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Newsletter

GARY SMITH, DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Ring in Another New Year

Ring in another New Year, closing and cleaning out the old. Where did I put that list for 2013? Did I get it all done? Did I do all that I was supposed to do? Where is that new list for 2014? Oh, there it is and WOW, look what it has on it already!

- * Un-decorate
- * Purge
- * File 2013 stuff
- * Start getting income tax stuff ready
- * Cut down the dead Dogwood (left over from last year)
- * Wash the porch (also left over)
- * Balance checkbook
- * Pay January bills
- * And so on

Any of it sound familiar? Sure it does!

The coming of a new year allows us opportunities. It affords us the opportunity to find and discover new opportunities, allows us to take an assessment, to chart a new course, to stand fast on our journey, to meet new people (some will become life-long friends; others a memorable acquaintance), to take on a new project, to remember those things and those people that were a part of our lives, to reminisce.

And so it is with Rotary, the new calendar year is dead center with the Rotary year. What a great opportunity for assessment. What a great opportunity for re-commitment to the ideals of Service. What an opportunity to volunteer for a club task or answer yes to a request.

Sue and I find ourselves at the halfway point of our journey with you. And what a wonderful journey it has been! So many people doing so many great things through so many clubs in so many communities in our district and in our world for so many people. And once again the magnificence is that many of the acts of kindness and unselfish generosity are performed for people that we do not know nor will ever meet. We have vivid memories of International Assembly in San Diego last January and are excited for DGE Ted and Charolette Thompson as they prepare for their trip and for DGN John and Carolyn Neely as they continue to make ready for their service. Such good friends.

Doing Good in the World.

Service Above Self.

Love One Another!

Happy New Year is not just an easy cliché saying. Sue and I truly wish for each of you the very best in 2014! Such good friends all.

Goodbye Polio.

Gary and Sue

January 2014

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Meet Your 2013 - 2014

District Leadership Team

Go to: [http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District_Team.php)

[14%20District_Team.php](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District_Team.php)

Meet Your 2013 - 2014

District Committee Chairs

Go to: [http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District%20Chairs.php)

[14%20District%20Chairs.php](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District%20Chairs.php)

What Needs to Be Done Now?

Your new TO DO list should include:

- * Register for PETS (if you are a President Elect)
- * Register for District Conference (Come One, Come All!)
- * Purchase or sell my raffle tickets

Things to remember:

- * 1:1 Matching points are available for contributions to PolioPlus up to \$500
- * Semi-annual dues statements
 - * Rotary International dues and District dues have been sent and are now due
- * Internal Revenue reports for non-profits need to be filed

District membership at +1 for first 6 months. Something to build on. We can do this!!!

New Procedures for Reinstatement of Tax-Exempt Status Introduced

by Alistair M. Nevius, J.D.

Article compliments of District Director Frank Seaton, Rotary Club of Dublin

Tax-exempt organizations that have had their tax-exempt status automatically revoked because they failed to file required annual returns for three consecutive years have new procedures for getting their exempt status reinstated, under guidance issued by the IRS on Thursday (Rev. Proc. 2014-11). Earlier guidance providing methods for reinstating exempt status (Notice 2011-44) is modified and superseded.

Organizations that are exempt from tax under Sec. 501(a) and private foundations under Sec. 4947(a)(1) are required to file an annual return with the IRS or, if their annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less, an annual notice (Form 990-N, e-Postcard). Any organization that fails to file the required annual return or notice for three consecutive years has its tax-exempt status automatically revoked under Sec. 6033(j)(1) and must reapply to the IRS to have its exempt status reinstated.

The new procedures include a streamlined retroactive reinstatement process for organizations that were eligible to file either form Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from From Income Tax, or Form 990-N during the years they failed to file. There are also different retroactive reinstatement processes for organizations to use within 15 months of the revocation of their exempt status and beyond 15 months. And finally, the IRS is also introducing a “post-mark date” process, under which, if an organization does not seek retroactive reinstatement, it can instead apply for reinstatement from the postmark date of its application.

Under the streamlined procedure, the organization will have to attest that its failure to file was not intentional and that it has put procedures in place to file in the future. Organizations that are not eligible for the streamlined procedure and are applying for reinstatement within 15 months of revocation will have to provide facts that support their claim that the organization had reasonable cause for failure to file for at least one of the three consecutive years it failed to file.

Organizations that are applying for reinstatement 15 months or more after revocation will have to provide facts that support the claim that the organization had reasonable cause for failure to file for all three of the consecutive years it failed to file.

Organizations will be required to file annual returns for the years they did not file (except if they were required to file Form 990-N), and, if their application for reinstatement is approved, the IRS will waive failure-to-file penalties for those years.

Effective date and effect on prior applications

The new procedures are effective for applications filed after Jan. 2, 2014, but the IRS says it will also apply the new rules to pending applications, if that will benefit the organization. Organizations that previously had their tax-exempt status reinstated effective from the date of their application, but that would have been eligible for retroactive reinstatement under the new streamlined procedure, will be reinstated effective from their revocation date. Organizations that previously had their tax-exempt status reinstated effective from the date of their application and that would have been eligible for retroactive reinstatement under the other two new procedures may reapply for retroactive reinstatement.

—Alistair M. Nevius (anevius@aicpa.org) is the JofA's editor-in-chief, tax.

Make ROTARY HAS HEART Centerpiece for Membership Growth

by Rotary Coordinators Paula Matthews and Marcy Ullom

A key reason people are drawn to membership in Rotary is the promise of working on meaningful service projects. Clubs with multiple projects offer more opportunities for involvement at all levels, making members feel they are contributing to an important effort and making a difference in their community.

Your club has one of these opportunities on Valentine's Day, 2014 by engaging members to feed hungry children in your community through our Zones 33-34 Project called Rotary Has Heart.

Many clubs already have such projects—Backpack Buddies, donations to a local food bank, or perhaps volunteering at a local shelter or feeding program. We hope you will schedule at least one of these projects or develop a new one for Valentine's Day 2014. Your club will demonstrate again to the community and prospective members that you do have heart.

Use this event to engage new members. Working together to deliver an experience that will keep members active, engaged and happy with their decision to join Rotary will help them understand the value of Rotary. Rotarians want to work on relevant projects. Without such opportunities, they will quickly lose interest in your club. Giving new members an active role in your club makes them realize an immediate connection. So why not start now?

Identify new members and potential members interested in fellowship and service in your community and involve them in this project. This is a win/win for all concerned.

Let the media in your community know about your good work; don't forget the importance of public image. Increase your appeal to prospective members through this service project. Rotary International has seen a noticeable increase in prospective members from communities where there has been a major public relations campaign and service project.

Rotarians join and stay with their clubs primarily because they seek opportunities for community service, fellowship, and friendship. Think of the many non-Rotarians you know are looking for the same things. Invite them to help with this service project and see for themselves how Rotary connects leaders to make a positive change.

ROTARY HAS HEART!

Rotary Has Heart is our effort to feed hungry children on Valentine's Day 2014 in Rotary Zones 33-34. All clubs are asked to participate in some way.



DISTRICT RAFFLE

Please commit to the District Fundraiser and sell (or purchase) the tickets. Money needs to be turned in to Raffle Chair and Assistant Governor Helen Harper by March 1. The success of our Meningitis Awareness Project depends on the success of the raffle.

Interested in Participating in a National Immunization Day?

The following is a reprint of an email from Past RI Director Brad Howard announcing a new trip.

Dear District Governor:

The purpose of this correspondence is to announce our trip to India to participate in the February, 2014 polio National Immunization Days (NID). Attached is a document that provides specific information about the trip, including a means of registering for the program.

Please feel free to share this information with the Rotarians and clubs in your District as soon as possible as we have a limited amount of space and expect this trip to be filled within the next week or two.

Since January 2011, there has been only ONE new confirmed case of polio in India. In 2012, India was removed from the list of polio endemic countries. We are getting remarkably close to eradicating polio globally. Therefore, this might be one of the last opportunities we will have to organize a trip to India to participate in polio NID activities. This trip offers you and the Rotarians in your club and District an extraordinary opportunity to have an experience of a life time.

The following summarizes the key trip information:

* Our program will travel to Delhi, India, where we will participate in the polio NID activities and attend the Polio Conclave. This trip also includes travel to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal, and Jaipur to visit the famous Rotary Jaipur Limb factory, and enjoy this extraordinary city.

* Date of Departure: Friday, February 14, 2014

* Date of Return: Tuesday, February 25, 2014

* Per Person Cost, based on double occupancy: \$2,299. This price does not include international, roundtrip airfare or Indian visa fees. However, it does include hotels, transfers, the Polio Conclave and other Rotary events, participation in the NID activities, most meals, sightseeing, English speaking guide and other items as stated in the attached document.

* Air Reservations: Participants are free to secure their own air reservations using their frequent flyer mileage, or individual purchase. Howard Tours will be happy to help you purchase airline tickets, which can be requested on the trip application.

* Visas: All U.S. citizens will need to secure an Indian visa. We will give our members specific information about how to secure the visa when we send the confirmation documents. It is important that our tour do not attempt to secure the Indian visa before receiving our information.

* Travel Vaccines: We recommend that all participants visit the Centers for Disease Control Web site: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/india.htm> to determine what vaccinations may be needed for this trip. We suggest that members visit this web site, print out the material and visit a doctor, or travel doctor, to determine what vaccinations or treatments may be needed for this trip.

This group will be limited to approximately 35 people, and confirmation in the program will be on a first come, first served basis. To join us, please complete and sign the application on page five of the attached document. Please make sure to include the requested credit card authorization for the cost of the program. Over the last two years, this program sold out in less than two weeks.. We expect the same response this year. If you are planning to join us, we suggest immediate action.

We look forward to having you or Rotarians from your District join us.

Best regards for a happy new year.

Bradford R. Howard, Rotary International Director, Zones 25-26, 2015-2017, Governor, District 5170, 2002-2003, 516

Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610, Phone: (510) 834-2260/FAX: (510) 834-1019/E-mail: Bhoward@HowardTours.net



Perry Club is Inspired by Guest Speaker



The Perry Rotary Club held their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday December 10, 2013. This year's event was a little different, whereby we wanted to be more knowledgeable about polio, and raise money through a silent auction to support "End Polio Now". We had an outstanding presentation by David Jones. David contracted polio in 1952 at the age of 6 years old and he shared his many accomplishments living a life with polio with us. After hearing David's story, we all know why we need to "End Polio Now". He has traveled throughout the world sharing his story and telling why we need to "End Polio Now"! His personal story was most inspirational. In addition to learning a great deal about living with polio, we were able to raise over \$1640 for "End Polio Now". It was a great evening for Rotary and each of the Rotarians in attendance.

Savannah Sunrise Club Concludes Another Successful "Trick or Trot"

Approximately 200 avid runners and weekend athletes turned out for the 16th Annual Trick or Trot, raising approximately \$9,000 to benefit local area non-profits in Savannah, Georgia. The race, a 5 and 10 mile run, was held on Saturday, October 26 at May Howard Elementary School.

This event benefits Midtown Community Center, West Broad Street YMCA, Savannah Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Shelter, Wesley Community Centers, May Howard PTA, Georgia Rotary Scholarship Program (GRSP) and other local non-profit organizations.

Overall winners for the 2013 race were: Joanna Wood of Pooler (40:57) for the 10K Women's Division; David Howard of Savannah (38:22) for the 10K Men's Division; Jen Daniels of Savannah (20:06) for the 5K Women's Division; and Alexander Humes of Savannah (20:06) for the 5K Men's Division.

The Savannah Sunrise Rotary Club sincerely thanks participants, volunteers and sponsors for their support and generosity. The 16th Annual Trick or Trot was generously sponsored by Arizona Chemical, Fleet Feet Sports, Deemer Dana & Froehle, Elkins Constructors, Thomas & Hutton, Pace Electric, International Paper, Burgess Law Group, Sterne-Agee, Hancock-Askew CPAs, Savannah Pain Management, Eastern Excavating, Chatham Area Transit, 1790 Inns, Skinner, Barndollar & Lane, United Community Bank, Certus Bank, Cogdell & Mendrala Architects PC, Jackson Printing, Don & Barbara Cogdell, PakMail Savannah, AlphaGraphics, Atlantic Records Management, Colonial Life & Accident Insurance,

Garden on the Square, Paper Clip Office Supply, Office Services, Summer Breeze Senior Living, Mason, Inc., Rafe Semmes, Floyd and Jenifer Whittington, SunTrust Bank and National Office Systems.



Valdosta North Club Has Much to Share

Valdosta North Rotary Celebrates Excellence in Education

Valdosta North Rotary hosted the first inaugural Teacher of the Year Banquet to honor and support public school educators in the Lowndes County and Valdosta City School Systems. Valdosta North Rotary Club member Eric Johnson had the vision for this idea that educators should be celebrated and recognized for the dedication of teaching the kids of our community. Themed "Celebrating Excellence in Education", teachers of the year from each county and city school as well as the system wide teacher of the year were honored. The banquet welcomed Ron Clark, the most sought after influential educator and speaker in education. Valdosta North Rotary also raised \$22,000 to give to the school systems from support of the local community. Respectively, each school teacher of the year was awarded \$1,000 to use as he or she desired for education purposes. The Teacher of the Year Banquet was a great success and Valdosta North Rotary is looking forward to continuing the celebration of educators at next years banquet.



Valdosta North Rotary is Building for Humanity

Valdosta North Rotary supports Habitat for Humanity by teaming up and volunteering for multiple habitat build projects. Each project requires experience or learned skills in the type of work that is needed for the building process of the house to move forward on schedule. Whether painting or putting on siding, we have a great team of member volunteers that work to get the job done. Behind each habitat build holds a unique story for the family that will soon have a place to call home and Valdosta North Rotary is thankful for the opportunity to serve with Habitat for Humanity to provide a home for families in our community.



Valdosta North Supports State Legislative Luncheon

Travis Pate, President of Valdosta North Rotary introduced U.S. Representative Austin Scott at a State Legislative Luncheon where members of Rotary, Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce and business leaders attended. Representative Scott provided insight on current and future decisions that will impact the economy regarding healthcare, education, employment and national security to name a few. Representative Scott also shared his goals in his role as a U.S. Representative. Valdosta North Rotary will utilize this important information to prepare for changes locally, nationally and internationally that will allow us to better serve others above ourselves.

14 to Watch in 2014

The Rotary Club of Centerville was asked to nominate an individual who is doing good work in Houston County and whose leadership can be seen throughout the community. The club nominated Melissa Phagan, their club secretary. This reprinted article, published in The Telegraph on January 5, 2014 and written by Angela Woolen, explains why she was selected as one of the 14 to Watch in 2014.

Managing 175 volunteers isn't an easy task, but to Melissa Phagan, it is all in a day's work.

As director of administrative and volunteer services for Houston Healthcare and executive administrative assistant to CEO Cary Martin, Phagan gets a rare glimpse of life from a volunteer's perspective as well as the business and executive side of the organization.

"Working in these two roles I get the best of both worlds," she said.

Her world, and husband, Marc's, has gotten busier with the birth of twin sons, Brock and Bryce, on Dec. 4. She will return to work mid-February.

Phagan, who has been with Houston Healthcare since 2003, is proud of her accomplishments at the hospital, especially with the volunteers.



*Photo by Woody Marshall,
The Telegraph*

"We have really grown in the past five years," she said.

Volunteers work in a variety of roles at both Houston Medical Center and Perry Hospital from working the information desk to delivering mail to patients rooms. They also hold fundraisers to benefit patient care at the hospital.

Martin is quick to point out how valuable Phagan is to Houston Healthcare, not only to himself but to those she manages.

"She's a difference maker," Martin said. "People that know her instantly realize how genuine of a person she is."

Phagan has been instrumental in organizing the health care system's annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony as well as updating the volunteer records in a digital database.

She was selected as the Centerville Rotary Club's Rotarian of the Year for 2013 and serves on the board of directors for the Volunteer Medical Clinic.

Vidalia Rotarian Honored for Years of Service



The Vidalia Rotary Club honored Sam Polk for his 38 years of service during a special award last month. Polk has had 33 years of perfect attendance. He is now an honorary member of the Vidalia Rotary Club, Chapter 4221.

January is Rotary Awareness Month

This is a time to promote the importance of Rotary information to club members and awareness of Rotary in the community.

District Represented at RI Event in West Africa

Togo, West Africa: Sandra Kate & John Ellington recently traveled to the country of Togo to participate in the West Africa Project Fair in Lome' and hands-on Polio Vaccination effort in the village of Badja. Approximately 250 children under the age of 5 received vaccinations. In addition, the Ellington's traveled with a Rotary International representative to the village of Davie' to view a school building project approved as a joint effort between a Canadian Rotary Club and Rotary International. During their stay they also participating in a building project with 38 other Rotarians from the United States and Canada. If your club is seeking an International humanitarian project, they have contact information for Rotarian Clubs in the West Africa. Sandra Kate Ellington is the 2013-2104 Club President for the Vidalia Rotary Club and John is an honorary member and former Club President of the Vidalia Rotary Club.



DAR Recognizes Jack Steed, Centerville Rotarian

Centerville Rotarian Jack Steed was recently recognized with an award by the Daughters of the American Revolution Sukey Hart Chapter of Warner Robins. Below is an excerpt of an article that appeared in the Houston Home Journal in Perry.

The Daughters of the American Revolution Sukey Hart Chapter of Warner Robins acknowledged two Houston County citizens on Dec. 14 at Houston Lake Country Club for their service and dedication in the community.

Honored were Jack Steed with the DAR Community Service Award and Micah Crews with the Historic Preservation Recognition Award for his leadership and dedication in helping conduct a mass cleanup of the Fredrick Cemetery in Warner Robins.

Steed, whose roots with the DAR date back to 1930s, said that being recognized by the DAR organization, is meaningful to him.

"It means a lot to me because I have always admired the Daughters of the American Revolution and the work that they do," Steed said. "It's one (award) I am really appreciative of and it's a great organization. (Saturday's event) was really nice, professionally done and I admired the recitations they had done."

Kathy Hart, chairman of the Community Service Committee, Sukey Hart Chapter, National Society Daughters of the Americans Revolution (NSDAR), presented Steed with his award saying Steed is deserving.

"Jack is an extremely patriotic and caring individual," Hart said. "He has been recognized by many groups and I am proud to present Jack with the coveted NSDAR Community Service Award."

Over his lifetime, Steed has been involved heavily with the military, first enlisting in U.S. Air Force in 1949 and serving as a Air Traffic Controller, Personnel Superintendent and as a First Sergeant. In total, Steed gave 33 years of service. He has also been a part of the Rotary Club of Centerville, and currently remains active with the National Air Force Association, where he currently serves as a National Director, Emeritus.