



ROTARY DISTRICT 5610 OCTOBER 2006 NEWSLETTER



Issue 4, Volume 1



Roger & Betsy Wiltz

The Governor & 1st Lady Are Still on the Road

Monday, August 28th, found us at Nicky's in Madison. This club is as busy with local projects as any in our district. A project that appears to be unique is their support of the East Dakota Transit bus that takes people to church! The Madison club has indicated that they will endeavor to reach the governor's Foundation goals as well as send some folks to the district conference. Betsy and I were warmly received, and President Tim Campbell is doing an outstanding job.

We rolled into Brookings on Tuesday the 29th and headed to the Senior Activity Center. This club provides much district leadership including our last two district governors. They also "Lead The Way" with projects including solar ovens and Youth Exchange. They also do a "Career Day" for high school juniors. I could ask no more of any club. Like everywhere we've gone, we were warmly received. During the meeting, PDG Larry presented me with the "Hooper" award.

Watertown was our target on the 31st. They meet at the Ramkota. During the past year, this club has enjoyed a net gain of ten! Unique to this club, they support an Iraqi war orphan whose father was killed. This union was organized by the National Guard. They have put together a member recruitment program that involves a cruise as a prize.

Other clubs might want to check with President Dave Johnson on this. We had a lot of fun visiting this club.

September 7th brought us to Scotland where we convened at the Hideout. The Scotland club participated in the Friendship Exchange with France last summer, and were kind enough to invite Betsy and me to the evening meal. While the membership is only 18, this is a healthy number considering the size of the community. A local project unique to Scotland is supplying milk to school students who cannot afford to buy their own for the afternoon break. This club has made a generous commitment to our Foundation goals.

It was destination Mobridge on 9/11. This 42 member club is very healthy. Much of Mobridge Rotary relates to supporting the school which suffers financially. In mentioning unique projects, Mobridge Rotarians bring along a food item to every meeting that goes directly to the local food pantry. The Mobridge club is as important to their community as any club in our district. They even sponsor high school basketball tournaments and track meets. I had a fine time at Mobridge.

We're down to four official visits – Sibley, IA, Pierre/Ft. Pierre, Yankton, and Tyndall. It has been one fine experience.

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**District 5610 Rotary Conference
is a Big Success
By Roger Wiltz, District Governor**

The District 5610 Rotary Conference held in Wagner, SD on September 21-24 has been called a resounding success by District Governor Roger Wiltz. Most of the meetings were conducted at the Wagner Community School.

It began Thursday afternoon in the Super 8 Motel board room with the Governor's Council. Attending were Past District Governors Larry Fjeldos, Dave Henning, and Rick Wahlstrom of Brookings, Shirley Hiller and Don McLaughlin of Marshall, MN, George Twitero of Rapid City, Don Boyden of Mitchell, Francis Doom of Wagner, Nels Olsen of Huron, Golby Uhlir of South Sioux City, NE, Governor-Elect Rick Nolte of Custer, Governor-Nominee Vivian Adams of Sioux City, and Governor Roger Wiltz of Wagner.

While Friday morning's golf tournament was cancelled because of rain, the District Leadership Assembly convened to further advise Governor Wiltz. Added to the Past District Governors were District Assistant Governors and Committee Chairmen.

Thirty-one of the District's forty-one clubs were represented at the conference, giving the business meeting a comfortable simple majority quorum. There were 125 total attendees. Rotary International dignitaries present were J. Michael Pinson of Harker Heights, TX, who is RI President William Boyd's personal representative, and Philip Silvers, the Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator from Tuscon, AZ. Governor Wiltz had specifically requested the presence of these two gentlemen.

Those present were inspired by Mike Pinson and Phil Silvers, as well as presentations about the district's solar oven project in Hayti by Ron Fesler, the Romanian wheelchair project presented by the Sioux Falls West Club, the Water for Honduras project presented by LeMars, IA Rotarians, and East Africa's St. Jude's School project presented by the Rapid City Rushmore Club. The break-out sessions were equally informative.

The Friday night picnic in the Wagner Rotary Club's Centennial shelter at Wagner Lake illustrated to all present what can be done with a District Simplified Grant. The pork tenderloin sandwiches, beans, and salads were catered by the Wagner Food Center. I thought a comment by two Madison Rotarians made me really appreciate what we have in Wagner. They looked at the lake complex and said, "If only we had something like this in Madison!" Don't they have both Lake Herman and Lake Madison?

Other popular activities included Saturday's roast duck lunch at the Lake View Hutterite Colony, and an afternoon tour of the Ft. Randall Hydro Powerhouse and St. Paul's Catholic Church at Marty for interested non-Rotarian spouses. Saturday night the Rotarians hosted a free concert for the Wagner community featuring the "Hill City Slickers." What an awesome performance!

I was continuously complimented about the excellent food. Other great meals included the Piedmontese steak supper Thursday night for past district governors in the Rotary Building hosted by PDG Francis Doom. Friday's noon luncheon in the Two Spurs was also outstanding. The grand finale Saturday night was the prime rib banquet prepared by Lois Barkley and the school's kitchen staff. It was served by the school's FFA members.

Sunday morning's final plenary session was a remembrance service for District 5610 Rotarians who passed away during the past year. Rev. Glen Hofer made it especially meaningful. For Wagner Rotarians, thoughts of Al Pirner were in the minds and hearts of all.

Other than our Rotarians being energized about the Rotary Foundation, I believe the keys points of the conference included an updating of the District Bylaws, the formation of the new Surplus Funds Committee, and the Youth Exchange program being put on notice because too few Rotarians are presently willing to lend a hand.

~Continued to Page 3

District 5610 Rotary Conference~Continued

What happened in Wagner this past weekend may be one of our community's finest hours ever as it left a large number of visitors with a very lasting, positive Wagner experience. The Chamber of Commerce made a significant contribution. The YST Casino also "sweetened" the registration handout bags. It was a total community effort.

The conference could not have been a success without conference Co-Chairmen Ken Cotton and Dave Isebrands. Other committee members included club president Marcia Honomichl, Linda Soukup, Francis Doom, Rick Thaler, and Lori DuFrain. All Wagner Rotarians were on a committee and had an assignment. Equally important, they supported the effort with their presence. The Wagner Rotarians had been planning the event for the past fourteen months. They proved that a small community can achieve what it sets its mind to.

There would have been no conference without the cooperation of the Wagner Community School, its school board, and its administrators. The same is true of our Super 8 motel and Leo Holzbauer's splendid cooperation.

District 5610 Rotary clubs also made it happen by supplying active participants, an impressive array of exhibits, some outstanding door prizes and auction items, and a willingness to present programs. There was also a willingness to sing, and sing they did with Julie Jaeger at the keyboard!

Co-chairs Dave, Ken, Governor-elect Roger, and First Lady Betsy Wiltz attended last year's conference in Rapid City with the idea of taking home ideas. Rapid City's guiding way was an immense help. The 2007 district conference will be in Custer, SD. Plans are already well underway with Governor-elect Dick Nolte's committees.

A few candid shots from the Convention
Thank you Eileen Henning!!

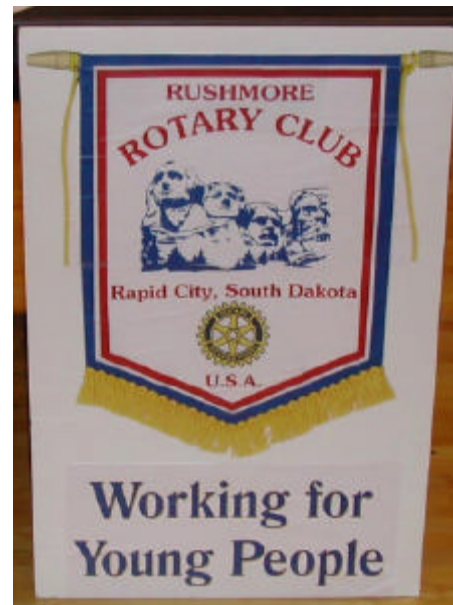


Projects Displayed at the Conference

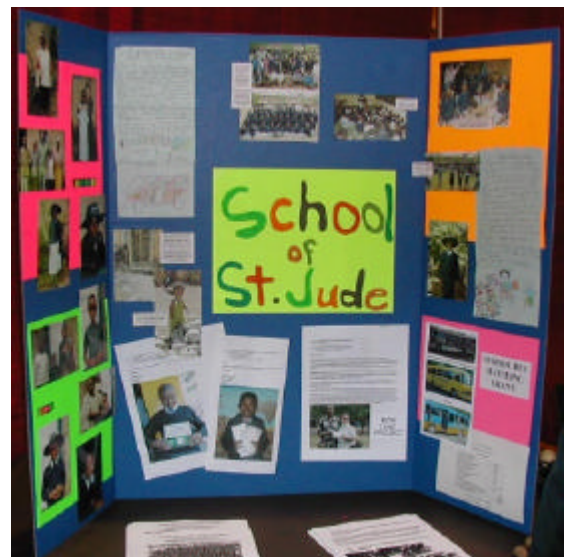
Rushmore Rotary Club



Solar Oven Project



Mapleton's Centennial Project



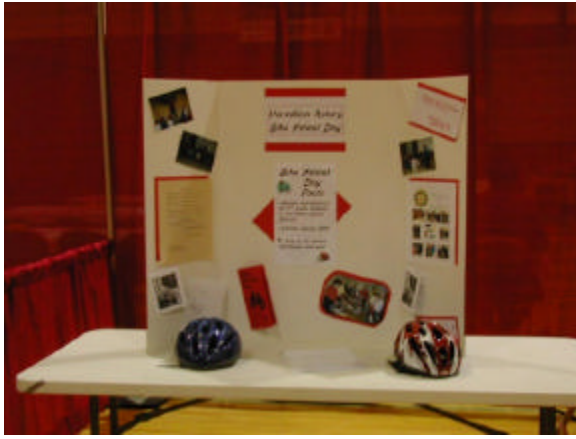
School of St Jude



Winner's Centennial Tree Project



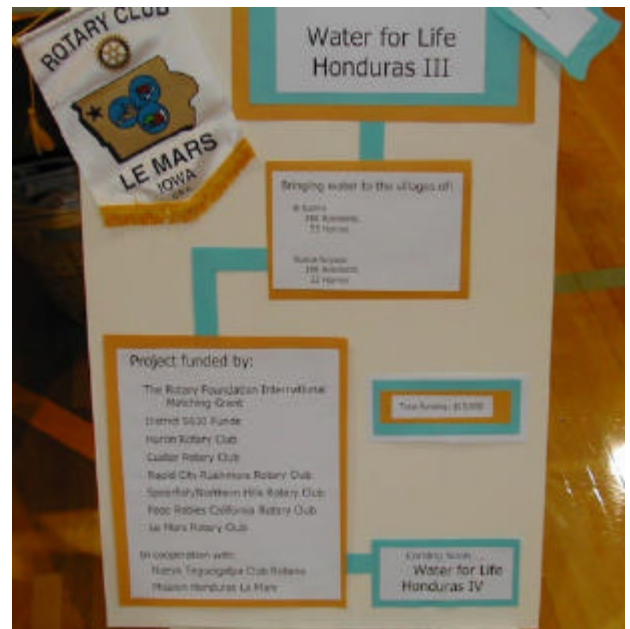
Many Projects of the Rushmore Rotary Club



Vermillion's Bike Helmet Day



Marshall's Centennial Project



 One of the major presentations of the conference was on the Water for Life Honduras Project I, II, III, IV
 Funded by Rotary Matching Grants,
 District 5610 Funds,
 Huron Rotary Club,
 Custer Rotary Club,
 Rapid City Rushmore Rotary Club,
 Spearfish/Northern Hills Rotary Club,
 Paso Robles California Rotary Club,
 and Lemars Rotary Club.

Way to Go Rotarians and Others!!!
 Now parts of Honduras have
 safe drinking water!!



Wagner Rotary Club
Centennial Project



Conference Attendees enjoyed a fabulous Picnic Barbeque Dinner at the Wagner Rotary Club's Picnic Shelter on beautiful Wagner Lake.

During the evening event, the Picnic Shelter was dedicated in a lovely ceremony.

Many thanks go to the superb job the Wagner Rotary Club did on the Convention!

Wonderful times of fellowship were shared by all who attended.

Thanks to the City of Wagner for making our stay so delightful!!

And a few laughs were had by all-

Lars, the bartender, asked Ole, "Do ya know da difference between a Norwegian and a canoe?"
"No, I don't," answered Ole.
"A canoe will sometimes tip," explained Lars.

