

District 5610 Gearing Up

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District Leaders

**DG Roger Kozak
Vermillion, SD**

**DGE Bert Olson
Sioux Falls, SD**

**DGN Pat Sutliff
Rapid City, SD**

**District Treasurer
George Twitero
Rapid City, SD**

**Executive Director
Susan Hughes
Rapid City, SD**



www.rotary5610.org

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The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands

Dear 5610 Rotarians:

And so it begins . . .

I am honored and humbled and absolutely thrilled to serve as your 2009-2010 Rotary District Governor. With a dedicated, knowledgeable District team and 41 club presidents, I can assure you we have a leadership team in place that will guide us well during this year.

The theme this year for Rotary is: *The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands*. RI President John Kenny has stated "With over a century of successful Rotary service, we are proud to be confident of a future in which generation after generation of Rotarians will bring hope to those in need and peace to a world full of conflict. We see ourselves as part of a great Rotary tradition, as links in a chain joining our future to our past."

With input from Rotarians worldwide, Rotary International has developed a strategic plan with seven priorities that set the course for a strong future.

Eradicating polio is the first and main priority. Through our fundraising challenge, we can help to provide the resources to finish this crucial job and keep our promise to the world.

Advancing the public image of Rotary will help us attract new members.

Increasing our capacity to provide service speaks to the heart of Rotary's Mission.

Every Rotarian can contribute to reaching this goal by volunteering a little more time, talent, and enthusiasm to all four Avenues of Service.

Expanding membership is a key priority because everything we hope to accomplish depends on our membership. We all have a responsibility to invite others to join our clubs. **Emphasizing Rotary's unique vocational service commitment** will enable us to distinguish Rotary from other service and humanitarian organizations.

By demonstrating our strong commitment to high ethical standards, we can provide a model for all others to follow.

Optimizing leadership talents is essential to Rotary's future. Each of us should take a leadership role, whether it be chairing a club committee or service project or serving at the district or international level. All Rotarians are leaders in their businesses and professions; let us be leaders in Rotary as well.

Fully implementing the strategic planning process to ensure continuity will allow Rotary to make a smooth transition during the annual change in leadership at the club, district, and international levels.

President Kenny has said "Although this strategic plan was approved by the RI Board, its implementation depends on you. The RI president cannot invite members to join *your* club. The RI Board cannot organize and promote a fundraiser in *your* community to support polio eradication. Nor

can any senior leader demonstrate Rotary's code of ethics in *your* workplace. *The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands*." President Kenny concluded by saying "If you believe in Rotary and its immense power to make a difference in the world, it is time to stand up and commit to doing the best job you can – with all of your mind, your heart, and your soul. *The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands*."

The strategic plan presents a number of significant challenges for our district. Working separately, we will not achieve success. Working together, placing our trust and confidence in each other, we can meet these challenges. I am looking forward to visiting each club and sharing with you my thoughts on how I believe we can meet the challenges as they pertain to District 5610.

As I bring this first letter to a close, I want to thank Past District Governor Vivian Adams for all of her help and assistance as I was going through the various training stages to become your Governor. Time after time Vivian was bombarded with questions from me and each time she patiently provided a response that kept me on the right track. We all thank you, Vivian, for your year of leadership and thank you for keeping District 5610 a strong and viable Rotary District.

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CLUB NEWS

Mobridge



Rotary Concession Stands in Mobridge.



Sioux Falls North/West

The 12th Annual Rotary North/West Golf Scramble at Willow Run Golf Course in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was held May 8, 2009. This tournament is a joint venture between Sioux Falls Rotary North and Rotary West clubs. Funds are raised by entry fees, sponsorships and other donations.



Todd Miller from our club presenting Chuck Bennis from the YMCA a check for \$2500 for camp scholarships.

Each year, \$5,000 of the funds raised from this event are donated to the Sioux Falls YMCA. This money is used to provide scholarships for Leif Ericson Day Camp. Rotary North and West appreciate the impact that Leif Ericson Day Camp has on our youth. Bruce Card, event organizer, said, "We are pleased to provide our support so that kids that otherwise would not be able to attend can take part in such a fulfilling activity."



The other is a group of Rotary North Members- we had our regular Rotary meeting offsite at the YMCA a couple of weeks ago.

Yankton

The Yankton Rotary Club scholarship committee has announced the names of the 2009 Rotary Club Scholarships. Four Yankton High School seniors will receive \$1,000 to assist in the cost of their baccalaureate education during the 2009 – 2010 school year. They are Gabrielle Kachena, Anne Kinsley, Reanna Schultz and Alissa VanMeeteren. The scholarship selection committee reviewed applications from a large and outstanding list of students. The chosen award winners distinguished themselves by their academic accomplishments and their school, church and civic activities.

Rotary also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship in the area of Technical Training. This year the scholarship is being given to Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) in Yankton to retrain local unemployed workers.

In addition, Rotary annually presents a \$1,000 scholarship to Mount Marty College who names an area student to receive the award. The 2008 recipient was Sarah Maly, Yankton, who is an honors nursing student.

The Yankton Rotary Club is the oldest service club in Yankton, having been chartered on November 22, 1921. The club follows the Rotary International motto of "Service Above Self" by raising funds for this scholarship program, partnering with the Yankton Medical Clinic to give every second grader in Yankton a free bicycle helmet, serving at the Yankton Banquet and supporting several youth activities.



From left to right: Reanna Schultz, Alissa VanMeeteren, Gabrielle Kachena and Anne Kinsley.

District PR Project

The District 5610 Public Relations Committee is working on a new project and would like feedback from each of the forty-one individual clubs. Midcontinent Communication is going to be putting together some regionalized commercials for the district and we would like to feature as many local projects as we have room to include. At this time, we need to know what one or two projects your club would like to have considered for this production. Examples would be Storybook Island in Rapid City, The Miracle Field in Sioux Falls, The Winner Swimming Pool Project or The Wagner Lake Shelter House. If your project is selected, in a few weeks we will need pictures or video. By July 10th, please send the name of your club, your contact information and your local project to:

mwhetham@countrypridecoop.com. The grant committee will review all suggestions and will contact the clubs whose project was selected.

Lemars

The Le Mars Rotary Club is working to submit an international grant to TRF early July. The project would involve providing water to 1,000 Hondurans through Water for Life Honduras IV. The project includes five villages, with one project to be completed by high school students from Le Mars and the surrounding area in April. If approved, seven Rotary clubs will be involved in funding the project, six of them being from District 5610,; the other our Honduran partners from Tegucigalpa Club Rotario. The cost of the project includes a district 5610 \$10,000 match and \$15,000 from TRF is approved. More details once the grant has been submitted. With the tough economic conditions facing the county, I hope TRF can assist in this project. People continue to suffer whether conditions are good or poor.

Sioux Falls Downtown

By Mike Costanzo

The Sioux Falls Downtown Rotary Club acquired and awarded Rotary's highest honor, a Paul Harris Fellowship to several distinguished members of its community.

Ron Griebel

An associate at Architect Inc. and the father who decided that a Miracle Field project was going to happen in Sioux Falls.

Samantha Griebel

The daughter of Ron Griebel and the little lady who saw kids in wheelchairs like herself playing ball on a Miracle Field in Rochester, MN and inspired her dad begin a quest to build one in Sioux Falls.

Tom Gage

The past president of SF Downtown Rotary who offered the direction, leadership and when needed "kick it in the pants determination" to accomplish all of our Club's goals for the Miracle Field.



Anita Kealey

Anita is a long time Rotarian who has volunteered her considerable talents for the past nine years as the organizer of our Downtown Rotary events. She has agreed to an unprecedented tenth year of selfless commitment to our event planning. Phil agreed to produce a tutorial for Program Hosts. Our Club as well as other in District 5610 will once again be invited to attend his informative educational luncheon to help members of District 5610 find, approach and secure speakers for their speaker program at their Clubs.

Matt Gasson

As the director of the Food Pantry Matt developed, co-ordinated and implemented the single most effective food program for Sioux Falls school children. Matt's compelling Backpack project was the recipient of the Downtown Rotary's largest financial contribution in 2009.

Larry Ritz

Larry is our Downtown Rotary Clubs most senior member. He is also one of our most active. At his urging Veteran's Park in Sioux Falls became a reality. He has been a champion for the South Dakota Hall of Fame guiding it to its highest level of awareness recording its largest attendance ever last year. This old dog has more than a few new tricks he can teach us.

Billee Robinson

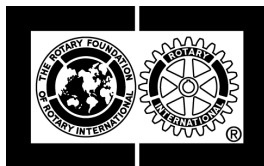
Mother of member Duff Robinson, wife of former Downtown Rotary president William (Bud) Robinson (1974-75) and daughter of Lee Girton president of Downtown Rotary (1941-42) who also was our District Governor (1944-45). Billee traveled the globe with her husband representing Rotary everywhere she went. She has 25 flags from Rotary Clubs in that many countries. She is a complement to the Rotary culture and her past service is fondly remembered.

Lois Boyce

She is the widow of the late Frank Boyce a long-time Rotarian. Because of her generosity work on the Frank L. Boyce Miracle Field for disabled youth began. Her vision started a legacy not only to her husband but also Rotary Clubs. Standing proudly on a column to the field stands the Rotary logo and dedication plaque to Club donors.

Mary Husby

She is the mother, wife and matron of a true Rotary household. All the necessary Rotary work that members sometimes see and always receive the benefit from has Mary's fingerprints on it. Their son, Dave also a Downtown Rotarian along with their two daughters Deede and Deb have a hand in our Rotary affairs. If we checked even some of Lois seven grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren had a hand in folding or stapling some Rotary materials.



There are over 30,000 Rotary Clubs and more than 1 million Rotary members. Wherever a Paul Harris Fellow might travel they will not be alone. For there will be a Rotary Club near and therefore also friends near at hand.

Information Resources

2009-10 Club Presidents and Secretaries

Are you aware that Club and District Support (CDS) staff serve as your primary contact at Rotary?

Staff can answer any question about Rotary as well as provide advice on club elections, constitutional matters, club traditions and customs, club operations, and RI Board policy. Below are some important web resources to assist in leading and supporting your club in the year ahead.

Learn the names and contact information of your CDS team members by using this web link: www.rotary.org/ClubDistrictReps

Review a list of resources for club presidents and secretaries:
www.rotary.org/pressecresources

Make changes to your club's membership records at RI, reference various Rotary Foundation reports, print your club's SAR, pay your club's dues, and report next year's club officers using Member Access. Full instructions, helpful suggestions and frequently asked questions (FAQ) are found at: www.Rotary.org/ElearningCenter

Find helpful club publications, audiovisuals, forms and supplies: www.Rotary.org/ShopClubPublications

Use the Club Presidents' Checklist, a monthly calendar for both presidents and presidents-elect, with reminders of club and district functions, as well as RI and Rotary Foundation deadlines: www.rotary.org/clubpreschecklist

Consider adopting the Club Leadership Plan - a strategic planning tool based on the best practices of actual Rotary clubs: www.Rotary.org/ClubLeaderPlan

Rotary staff looks forward to working with you and supporting your club's service efforts. Be sure to contact your CDS representative whenever you need assistance.

FOR DISTRICT 5610:

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**Start your planning now!
International Convention
is in Montreal in 2010.**



POLIO PLUS

Please remember that Polio Plus is Rotary's biggest goal. Since Rotary and our partners effort to eradicate polio the number of new cases of paralysis has shrunk to the total for a year being equal to the previous total for a day. However there is now a reemergence with polio crossing several countries in Africa. These number of cases are traced to Nigeria where in 2003 rumors backed by political leaders, circulated that the vaccine could cause sterility and AIDS in young girls. WE NEED EVERY CUB TO STEP UP AND GIVE THE SMALL AMOUNT THAT DISTRICT 5610 REQUIRES FOR POLIO PLUS WHICH IS NOW \$40 PER MEMBER PER YEAR. Encourage parents to keep vaccinations up in their children. Polio is only a plane ride away from the United States.



Rotary District 5610 seeks GSE Candidates to District 2820, Japan

District 5610 is seeking candidates for a Rotarian team leader and four non-Rotarian team members ages 25-40 for the outbound Group Study Exchange to District 2820 in Japan.

The GSE program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals who are in the early stages of their careers. The team will experience the host country's culture and institutions, observe how their vocations are practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships and exchange ideas.

The exchange to District 9790 is scheduled from March 20 to April 18, 2010.

Team leader candidates must be experienced Rotarians, who are willing to lead the team and act as a liaison between team members and the host clubs. Also, the leader must possess a willingness to play an active role in the team's preparations and orientation prior to departure, ensuring that team members are well informed, motivated, and cohesive. Applications for team leader will be accepted from September 1 to October 1, 2009, with interviews tentatively scheduled for October 10, 2009. Along with the application, please submit a written statement responding to the following:

1. What makes you interested in leading a GSE trip to another country?
2. How would you describe your team-building style?
3. Tell about a time when you set out to build good will and better friendships with a person who was different from you in some way.

Choose two words to describe yourself and explain why you chose those words.

Team member candidates must be endorsed by a local Rotary club and cannot be spouses or lineal descendants of current Rotarians. Candidates shall be professional or business people who have been at their current employment for at least two years and who are 25-40 years old. Employers must give permission for the candidate to participate before the application is submitted. Candidates must be enthusiastic about experiencing and learning about another culture. Team member applications will be accepted from September 15 through October 15, 2009, and interviews are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 24 or 31, 2009.

Information on the GSE program is available at www.rotary.org. Find the application forms by going to Service and Fellowship>Fellowship>Group Study Exchange from the Rotary homepage and reviewing the left sidebar. Send completed team leader and team member applications by the designated dates to Kate Campbell at kcampbell@sio.midco.net.

Check www.5610tobrazil.com and www.5610toaustralia.com for blogs of previous GSE exchanges from District 5610. If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact GSE Co –Chairs Bert Olson at fbolson@fnbsf.com or Kate Campbell at kcampbell@sio.midco.net.

Are
you
going
to
miss
the
fun?

2009 DISTRICT CONFERENCE



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Thursday, August 27, 2009

2:00 p.m. Governor's Council Meeting
Conf Room 211/211A
6:00 p.m. Governor's Dinner
Valiant Vineyards

Friday, August 28, 2009

8:00 a.m. Golf (Mini Shotgun Start)
The Bluffs Golf Course
8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
Conf Room 211/211A
9:00 a.m. District Leadership Council
Conf Room 211/211A
10:00 a.m. Registration
East Lounge 227
11:30 a.m. Lunch
Ballroom 225A
1:30 p.m. First Plenary Session
Ballroom 225C
3:45 p.m. Second Plenary Session
Ballroom 225C
6:30 p.m. Lawn Party
USD President's Home
415 East Main
Entertainment (String Quartet)
9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Opens
Holiday Inn Express

Special Guest



Tom Thorfinnson
Bio on Page 8

Build New
Friendships

Saturday, August 29, 2009

78:45 a.m. Third Plenary Session
Ballroom 225C
11:30 a.m. Lunch Ballroom 225A
Bill Pettus, The Relevance of Rotary

Saturday (continued)

1:30 p.m. Fourth Plenary Session
Ballroom 225C
4:15 p.m. Business Meeting Ballroom 225C
(Voting Delegates required to attend)
5:30 p.m. Social, National Music Museum
6:30 p.m. District Banquet Ballroom 225A
Entertainment by USD Rawlins Trio
Keynote address, RI Director
Tom Thorfinnson
9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Opens
Holiday Inn Express

Sunday, August 30, 2009

8:30 a.m. Rotarian Remembrance,
Ed Nesselhuf
Ballroom 225C
9:00 a.m. Fifth Plenary Session
Ballroom 225C
9:30 a.m. Retiring of the Colors, USD ROTC
10:00 a.m. Adjourn Conference

*Please note: This conference schedule
is subject to change.*

Registration
Registration

Go to
www.rotary5610.org

More Program Details

Go to www.rotary5610.org
Click on Program

Tom Thorfinnson Bo

Tom hails from Eden Prairie Minnesota and is a graduate of St. Olaf College and Marquette Law School. For 29 years Tom was engaged in the private practice of corporate law. Recently he accepted a fulltime position as General Counsel for the Accra Group of Companies, a \$35 million dollar a year non-profit that provides health care services to those in need.

Tom has been a Rotarian since 1980 serving as club President in 1992-93, Rotary District Governor in 1996-97 and will be on the Board of Directors for Rotary International 2009-11. At the RI level he is an Area Coordinator for the Reach Out to Africa Ad-Hoc Committee and a member of the Steering Committee for the Rotary/USAID Global Developmental Alliance.

Having made eight trips to Haiti, Tom is passionate about helping those in need. He has led the charge in fundraising efforts among Rotarians in the upper Midwest. Through his leadership and the help of many others, Rotarians have contributed over \$1,000,000 to help provide safe water to those in need in Haiti.

Tom and his wife Jamie have two daughters, Alexis and Ashley. Alexis, a Purdue graduate, is employed with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and Ashley a recent Dartmouth graduate is a full time graduate student studying industrial design at Pratt Institute in NYC.

Tom is a Paul Harris Society member, a Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation and a level 4 bequest society member. He is a recipient of the Citation for Meritorious Service to the Rotary Foundation and Rotary International's Service Above Self Award.

It is traditional in Rotary that each Rotary International president is given the opportunity every month to write a message to all Rotarians in the pages of this magazine. I am grateful for this tradition, which gives me the opportunity to communicate with every one of you directly, for it is my firm belief that *The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands*.

It is a great honor to have been chosen as the first RI president from Scotland in the 104 years of this organization, and to have the privilege of serving the Rotarians of the world. Because there is no RI – no Board of Directors or president, no world headquarters or Rotary convention – without the ordinary weekly meeting of Rotarians in our own home clubs.

In Rotary, everything we are, and everything we aspire to become, lies in the hands of Rotarians in their clubs. If our clubs are congenial and our meetings well run, if our service is carefully planned and competently carried out, if our members are qualified, honest, and respected in their vocations and communities, then all of Rotary will thrive. This is why I say *The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands*.

Water, health and hunger, and literacy will be our emphases in the year ahead. In this Rotary year, I ask Rotarians everywhere to continue to learn from our experiences and to build upon our successes. I ask you all to continue to work for the health and well-being of not only children but their families and people everywhere. I ask you particularly to focus on water and sanitation, as the scarcity of clean water is an increasingly serious issue in many parts of the world.

In Scotland, we have a saying that I'm fond of quoting: "We must look beyond our own parish pump." It means that we must look beyond our own home and our own community. We must be aware that ours is only one community, of one country, of the many communities and countries in this world.

In every one of those communities, there is work to be done. As Rotarians, we will not stand idly by. As Rotarians, we will accept our responsibility. We can, and we must. For we know that Rotary is only as great as its clubs – and our clubs are only as great as the members within them.

The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands.

John Kenny
President, Rotary International



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Finally, I want to encourage all of you to consider joining us at the District Conference August 28-30 at the Muenster University Center in Vermillion, South Dakota. The conference committee has planned an exciting weekend filled with fun, fellowship, and Rotary. It will be an opportunity for you to hear from Rotary International officers, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars, District project coordinators, and others. I promise you that at the end of the conference you will probably say "wow" I did not know so many professionals belonged to Rotary, "wow" I did not know those young people were so involved, and "wow" those trips to Australia and our visitors from Japan bring so much to Rotary. It is your conference, be a part of it. Go to www.rotary.org and click on the registration button to register or click on Program to view the "Program at a Glance".

I look forward to serving as your Governor this year and hope to see each of you at the District Conference in Vermillion this August.

Roger L. Kozak, DG