

District 5610 Gearing Up



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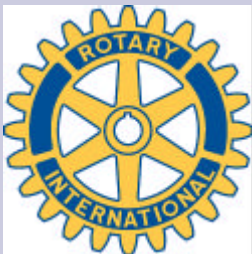
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Inside this issue:

DG Thoughts	1
Club News	2
Awareness	2
Vivian's Reflections	3
Polio Survivor	3
Attendance	4
Notices	4

January Thoughts from DG Dick Nolte

Happy New Year to you all! Bernie and I hope that 2007 was a good year and that 2008 will be even better.

January is Rotary Awareness Month. Let's all work with our local media and get some "awareness" for our Rotary Clubs. Every club should have a designated publicity chair to see that whenever your club has an event or project that it gets as much publicity as possible. All of your clubs are involved in many activities during the year and should get proper exposure.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, our District GSE team has been selected and is working hard to prepare for their trip to Brazil this Spring.

The District Youth Exchange Program is also making progress. We have applied to the regional organization SCRYE (South Central Rotary Youth Exchange) for membership which will give our District help and expertise to conduct a

youth exchange program under all the new rules and guidelines. We should know by the end of January if our application has been accepted.

I will mention here again that there are quite a number of clubs who have NOT submitted the 2007-2008 "Club Goal Report Form". I don't see what the big problem is in completing the 3 items listed under "Annual Programs Fund Goal". This form was due May 1, 2007!

Other news on the District level:

Unfortunately our candidate for a Rotary Peace Fellowship was not accepted. Since this is a competitive award, and there are only a limited number of scholarships awarded, not all candidates can receive an award. Hopefully our District will have candidates in future years.

Our District application to RI for a Public Relations Grant was accepted. The amount of the grant from RI is \$4000. The two Marshall clubs and the Winner

club had submitted PR proposals to the district and will be receiving funds for their PR programs. The total value of the PR projects (including in kind contributions) is \$11,500, of which the cost to each of the clubs involved will be only \$500. Next year let's get more clubs involved in this program (provided it is continued).

Don't forget about your new member recruitment, and when you do get new members send the information to Susan along with any other news items from your club. We never have too much news to put into the Monthly Newsletter.

HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR !

ROTARY SHARES – MEMBERS COUNT

YIR, DG Dick



Club News



The Sioux Falls Rotary Club has 20 first time Paul Harris members at their Christmas Program on December 17th

January is Rotary Awareness Month

During Rotary Awareness Month in January, help expand awareness of Rotary's global humanitarian efforts. As members of the world's first service club organization, Rotarians have much to be proud of as they put Service Above Self while advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

Be Aware



RI programs and service opportunities help Rotarians become more aware of the needs within both their community and throughout the world.



By being aware of the fellowship Rotary offers, Rotarians tap into an international network of people who share similar interests.

During Rotary Awareness Month in January, let the world know about Rotary through Humanity in Motion PSAs.



Make Others Aware

Learn about Rotary's programs for students and youth. They can change the lives of those who participate. Through these programs, young people can earn scholarships, travel on cultural exchanges, or help a community through a service project.



DGE Vivian's Reflections

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Rotarians,

I'm in the process of filling committee assignments for next year and have some openings that have not yet been filled. I could use some help in filling these positions. The open positions include: Foundation Alumni Sub Committee; Foundation Annual Giving Sub Committee; Foundation Grants Sub Committee; Foundation Permanent Fund Sub Committee; Convention Promotion (Birmingham, England); Publicity Committee; Rotary Volunteers; Solar Oven; Vocational Committee; Community Service Committee.

I'm also still looking for Assistant Governors to cover the following areas: Area 3 – Aberdeen, Clark and Watertown; and Area 4 – Brookings, Huron, Madison, and Mitchell. I have talked to several people about these positions, but have made no definite decisions at this time.

If the member who currently holds any of these positions wishes to retain the position, please let me know.

Please remember that training for all positions will take place in Chamberlain during the PETS training weekend – April 4-5, 2008.

Yours in Rotary,
Vivian



Polio survivor returns to birthplace to help eradicate the disease that changed his life

Thirty-year-old polio-survivor Gautam Lewis of London will travel to his birthplace in India to help in the effort to immunize some 75 million children under the age of five against polio – a crippling and potentially fatal disease that is still endemic in Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

After learning about the commitment of Rotary International - a nonprofit humanitarian service organization that has made polio eradication its top priority - Lewis was inspired to help Rotary's campaign to eradicate the disease in India and worldwide.

"Paired with a powerful vaccine and medical science, Rotary's steadfast commitment is the key to eradicating polio," said Lewis. "Through my personal experience, I have a deep understanding of how important voluntary organizations are in the world today. As a result of Rotary's efforts, many will go on to live happy and productive lives having been spared the cruel, life-long consequences of polio."

Still dependent on crutches from his battle with polio, Lewis is in a strong position to sympathize and fight the disease. Lewis hopes to inspire those who have been battling polio for years by highlighting with dignity achievements that are possible in the face of adversity. "It is vital that everyone remain committed to ending this disease. I hope to show, through my example, that anything is possible – the sky is the limit."

Born in Kolkata in 1977, Lewis was abandoned by his mother at the age of eighteen months old after he contracted polio. Lewis was taken to Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity where he stayed for three years before having another two years of operations at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCFC). There he met Dr. Patricia Lewis, a dual national (UK/Ireland) nuclear physicist, who was working at RCFC for a year. Lewis became Patricia's ward and was taken to Auckland, New Zealand in 1985 where he was adopted. At the age of nine, mother and son arrived in London.

CONTINUED Page 4

PETS Meeting & Training

It's not too early to think about our district PETS / AG / LEADERSHIP training coming up April 4th & 5th which will be held at Cedar Shores near Chamberlain. Rotary International changed the bylaws so it is now mandatory that Presidents' Elect attend PETS to be eligible to assume the club presidency so, Presidents Elect, get these dates on your calendar now.

We are on the Web
www.rotary5610.org

It is all about our clubs!

Have you sent in your news items to Susan? The district wants to see more of the club's activities!



Dues notices have
Been sent out!

District Conference
will be September 12,
13, 14, 2008 at the
Marina Inn in South
Sioux City, Nebraska.

December Attendance

CLUB	MEMBERS	MEETINGS	AVERAGE
Hot Springs Rotary Club	41	4	68.00%
Mitchell Rotary Club	82	4	64.52%
Sioux City Suburban Rotary Club	11	3	62.50%
Sioux Falls North Rotary Club	43	4	59.00%

Is your attendance missing? Send it to ED Susan!

Group Study Exchange Outbound
website: www.5610toBrazil.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Lewis has worked in the music industry and has managed many high profile bands including The Libertines, The Hives, D4 and The Kills. Fulfilling his childhood dream, Lewis also qualified as a pilot in September 2007. A long standing fascination for aircraft has always been prevalent, but Lewis never thought that someone with his condition would be able to take part in the world of aviation.

While in India, Lewis will join Rotary members during the 25 November mass immunization campaign to administer the drops of oral polio vaccine and go house-to-house to ensure that no child was missed.

New methods and more effective oral polio vaccines have led to steady progress in India this year. Yet to date, India holds the highest number of polio cases of any single country this year, having reporting 367 cases so far in 2007.

Whether knocking on doors during house-to-house campaigns or staffing immunization posts, India's nearly 90,000 Rotary members will be out in force during the multiple campaigns planned for this year.

Rotary has contributed US\$74.3 million to fight polio in India, and more than US\$633 million toward eradicating polio worldwide. Besides raising and contributing funds, over one million men and women of Rotary have volunteered their time and personal resources to help immunize more than 2 billion children in 122 countries during national immunization campaigns.

A highly infectious disease that can cause paralysis and sometimes death, polio still strikes children in parts of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. To date, the number of polio cases has been reduced from 350,000 children annually in the mid 1980s to approximately 2,000 cases all last year.

Rotary International is the world's first and one of the largest non-profit humanitarian service organizations. It is comprised of 1.2 million business and professional leaders in nearly 170 countries. Rotary members initiate community projects that address many of today's most critical issues such as violence, AIDS, hunger, the environment and health care.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is spearheaded by WHO, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).