International and appeared in the Dec. 13 issue of The New York Times.

Recently, health officials were surprised to discover that five children in Minnesota were infected by the poliovirus. These cases, which received international attention including extensive coverage in the New York Times, puzzled the medical community, as polio has not been seen in this country for 26 years. Though medical experts are still investigating exactly how these children were infected, they are certain that it must have come from overseas.

That means poliomyelitis - a disease long forgotten in the developed world but

still felt by those living in some Asian and African nations - is just a plane ride away from coming in contact with children in the United States.

This discovery further proves that no child is safe from polio, even today, until it is completely eradicated worldwide.

In the United States, due to its ready access to vaccine and high immunization rates, polio poses little threat to children. However, for those who fall through the cracks, little can be done. Once a child has polio, there is no cure. The only protection is prevention, and for as little as 60 cents

worth of vaccine, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life.

Rotary members worldwide are committed to immunizing every child and have made eradicating polio their top priority since 1985. Rotary and its partners at the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF have immunized more than two billion children in 122 countries.

Rotary, now with 1.2 million members in nearly 170 countries, is the largest private-sector supporter of polio eradication, having raised more than \$600 million. Never before have individual volunteers and the influence of the private sector played such a core role in a global public-health effort.

During the holidays, hundreds of Rotary members will travel, at their own expense, to polio-endemic countries. Joining local health workers, religious leaders, teachers, and parents, Rotary members hope to reach millions of children under the age of five during multinational polio immunization campaigns. They will work from dusk to dawn and go from house to house in the most remote villages to ensure that every child is immunized.

Great progress has been made. In 1988, there were 1,000 reported polio cases per day. During the past two decades, polio cases worldwide have been slashed by 99 percent. Epidemiologists predict that polio can be stopped in all countries within a short time.

Yet despite this progress, governments, health workers, and volunteers must overcome the many obstacles of war, poverty, and misinformation in order to reach every child in all corners of the world.

Until polio is truly gone, children worldwide will be at risk from this cruel disease that once swept waves of panic through cities in the United States every summer in the 1940s and 1950s. For the sake of all the world's children, we must join together to fulfill the promise of a polio-free world and end the needless suffering from polio for all time.

PR Tips of the Month

Following is a list of Rotary International tools that can be obtained to help promote your Rotary club

"Effective PR"

-Detailed how-to (257-en)

Rotary Fact Pack

-obtain through rotary.org/newsroom/download_center

"Rotary" booklet

(001-en)

"What's Rotary"

-mini-booklet (419-en)

PR Tips

-monthly on-line bulletin from Rotary International

-ask at prtips@rotaryintl.org

CD with print, billboard, radio PSAs

(608-en)

DVD - TV PSA

-available from RI PR Department

"Promoting Rotary"

-series of "5 Easy Steps" from getting into billboards, newspapers, radio & TV

"Rotary's Public Image"

-public opinion survey story

Want more? Call Rotary International at (847) 866-4600 and ask for a catalogue

Happy Birthday Rotary!

You'll be 101 years old on Feb. 23!

You Must Teach Them

The district is down 20 members as of this date. The membership committee has made every effort to grow Rotary in this district.

We have had many new members; it's the losses that have hurt us.

Retention is the key. If you bring them in, you must teach them. Rotary is the only service club that has something for everyone and every personality. If you would ask your most seasoned members to conduct an orientation session, this might make a difference. Make it special, hold the session at a restaurant or someone's home. Make the new Rotarian feel special and a part of your club.

We need to grow Rotary!

World Understanding Month

February is World Understanding Month on the Rotary calendar. It's difficult, however, to understand others if you can't comprehend the words they use. But once you learn another language, a new world opens. You can read more newspapers and understand more movies. You can learn about more people's lives and laugh at their jokes.

Many worldly Rotarians are polyglots. Among the Rotarians featured in the February issue of *The Rotarian* are a training consultant and a photographer. Both have used a second language in their careers or service work.

Rotarians are also helping others learn languages. In Malmö, Sweden, they're conversing in Swedish with immigrants. In Chile, Rotarians have trained English instructors. In Haiti, they're funding French tutoring, giving students a chance at a better education and brighter career prospects.

Consider how your life might be better if you added another language to it. Then imagine how our world would be better if we all knew another language.

Incoming GSE Team

The in-coming Italian Group Study Exchange team will arrive in Savannah on April 13. They will depart on May 11th (from Savannah), just after the District Conference in Augusta.

Steve Acuff, the district's GSE coordinator for this year's incoming team, has contacted individuals who have assisted in past years with the group.

"Having been a GSE team leader myself (Japan), I know how rewarding it is to spend quality time with GSE team members from other countries," said Steve. "There are dozens of district 6920 Rotarians who feel the same way."

In the short time we have to plan for the arrival of the Italian team, we need to:

1. Establish a reasonable schedule for the team's visit in the District, including which cities and clubs to visit, and the best route to follow;
2. Designate host clubs and city coordinators for each community visited;
3. Identify host families for home stays;
4. Plan interesting and fun activities for each day the team is in your area.

In the past two years, the Chilean, Japanese and Brazilian teams visited Savannah, Augusta, Sandersville, Dublin, Macon, Tifton, Valdosta, Douglas, Waycross, Camden County, St. Simons/Jekyll and Brunswick.

We only have them for about four weeks, so we will be very efficient in planning the schedule. The team will be in Augusta for at least part of the

District Conference on May 5-7.

Rotary Auto Tag

PDG Preston Johnson of Dublin has contacted State Representative Dubose Porter, who represents portions of Laurens and Treutlen counties, regarding the Rotary auto tag.

In an email to Mr. Porter last month, Preston said, "Last year all 3 Rotary districts in Georgia attempted to obtain applications for the Rotary International centennial automobile tags, with a minimum of 1,000 being required. The applications only totaled approximately 500.

"It has come to our attention that legislation was passed last year allowing one or two Georgia organizations to obtain their tags with only a minimum of 250 being required.

"On behalf of all three Rotary districts in Georgia, I request that you and some of your fellow legislators introduce legislation that would lower the minimum for the Rotary tags to 250 if possible, but not more than 500."

Rotarians interested in getting this legislation introduced should also contact their state representatives.

Evanston Trip Scheduled

Our annual visit to Evanston will be here before you know it. Make your reservations now with Judy Reville of AAA in Augusta. She will do all the work and make it easy for all. If you book early the prices will be good. If you book late, we all know about the airline pricing, the price might go up, so make your reservations now!

Judy can be reached at (706) 738-6611, extension 245, or jreville@aaasouth.com.

DGND Dick Hyer is serving as the district coordinator for the trip. He can be reached in Macon at (478) 746-2635 or (478) 361-2772 or via email at rhyer@cox.net.

DIAMONDS!! DIAMONDS!! DIAMONDS!! DIAMONDS!!



Rotary District 6920 Newsletter

Polio Endemic Countries Hit All-Time Low of Four

Eradication drive enters new phase with global roll-out of monovalent vaccines

The following is excerpted from a Feb. 1, 2006 report from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative

The number of countries with indigenous polio has dropped to an all-time low of four, as polio eradication efforts enter a new phase involving the use of next-generation vaccines targeted at the two surviving strains of virus.

In 2006, monovalent vaccines, aimed at individual virus strains, will be the primary platform for eradication in all remaining polio-affected areas, announced the core partners in polio eradication – the World Health Organization, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF – enabling the eradication drive to hone in on poliovirus types 1 and 3.

This new phase was announced alongside

the confirmation that indigenous poliovirus has not circulated in Egypt and Niger for over 12 months. This is the first time in three years that the number of polio-endemic countries has fallen, leaving Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan as the only countries that have never stopped indigenous polio transmission.

The success in Niger and Egypt is the result of intense efforts in 2004-05 to halt Africa's polio epidemic and fast-track the introduction of monovalent polio vaccines into selected areas. The number of cases of polio in India and Pakistan in the last quarter of 2005 also fell by more than half compared with the previous year, due to more effective immunization strategies and the use of monovalent vaccine.

“To fully exploit these new tools, government commitment in Nigeria must remain high at all levels to ensure that all children are vacci-

nated,” said Jonathan Majiyagbe of Kano, Nigeria and past President of Rotary International, which has contributed more than US\$ 600 million and countless volunteer hours to a polio-free world. Ninety per cent of polio cases in Nigeria are concentrated in just eight of the country's 37 states.

In addition to mass immunization with monovalent vaccines in the four endemic countries, large-scale campaigns with these vaccines will need to take place in 2006 in eight countries – including Somalia, Indonesia and Yemen – to stop recently imported polioviruses. Critical to the success of these campaigns is a US\$ 150 million shortfall which must be filled as rapidly as possible. The eradication effort requires a further US\$425 million for the 2007-2008 period.

Polio - the disease

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. It invades the nervous system, and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. It can strike at any age, but affects mainly children under five years of age. Poliovirus is mainly passed through person-to-person contact, via oral-faecal route. The virus enters the body through the mouth and multiplies in the intestine. Initial symptoms are fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck and pain in the limbs. One in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis (usually in the legs). Among those paralysed, 5-10% die when their breathing muscles become immobilized.