

District 5610 Gearing Up

Building Communities ~ Bridging Continents

District Governor's Message

Building Communities- Bridging Continents

Dear Fellow Rotarians:

November is Rotary Foundation Month. As many of you know, I was very fortunate to travel to Japan in 1998 as a Group Study Exchange Team Member. I will be forever thankful to the Foundation and Rotarians who made it possible for me to participate in this program-truly a life changing experience.

My service as District Governor is largely the result of a desire to pay back the wonderful experiences I had as a GSE team member. Cindy and I both contribute \$1,000/year to the Founda-

tion and in total since 1998 we have given \$13,000 to the Foundation-the amount necessary to pay for a Group Study Exchange team. We have also named the Rotary Foundation in our wills to receive a portion of our assets when we pass on.

Why do we do this? There are many other worthy causes to support and we try to support many of them as well.

For me, donations to the Foundation are an opportunity to make a difference in the world in five major areas:

1. Fight hunger
2. Reduce child mortality
3. Promote peace and conflict resolution
4. Provide basic education and

literacy
5. Eradicate polio

These are big goals, but they are helping to achieve peace in the world. Thanks to Past District Governor Roger Wiltz, we have a District Raffle to raise funds for the Rotary Foundation. Marshal Whetham and Melissa Beck are co-chairs for the raffle this year-please consider a contribution of \$100 or more to the Foundation through the raffle or at other times throughout the year.

Together we can make the world a better place now and in the future for our children and grandchildren.

Yours in Rotary,

Bert Olson,
District Governor



DG Bert & Cindy Olson

District Leaders

DG Bert Olson
Sioux Falls, SD

DGE Pat Sutliff
Rapid City, SD

DGN Loren Boyens
Sioux Falls, SD

District Treasurer
George Twitero
Rapid City, SD

Executive Director
Susan Hughes
Rapid City, SD



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November-Foundation Month

There are as many reasons to support The Rotary Foundation as there are ways to do good in the world. By contributing to the Foundation, you help support the Foundation's six areas of focus, which help to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. By giving US\$100 a year through the Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY) initiative, you become a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member. Contributions to EREY are the primary source of funding for Foundation programs.

Here are a few ways your contributions are making change possible.

5. Fighting hunger

In Romania, orphans and sick children have eggs, milk, and meat because of a Foundation grant that benefits local farmers. The farmers are able to buy everything from animal feed to packaging materials. There is one stipulation: They must donate a portion of their products to children's hospitals, schools, and orphanages.

In Alaska, USA, the Rotary Club of Anchorage East is also fighting hunger by distributing food to low-income families through a mobile food pantry.

Projects such as these help address the areas of focus of maternal and child health as well as economic and community development.

4. Reducing child mortality

The Rotary clubs of Jaela-Kandana, Western Province, Sri Lanka, and Madras Northwest, Tamil Nadu, India, are helping to reduce child mortality by providing improved sanitation facilities for 15 families in a small community in Sri Lanka. With a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, the clubs have built 14 toilets, helping to prevent diarrhea and other diseases related to poor sanitation.

According to the World Health Organization, 1.8 million children die of diarrhea every year, making it the second leading cause of death among children under five. Proper sanitation can reduce the rate of child mortality in many communities by up to a third. Water and sanitation is the third area of focus.

3. Promoting peace and conflict resolution

Watching civil war tear apart his homeland of Côte d'Ivoire instilled in Rotary Peace Fellow Kouame Remi Oussou a passion to resolve conflict.

He is now working for the United Nations Development Program in the Central African Republic, a country that weathered periodic internal fighting before a comprehensive peace accord took effect in 2007.

Read more about Oussou .

Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders in promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and conflict resolution. Help support the Rotary Peace Centers . Peace and conflict prevention/resolution is the first area of focus. Read about four Rotary Peace Fellows and their visions for peace.

2. Basic education and literacy

Education helps rebuild lives, whether it's in small rural towns or in war-torn countries. For example, a literacy project sponsored by U.S. Rotarians in conjunction with the International Reading Association (IRA) is helping Sudanese refugees rebuild their communities by equipping them to teach future generations.

The Southern Sudan Teacher Training Initiative provides refugees of the country's decades-long civil war, who are known as the Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan, with teacher training materials, guidance, and support to help them teach students in kindergarten through eighth grade. "People returning from refugee camps to rebuild their lives in Duk County are hungry for books and school supplies," says John Dau, a Lost Boy, humanitarian, and founder of the John Dau Foundation. Read more about the project.

1. Eradicating polio

Around the world, Rotarians are taking millions of steps in walkathons, diving into icy ocean waters, and participating in other fundraisers to help Rotary fulfill its promise to rid the world of polio. Si Burgher, of the Rotary Club of Bloomfield, Indiana, USA, raised almost \$1,600 by having his shaggy eyebrows shaved.

Rotary launched its PolioPlus program in 1985. Since then, eradicating polio has been the organization's top priority. End Polio Now and help fulfill its promise.

Top 10 Reasons To Go to the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans, May 21-25, 2011



Fun for the Family
By Wendy Fransen, District 5610

Our first Rotary International convention family experience began in Glasgow, Scotland and included my husband and two sons, ages 15 and 5. Two years later, we resumed what became an annual Rotary family experience, sometimes including a sister and her husband, our grandson, cousins and our youngest son's friends. From collecting Rotary pins to finding a "kids" booth, banner exchange or an intense chess game in the House of Friendship, opportunities for family fun are everywhere.

Whether your family consists of spouse and children or a spouse/companion or a friend, the special, varied events and convention venues result in life-long memories and sometimes life-long friends – something that happened to our South Dakota family and a Florida Rotarian family - when our children started playing together en route to the convention in Brisbane, Australia. Each subsequent convention includes plans for our families to meet and sometimes includes special excursions.

Many convention activities are appropriate for all ages and some events are planned with families in mind, such as host hospitality events that match Rotarian families with venues that include children of local Rotarians. The New Orleans convention has a Saturday ticketed event entitled "Food, Fun Fellowship & Fins" at the Aquarium of the Americas - what a perfect place to start your family Rotary convention experience.

There are many other activities appropriate for family such as eating world-famous beignets at Café Du Monde, taking a city tour on the St. Charles Avenue Street car, riding a riverboat on the Mississippi River, touring the New Orleans Museum of Art, visiting the Audubon Zoo or listening to music - and don't miss the spectacular entertainment at both opening and closing ceremonies. If you want to show your family how Rotary makes a difference, take a Katrina Recovery Tour - you'll see where the levees broke and where Rotarians helped to rebuild houses and other structures.

A Rotary spouse and first-time convention-goer had this to say about her first convention:

My husband and I had a great time at the 2010 Rotary Convention in Montreal! As a spouse, I had the opportunity to see and hear how Rotary is reaching out globally and making the world a better place to live and helping those in need. The speakers were excellent and seeing so many countries represented at the conference was very inspiring. After attending the conference, I came home, put the pieces together and realized the importance of the local clubs and the individual members. Without the local involvement and individual members, the projects that impact so many and make such positive difference worldwide could never be accomplished. I am proud that my husband is a Rotarian and that I could attend the conference with him.

Remember to register by Wednesday, December 15, to take advantage of special preconvention pricing <http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/Events/Convention/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

Note: Register for host-ticketed events soon as events such as Host Hospitality sell out quickly. For more information on the convention and how to register, see pp. 4-5 of the convention brochure: <http://www.rotarydistrict6980.org/member/files/Rotary2011ConventionBrochure-r.pdf>.

For questions, contact: Tammy McKillip at (605) 321-8158 Mobile, (605) 428-3473, or tnntparis@juno.com.

Onward to the New Orleans Convention

Ambassadorial Scholar

Dear District-Governor Bert,

I bring you greetings from President Ross Hayes and members of the Rotary Club of Lismore West, Lismore, New South Wales, Australia.

Your District sponsored the 2010 – 2011 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, Jane Gullickson, who has been studying Public Health here at the Southern Cross University in Lismore – the first ever Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to study at the Southern Cross University.

Our Club has had the pleasure of hosting Jane during her time here in Lismore.

At our Rotary Meeting this week we had to farewell Jane as she leaves Australia to return home. It was both a happy and sad night, with tears on both sides, as we said goodbye to Jane.

I am writing to say what an outstanding ambassadorial scholar Jane has been. She has certainly epitomised the ideals of Rotary and the Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars Program to be **“outstanding ambassadors of goodwill to the people of the host country”**.

As a former Chairman of our Rotary District Ambassadorial Scholarships Committee for many years, and as Jane's Rotary Counsellor, I regard her as the perfect Ambassadorial Scholar and a credit to her sponsor Rotary Club and her Rotary District.

Jane with her charming, friendly personality and happy disposition has endeared herself to all in our local community who have met her, particularly those she has met through her Guest Speaker visits to Rotary and Probus clubs.

We Lismore West Rotarians and Rotary ladies have been honoured to host Jane and are going to greatly miss her happy, smiling face. She leaves our Club with our love and best wishes for her future success and happiness in life.

Kind regards..Yours sincerely in Rotary Service,

Norm

PP. Norm Robinson

Secretary & Jane's Rotary Counsellor

Rotary Club of Lismore West Rotary District 9640 AUSTRALIA.

Rotaract

The district's first Rotaract club at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) has had a fantastic fall thus far and is staying busy with projects like volunteering at Storybook Island in Rapid City and hosting a kick-off event for the Rotaractors to meet local Rotarians.

The semester started off with Rotaractors participating in the United Way Day of Caring in Rapid City and then with recruiting potential new members at the annual SDSM&T Student Organizational Fair. There are currently 28 students on their email list and they hope to increase their student members, and their service throughout the 2010-11 year.

Also, the Rotaractors have selected *Kids Against Hunger* for their international project. More on this organization can be found at <http://www.kidsagainsthunger.org>.

The SDSM&T Rotaractors are also reaching out to assist the Rotary clubs of Rapid City in starting an Interact group with high school students.

All involved with the Rotaract club at the School of Mines feel its future is very bright and are grateful to the district for all its support on so many levels.

Rotary Leadership Institute

District 5610

District 5610 became a member of the Rocky Mountain Division of the Rotary Leadership Institute late last year and has just now completed the first step which permits us to start the training process for members from all clubs in our district.



The Facilitator Training Session held on October 23rd in Mitchell, SD included 21 Rotarians from all parts of the District. Mr. Greg Podd, a Rotarian from Colorado who has distinguished himself as a leader not only in this region and the United States but also on the international level, spent the day with us and provided this initial training. The individuals attending the training will become the core group of individuals who will now begin the outreach process and will be part of the program to offer three separate training sessions in three different locations in the District. A copy of the planned schedule is part of this newsletter and has been posted to our District web site.

Most of us when we hear the words Rotary Leadership Institute immediately ask "Why do we need a Leadership Institute"? Very briefly, Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary needs a constant influx of leadership because club officers change each year. It is difficult at the club level to learn enough about the exciting world of Rotary. Also, leadership skills in a voluntary organization are often different from business leadership skills. It is important that club leaders have every opportunity for education because the success or failure of our clubs depends in large part on the quality of our leaders.

To help address the leadership challenge, the Leadership Institute offers a leadership development program in three full day sessions spaced out over a period of several months. The courses are designed to provide Rotary knowledge and to develop leadership skills for voluntary organizations. To learn more about the Rotary Leadership Institute, please go to www.rmrl.org and view some of the information items made available for review. We hope that you will step forward and think about becoming a volunteer to participate in this leadership program to better prepare you to lead your club and to perhaps become a leader at the district level as well.



Congratulations

District 5610 Public Relations Committee secured another PR Grant from Rotary International of \$10,000.00. Way to go Dave Madsen, chair of PR Committee and all his committee members.

Club News

Northern Hills

Rapid City Rotary



Members of the Northern Hills Rotary Club and area youth gathered to recognize "Make a Difference Day" on Saturday, Oct. 23. The service organization made up of more than 30 members, has worked for more than a year to spruce up the parcel in Spearfish, located along Nash Street. Rotarians Tom Flickema, left, and Angie Black, right, spread mulch around the base of a tree they planted in the park, along with the assistance of Paxton Klug, one of several youth that joined in on their efforts. Pioneer photo by Heather Murschel

Members of the Northern Hills Rotary Club gathered together at their park in Spearfish as part of "Make a Difference Day" held nationwide on Saturday, Oct. 23. Club members were joined by area youth and together they planted two trees and removed dead branches in order to clean up the banks of Spearfish Creek. The Rotary Park is located along Nash Street. Pictured above are Rotarians Steve Parker, left, and Jerry Hargis, hard at work. Pioneer photo by Heather Murschel



RAPID CITY ROTARY Educate Scrub Camp Participants on the importance of eliminating Polio around the globe



Kicking off October's Vocational Service month Rapid City Rotarians, Dr Willis Sutliff, and Heather Smith spent October 1, 2010 educating high school students attending the West-ern Dakota Tech Scrubs Camp about the role Rotary is playing in eradicating Polio around the world. Approximately 50 senior and junior high school students from around the Black Hills learned about Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.



RFE D5610 to Brazil D4740

Four couples from South Dakota: Dick and Bernie Nolte, Custer; Rick and Gail Gray, Rapid City; Dale and Susan Froehlich, Sioux Falls; and Norm and Linda Peterson, Rapid City; traveled to the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil for a two week adventure in Rotary Friendship Exchange.

Landing in Florianopolis on October 3, 2010 after a day and a half travel, the group explored the beaches, oyster beds, shops and restaurants of this semi-tropical tourism-friendly city of 400,000 for 3 days, leaving Wednesday morning on a tourbus along the beaches called Unipraias.

We arrived in Blumenau just in time for the start of Oktoberfest, the second largest German-style beerfest in the world, on Thursday. Three large arenas are fronted by a variety of shops featuring beer steins, clothing and decorative items in German tradition. The parade began at

7:30 PM and lasted 2 hours, with the crowd following the serpentine bicycles, beer carts and a hilarious variety of parade vehicles. The event lasts for 16 days and hosts over 800,000 people. Three Rotarians, Claudete Balestrin Boneli and her sister, RosAngela, lawyer, and her husband, met us and we toured several museums in the city of 200,000 citizens. We enjoyed the first of six churrascos, a Gaucho-style barbeque of meats brought to the table, served with a variety salads, breads and desserts on buffet. Breakfast buffets consisted of strong coffee with hot milk, fresh fruits and juices, cheeses, cold meats, breads and sweet breads and cakes.

On Friday, our tourbus transferred our team inland through the mountainous area of Santa Catarina, to Curitibaanos, where we met our first Rotarian host families. We toured their businesses and had our second churrasco, served by Rotarians. We presented our team and exchanged club banners. Entertainment was provided by a professional dance master, Marcos, playing Gaucho

accordion music, and we all learned a few dance steps!

The area inland was mostly small farms and diary ranches, hog farms and tree farms, growing a Ponderosa-like evergreen, harvested in 6-11-20 year time segments. The economy is booming, with sugar cane ethanol and oil fueling a positive export balance. The young people of each community were growing small businesses and were a majority membership of Rotary clubs.

The next morning we were immersed in the history of nuclear bombing of Japan at the end of WW II and the action of Kazumi Agawa to bring one of three Japanese Peace Bells to a mountaintop in Brazil. He has built a war memorial to encourage peace in the world.

Lunch was a Japanese/Brazilian buffet and then we were on our way to Joacaba/Herval d'Oeste/Treze Tílias to our Rotarian host families. Claudia and Sirivaldo Barbieri were our hosts in this area. The Tyrolfest in Treze Tílias began with a parade of historic dress, music and culture of the area, predominantly Austrian, German and Italian, in the town of about 5000. We enjoyed the festive atmosphere and met Elisete who also was a team member in GSE 2007.



Monday was a Brazilian holiday celebrating Mother and Child, so we toured the Pioneiros Battery Factory owned by the Barbieri family. We had German buffet lunch at the Tyrol Hotel, and in the afternoon we toured several local parks and entertainment sites.

On Tuesday, a local holiday, Rotarians from several local clubs gathered for a party at Barbieri's cabin in a canyon with a waterfall. We were royally hosted to the third churrasco, and gaucho music. We presented the team and exchanged banners, amongst much music and food and drink.

Wednesday found our team on the road again to Sao Lourenco, to another Rotarian churrasco lunch at Nelson Junior and Luiza Lovera farmhouse outside

the town. The Rotarians were very hospitable, taking three hours out of their day to show off their city, the Rotarian meeting house and the Milita Bakery owned by Junior. We continued on to Iguasu Falls that evening, having traveled about 300 miles that day. The Curitiba to Joacoba distance was about 100 miles. Total trip across Santa Catarina was about 500 miles.

We checked into the Bourbon Cataratas Resort and relaxed for the evening. The next day we experienced the spectacular Iguasu Falls, which the photos cannot do justice! It is 10 times larger than Niagara Falls, where three rivers meet to flow over 275 cataracts 260 feet high and two miles wide. We treated our hosts to the final churrasco dinner and show at the Rafain Hotel that evening, a fitting end to our tour.

And on Friday we said our goodbyes to Claudia and our hosts and packed to fly back to the U.S. We all feel we have learned so much about Brazil, and enjoyed the adventure tremendously.



Reach Out to Africa

I was a Rotary Scholar at the University of Cape Town in 1961. During my year there, I traveled 16,000 miles through South Africa and the countries now known as Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Namibia. I visited 35 Rotary clubs, met countless Rotarians, and became immersed in the rich culture of Southern Africa.

During my initial visit, I developed a deep appreciation for both the traditions and the challenges of life in Africa, and my respect and admiration for the land and people have caused me to return several times as a Rotarian. Now – almost amazingly – I have a unique opportunity to use my experience as a Rotary Scholar to enhance the role of Rotary in Africa!

This is the fourth year of the Reach Out to Africa (ROTA) initiative, and the ROTA Committee for this year has been streamlined to move more quickly and efficiently to achieve its goals. We need to increase the number of Rotarians in Africa! I also hope to see a substantial increase in international service projects for Africa, particularly those projects with assistance from The Rotary Foundation. The ROTA Committee has an excellent website, and I encourage all Rotarians to review it at www.reachouttoafrika.org.

I have implemented two new activities this year to make it easier for Rotarians to visit Africa and to increase their involvement in international service projects. The first is Ray's Rotary Reunions, to be held in Cape Town 3-5 February, and I hope many Rotarians will join me in the Fairest Cape for that event. The second, Rotary Project Safaris, will facilitate visits by Rotarians to the areas of the world where poverty is prevalent, and where local Rotarians have developed many beneficial projects that need financial assistance. More information about the reunions and the safaris is available on the RI president's pages at www.rotary.org/president. Please contact elsa.sanabria@rotary.org for any needed assistance.

I am proud to be a product of The Rotary Foundation, and it will be the most significant achievement of my presidency if I can serve as a catalyst to enhance Rotary in Africa! So come join me for the reunions and the safaris. Help me to complete the circle from being a Rotary Foundation Scholar in Africa to helping Rotary in Africa to be Bigger, Better, and Bolder!

RI President Ray Klinginsmith

District 5610 Raffle News



The 2010 District Raffle helped raise over \$100,000 for The Rotary Foundation. These funds will help eradicate polio, fund water projects, educate children and work all kinds of miracles around the world. This was an awesome result but we are planning for even more success this year.

Following the advice of President Ray Klinginsmith, the grand prize for the 2011 raffle is going to be **BIGGER, BETTER & BOLDER**. Some lucky winner will be taking a guest on a 4—5 day **cruise**! Not only will they get to choose from several travel destinations, the package also includes extra cash for transportation expenses to and from their port city of choice. What a deal!!!!

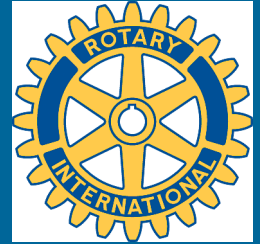
However, for the raffle to be successful, we need participation from across the district. Club presidents and secretaries will soon be receiving an email, asking each club to begin planning for their prize to donate to this annual raffle.

The district is so thankful to all the clubs who have donated prizes in the past because your participation is what makes this raffle a success. We can't wait to see what wonderful goodies you come up with this year.

The raffle tickets will be printed in January, so put on your thinking caps and come up with a prize that will help support these great projects.

Rotary District 5610

Service Above Self



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We're on the Web!

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