



Bob Griggers
 District Governor
 2012-2013

November 2012

Rotary *District 6920*

DG, Wife Greeted with Southern Hospitality

By the time you receive this edition of our newsletter, Brenda and I will have visited every club in our District at least one time. We have enjoyed each and every visit. Getting to meet you and personally hearing and seeing what you are doing has been a real inspiration to us.

You have received us with love, respect and the utmost examples of true Southern Hospitality. You have opened up your homes and hearts. You have shared with us your goals. You have shared your accomplishments. You have even shared your frustrations and asked for suggestions. Thank you all for what you are doing!

We are here to support you as Rotarians and Rotary Clubs, and look forward to seeing you again. Remember to promote President Tanaka's theme "Peace through Service" in your projects and accept our \$1,000 District Challenge! Best wishes for a Great Rotary Year!

~ DG RHG



District Governor

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MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH PEACE,
 PROSPERITY AND ABUNDANCE.

Happy Thanksgiving

Rotary Report on Hurricane Sandy

Update as of Nov. 6, 2012

District 6920 Rotarians are very fortunate not to experience the wrath of Hurricane Sandy that our friends in the Northeast suffered. Several have asked what they can do to help. I have been in contact with our fellow Rotary leaders from that area and have tried to keep you informed of their requests and suggestions.

Recent reports indicate that most help is needed in the tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Governors there report of the devastation of their Districts. Government buildings, homes, roads and even many towns have been completely washed away. Citizens, including many Rotarians, are without homes and infrastructure. A reported 3,000 refugees are stranded in shelters in Atlantic City.

About 40% still have no power, and there are very LONG gasoline lines, as deliveries cannot get through and many gas stations have no power.

There are several warehouses set up to receive, sort and deliver donated items in District 7490 (New Jersey). If you are interested, contact Peter Wells at peter@peterwellsarchitect.com

Requests have been made for cash donations or gift cards to stores such as Target, Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowe's and ShopRite or other grocery stores. Money is probably most needed so that people can start rebuilding.

Please make your checks payable to the Rotary District 7490 Walter D. Head Foundation and write Sandy Relief on the memo line. Send your check to Calisto Bertin, Bertin Engineering, 66 Glen Avenue, Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452. Cash gifts to this Foundation will be split evenly among the affected districts.

If you prefer to donate to areas in District 7230 (Manhattan, Staten Island, Bronx), please send your contribution to the Staten Island Rotary Foundation, c/o John J. Amodio, 212 Woodbine Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314, with a notation on the check indicating "for SI victims of Hurricane Sandy."

You can also help the Rotary Club of Wall Street as it assists victims in lower Manhattan. Contributions can be sent to the "Rotary Club of Wall Street, NY Foundation" at 306 Gold Street, #12C, Brooklyn, NY 11201 with a notation on the check indicating "for SI victims of Hurricane Sandy."

Items needed in addition to cash or gift cards:

- New Clothing (NO USED CLOTHING), underwear, socks, coats, sweaters, sweat pants and sweat shirts
- Heavy duty garbage bags
- New blankets, pillows, bedding, cots and towels
- Cleaning supplies of all types – mops, brooms, pails, disinfectant, bleach, detergent
- Flash lights and batteries, especially D batteries
- Work gloves
- Disposable diapers, for babies of all sizes and Depends for senior citizens
- Non – perishable food items, especially Chunky soups, protein items, tuna fish or salmon, sardines, peanut butter, bread, stews, canned ravioli and juices
- Baby food of all types
- Pet food of all types
- Paper plates, cups, knives, forks and spoons

There is a tremendous need for food right now - (items that do not have to be heated!)

Recovery is not going to be easy, nor will it be quick. It will be a long-term recovery and each District Governor in the affected areas have been asked to come up with building projects in which Rotarians can participate. This will take a while, since efforts are directed in the area of immediate needs. Please visit www.hynjrotary.org and click on the Disaster Aid tab for updates. It is estimated that there are as many as 300,000 homes that will need to be rebuilt in the tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

To my fellow Rotarians, please continue to keep these people in your prayers. Any and all help that you can give to them will be greatly appreciated. Remember again, this could have been us. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you with more contacts or information.

Let's do for them what we would hope they would have done for us!

~ Bob Griggers, DG

Membership Retention Often Ignored

by Rotarian Ashok Mahajan, Chair, RI Membership Development & Retention Committee, 2012-13

There is a valid concern in Rotary about membership development. Despite all our efforts, we are not only stagnating but even falling in Membership strength. There may be many reasons for this - and each one of us has more than one reason to project but there is one reason that must be highlighted and addressed.

When we add new members in an existing club, we bring the new member with fanfare and enthusiasm. However, we fail to retain those members and soon many of them leave Rotary. The plan for retaining members is almost nonexistent in clubs. When a new member joins Rotary, he (or she) feels proud, privileged, happy and important. Soon the scenario changes. Neither the club leadership nor the proposer pays any special attention to the new member. There is disappointment, delusion and even distress. The outcome is obvious - membership loss.

Centerville Rotarians Receive In-Depth Presentation on Rotary Foundation



Walon Smith is shown making his presentation on the Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Centerville recently received an in depth presentation on the Rotary Foundation from Walon Smith, a member of the club. The mission of the Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. For more than 25 years, Rotary has been a leader in the global effort to eradicate polio. Its Peace Centers' fellowship recipients prepare for a leadership role in peace and conflict resolution, and it grants support Rotarians in their humanitarian, vocational and education activities. Smith also pointed out that The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

It is eye opening to note that a large number of Rotarians leaving Rotary do so within two to three years of their induction. The message is clear - they did not find what they expected in Rotary. True, some Rotarians join Rotary for personal gains, but the fact remains that many of those who joined Rotary for service, friendship, affection and challenges feel disappointed.

They leave Rotary and become one of the strongest critics of Rotary, generating negative public relations. When they join Rotary, they perhaps had no positive or negative feelings but when they leave, they carry negative feelings - a flaw that needs adequate attention.

The answer lies in a Membership Retention Plan. Each club must formulate a plan to ensure that the new members are exposed adequately to fellowship, togetherness and above all, to responsibilities - responsibilities through involvement in club administration and working responsibilities by rendering services. Once these new Rotarians are immersed in service, they will never leave. And if they do so, it will not be because of neglect or disillusionment, but for other unavoidable reasons which will not result in negative PR.

The process of retention must be put into motion immediately on their induction and responsibilities placed as per the wishes of new Rotarians. An "Entry Interview" will tell us the spheres of interest and an "Exit Interview" will tell us about the true reason for leaving. Remember that Rotary devotes a lot of time, energy and efforts to ensure the growth. Yet, the results have been disappointing.

Membership is a crucial facet of Rotary and there are many areas within its ambit that need to be addressed. The role of the proposer, the role of the club leadership, the responsibilities of all members, the role of their families, the need for continuous Rotary information and education, the need for exposure to service activities and many such areas of membership must be simultaneously addressed to ensure a healthy membership.

Let us retain what we have. Other things can wait. Let us pledge to keep Rotary growing.

Practical Steps for Expanding Membership

by District Membership Chair Jack Steed

Rotary grows when we seek qualified new members. To do so, a club must have a specific plan. The plan can take various forms. But it must be measurable and it must be specific. If your plan calls for one new member each month – that is a real goal. It is measurable and accountable. So how will your club find new members?

Your plan could be based on a ‘team approach’ with several members on each team. The team would meet and discuss qualified business, professional and community volunteer leaders who should be in Rotary. The team could visit business establishments and talk with managers/supervisors. The team should seriously consider persons who may be the primary volunteer leaders in the community, even if they are not attached to a business or profession.

Another plan would identify prospects by assigning two members to visit the establishments not represented in Rotary. Representatives could and should be invited to Rotary as guests to learn more about Rotary.

A third plan could be to designate one club meeting per month to be a ‘visitor day’ to which all club members would invite friends or prospects to enjoy the program and learn about the good work of Rotary in their community.

A fourth plan could be designed around Rotary Foundation alumni and seeking those who may have been an ambassadorial scholar, member of a Group Study Exchange or a former member of Rotaract. After becoming adults, former RYLA students should be contacted. These alumni are natural prospects. Many alumni report that no Rotarian has ever invited them to a Rotary meeting – or to become Rotarians. During the last District Assembly membership seminar, one Rotarian reported that she goes to the business section of her newspaper every day and clips out reports of promotions, business newcomers, completion of business training, etc. and sends the clippings to her club’s Membership Chairman for contact. Chamber of Commerce Leadership graduates could be another source for membership prospects or even chamber membership lists could be reviewed for possible qualified prospects. Another plan would be to check out your community for diversity. Are there ethnic communities where Rotary is not known or ever considered? A promising plan is to extend a welcome invitation to women business and professional executives and eligible spouses of Rotarians who fulfill the requirements of membership.

Certainly, there are other plans that would be appropriate to your club. The best way to determine this is to throw out ideas during your board meetings. You’d be surprised at how many good ideas can surface when we put our collective minds together.

For more information on how to grow your club’s membership, contact District Membership Chair Jack Steed at (478) 397-8595 or jsteed@nicholscauley.com.

Skidaway Club Sponsors Kiawah Island Raffle

As part of their annual Fall Festival activities, the Skidaway Island Rotary Club is sponsoring an exciting raffle for two nights’ stay at The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort. A total value of \$2,400, the getaway includes four rounds of golf - two rounds on the Ocean Course. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

A "Top Ranked Luxury Oceanfront Resort" near Charleston, South Carolina, receiving many golf, tennis and family awards, The Sanctuary has been honored with the prestigious AAA Five Diamond and Forbes Five Stars ratings. The Ocean Course was just ranked 25th in Golf Digest's 100 Greatest U.S. Courses List. It was the site of the 2012 PGA Championship. The raffle prize is transferable or can be sold. All arrangements will be made by Four Seasons Travel in the Skidaway Island Village for the person who presents the certificate.

The drawing will be held on Wednesday, December 5 at the Club's Annual Meeting. The winner need not be present to win. Contact President Doug Powelson or a Skidaway Island Rotarian for tickets and more details. Proceeds from the raffle provide funding for the 2012-13 service projects for the club which focus on Literacy, Youth Leadership and Health.

DG Speaks at RV Fellowship of Rotarians Rally

by District Governor Bob Griggers

The Recreational Vehicle Fellowship of Rotarians held their Eastern Zone Fall Rally in Savannah recently. This Rotary Fellowship has members from the U.S., Canada and Australia. They are divided into four Regions and host area rallies periodically. If you are a Rotarian and have an RV (popup, tent, Class A, B, or C motorhome, 5th wheel or trailer), you are invited to join their Fellowship. It is a great way to get to know Rotarians, outside of your club and community and to have fun while meeting new people who share your interest in the RV lifestyle.

As your District Governor, I was honored to be invited to attend and speak at this rally. There were Rotarians represented from as far North as New York and as far South as the Florida Keys. We met at Love's Seafood Restaurant, which happens to be owned by a very generous Rotarian and a member of the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill.

There were over two dozen people at the dinner and it was most enjoyable. Every Rotarian had an opportunity to share some facts about their Club or District. It was quite interesting to hear the variety of very successful projects they are involved in. I was very proud to share with them what the members of our district are doing. I introduced the CART program to them and explained how it began.. A lady from S.C. said, "You brought the bucket, don't just show it, pass it around!" She did not have to tell me twice! We collected \$42 dollars and a coin from Peru. I kept it too! It also was an opportunity to promote "Atlanta 2017" and METS.

I really appreciate that they came to Savannah for this Rally and sharing with me what they are doing. As a Fellowship of service-minded Rotarians, they support areas of Highway Safety. They have contributed equipment such as Jaws of Life, defibrillators and other specialized equipment to several Fire Departments and Police or emergency medical services. For more information about this group, visit their website at www.rvweb.org.



DG Bob Griggers, Bob Craig, Recreation Vehicle Fellowship President from Pearl River, New York, and Fran Markette, Fellowship Wagon Master from Port Orange, Florida.

Rotary Fellowships Cover Varied Interests

by District Governor Bob Griggers

Rotary Fellowships are international, independently organized groups of Rotarians, Rotary spouses and Rotaractors who share a common vocation or recreational interest (sports, hobbies, etc.). Rotary fellowships give their members the opportunity to have fun, make new friends around the world, explore new opportunities for service and enhance their experience in Rotary.

Rotary Fellowships began informally in 1928 when Rotarians with a shared interest in the international language Esperanto joined together. In 1947, a group of Rotarian boating enthusiasts began flying the Rotary flag from their crafts, calling themselves the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians—which now holds the distinction of being the oldest continuing fellowship. Fellowships have changed significantly over the years, but their purpose remains the same.

Many fellowships also make use of their special interests to serve others. For example, the Fellowship of Canoeing Rotarians has organized cleanups of polluted rivers; members of the International Computer Users Fellowship of Rotarians conduct training sessions in their communities; and members of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Scuba Divers join local Rotary clubs to undertake service projects on each of their diving trips.

Each Rotary Fellowship operates independently of Rotary International, with its own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure comprising of at least three officers. Fellowships must be international in nature with active members in at least three countries.

Fellowships serve as a vehicle for attracting new members to Rotary and helping to retain existing ones. Fellowships contribute to the advancement of world understanding and peace.

There are many Fellowships to choose from, absolutely something for everyone! From amateur radio to yachting, bird watching to wine tasting, canoeing to travel and many more. There are Fellowships for collectors, professions, singles, sports, hobbies, and Rotary History.

I personally am members of several Fellowships; Convention Goers, License Plate Collecting, Motorcycling, Rotary Global History and financially support Quilters and Fiber Artists. I strongly encourage you to visit www.rotary.org/Fellowships for a complete list and more information.

Rotarians Spend Morning Sorting, Packing for METS

Many people in this country look forward to Saturday mornings as an occasion to sleep in and recharge their batteries. However, on a recent Saturday morning, 14 resolute souls from The Savannah Bank and the Rotary Club of Skidaway Island met at 8:30 at the Louisville Road warehouse of the Medical Equipment Transportation Service (METS), a service of Rotary District 6920, which includes Savannah.

They then spent the next three hours sorting and packing diversified items of medical equipment destined for clinics and hospitals in developing countries where, as Linda Herdina, director of METS, explained, the service means lives saved, suffering ameliorated and illnesses avoided, cured or at least made more bearable, among some of the poorest people in the world.

Rotary's motto "Service Above Self" is graphically illustrated

by the cheerful and enthusiastic willingness of the Savannah Bank staff members and the Skidaway Island Rotarians to pitch in early on a Saturday morning and spend three hours packing half a dozen pallets worth of boxes of medical items and equipment of all kinds destined to alleviate suffering and save lives among the poorest of the poor.



Shop Rotary

Brochures, training materials, books, videos, posters, certificates and promotional materials can be ordered at www.rotary.org/shop. You can search for items by categories including The Rotary Foundation, Membership Development, Leadership Development, RI Theme Materials and others. Many of The Rotary Foundation items are at no cost. Foundation items are grouped by Educational Programs, Fund Development, General Information, Grants and PolioPlus. Items can be sorted by Top Selling, Newest Releases, Price (low to high or high to low) and Most Popular.

Paul Harris Certificates are now being provided on a heavy paper folder instead of the padded cover used in the past. However, you can currently order the padded cover at Shop Rotary at no cost. The cover on Shop Rotary is called a Paul Harris Certificate Cover. There is a limit of 5 covers for each order. Your club may also wish to keep a supply of Paul Harris medallions on hand to award to new Paul Harris Fellows. The medallions can be purchased at Shop Rotary for \$15.

Take advantage of the Foundation items available at www.rotary.org/shop to hand out to your members at club meetings to help promote The Rotary Foundation.



Interact Clubs Celebrate Program's 50th Anniversary

The very first Interact club, formed at Melbourne High School in Melbourne, Florida, USA, is joining Interact clubs and their sponsors around the globe in celebrating the program's 50th anniversary during World Interact Week, November 5-11.

The Melbourne club received its charter in November 1962, under the guidance and sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Florida. In celebration of the golden anniversary, charter members of the club joined current Interactors and Rotarians from District 6930 for a night of reflection and fellowship.

"What makes Rotary great is what makes Interact great," says Michael Welch, president of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, who helped plan the anniversary event. "For a person — especially a young person, an Interactor — to appreciate the concept of Service Above Self, and then put it to work on their own time, it's a special experience that can change a lot of lives."

As part of the celebration, Melbourne Interactors gave a presentation on the history of Interact.

November is Rotary Foundation Month

History of the Rotary Foundation

Information for this article was obtained from the RI Website - www.rotary.org

In 1917, RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed that an endowment be set up "for the purpose of doing good in the world." In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than \$5,000, it was renamed the Rotary Foundation and it became a distance entity within Rotary International. Five Trustees, including Klumph, were appointed to "hold, invest, manage, and administer all of its property... as a single trust, for the furtherance of the purposes of RI." Two years later, the Foundation made its first grant of \$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The organization, created by Rotarian Edgar F. "Daddy" Allen, later grew into the Easter Seals.

The Great Depression and World War II both impeded the Foundation's growth, but the need for lasting world peace generated great postwar interest in its development. After Rotary's founder, Paul P. Harris died in 1947, contributions began pouring into Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created to build the Foundation.

That year, the first Foundation program – the forerunner of Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships – Awards for Technical Training, and Grants for Activities In keeping with the Objective of the Rotary Foundation, which was later called Matching Grants. The Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant program was launched in 1978, and Rotary Volunteers was created as a part of that program in 1980. Polio-Plus was announced in 1984-85, and the next year brought Rotary Grants for University Teachers. The first peace forums were held in 1987-88, leading to the Foundations peace and conflict studies program.

Throughout this time, support of the Foundation grew tremendously. Since the first donation of \$26.50 in 1917, it has received contributions totaling more than One Billion dollars. To date more than one million individuals have been recognized as Paul Harris Fellows – people who have given \$1,000 to the Annual Program Fund or have had that amount donated in their name. Such strong support, along with Rotarian involvement worldwide, ensures a secure future for the Rotary Foundation as it continues its vital work for international understanding and world peace.

For more information on the Rotary Foundation, contact District Foundation Chair Ron May.

Celebrate Doing Good in the World during Foundation Month in November





McIntosh Rotary Club Hears Presentation from Local Art Association Director

McIntosh County Rotary Club Member Jason Coley is very familiar with his guest speaker from the McIntosh County Art Association, Executive Director, Lorie Coley. Lorie brought greetings from the McIntosh County Art Association and shared the theme "Our Art Takes Flight!" during a recent meeting of the club. Club members received a personal invitation to participate with a wide variety of Art Class opportunities located at The Old Jail Art Center in Historic Downtown Darien. Lorie also distributed membership applications and renewal forms. Pictured are Jason Coley, Lorie Coley and Club President Diane Martin.

Important Dates: Mark Your Calendars

GSE Team Member Applications Due Friday, November 30, 2012

Applications for Group Study Exchange team members are due in to GSE Chair Justin Godchaux no later than Nov. 30, 2012.

Team members typically stay in Rotarians' homes, and most expenses, including travel, are paid by Rotary International. GSE candidate team members living within D6920 are usually identified and recruited by Rotarians. D6920 Rotarians are asked to recruit young professionals between 25 and 40 to serve on the GSE team. These four team members cannot be Rotarians or related to Rotarians.

For more information about GSE, visit the District website at www.rotary6920.org. or contact Godchaux via email at justingodchaux@aol.com or at 912-234-3680.

DG Applications Due January 12, 2013

The District Governor application period is now open for Rotarians in District 6920 who meet the requirements and would like to be considered for selection as District Governor for the Rotary year beginning July 1, 2015. Applicants need to complete the RI application for DG available on our District web site www.Rotary6920.org, have their club add its endorsement and mail the completed form to PDG Bill Kemp, 731 Summerfield Abbey Court, Augusta, GA 30907, prior to January 12, 2013 to be considered.

Interviews will be conducted on January 26, 2013. PDG Kemp is available at 706-860-9251 or bill_kemp@comcast.net to answer questions.

For more D6920 news, visit our website at www.rotary6920.org and check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rotary6920