

District 6740 Rotary News

Rakesh Sachdeva, District Governor August 2008 - Vol. 1, No. 1

Dear Rotarian,

It is my distinct honor and privilege to serve as your district governor for 2008-09. We have a unique opportunity to "make dreams real" for both our communities and humankind during this Rotary year. In accordance with goals set by RI President DK Lee, I would encourage you to meet the following objectives in your clubs:

- 1) Participate in a community or international service project that reduces child mortality.
- 2) Consider increasing your club membership by a net of 10 percent.
- 3) Be an active partner in eradicating polio from the face of the earth. Our district goal is to raise \$100,000 for the Bill and Melinda Gates Challenge Grant during this Rotary year. Please make every effort to put into place fund-raising events dedicated toward this effort.



I urge your clubs to continue their local efforts so that our communities will become better places in which to live and work. Because your support for international service projects, which will alleviate human suffering, is crucial, I encourage you to remain strong advocates of the Rotary Foundation and its programs. Lastly, enjoy the fun and fellowship that Rotary meetings and activities provide you and your families.

Seema and I sincerely hope you will have a blessed Rotary year where compassion and service will shine. We are looking forward to working with all of you this year as we strive toward the greater good for all the peoples of the world.

Yours in Rotary service,

Rakesh Sachdeva

District Governor

August is Membership Month

Please be reminded that August is membership and extension month. Clubs are urged to plan activities along those lines. Your club might choose to review their classifications to determine which ones are not represented. Then invite professionals from those classifications to a special meeting.

Rotary Youth Exchange News

As Rotarians, we know the value of the youth exchange experience for both our young people going abroad and for those who will learn more about our country as they travel to the U.S.

A special thank you goes to the Carlisle, Lexington and Middlesboro clubs for hosting the 2008-09 students from France, Taiwan, and Poland, respectively. Thank you also to the Lexington and Richmond clubs for helping find two 2008-09 outbounders, a boy going to Spain and a girl going to the Czech Republic. It is only through participation of our member clubs that we can successfully continue this important international program of Rotary Youth Exchange.

There is also a wonderful opportunity for a club to host a young person from Vladivostok, Russia. This is a late application, but we hope that one of our clubs will act on it. If any club members are interested in hosting this young person, please contact your club's Youth Exchange Officer. Remember, there is no better way to learn about a country than by hosting one of its youth plus the experience often translates into a travel opportunity because your hosted youth will be excited about having you visit him or her someday.

John Zink (Lexington Rotary Club) and his wife are planning a 30th anniversary European cruise in 2009 and are excited to be reunited with their French "daughter", who is now twenty-five years old. The Zinks have other exchange "kids" in Mexico, Columbia, Ecuador, and Chile.

Remember, by participating in the Youth Exchange Program, your club receives credit for international service. For additional information, contact John Zink at jzink@transy.edu.

Important Dates

2008

Sept. 9-11: GETS/GNATS, Indianapolis, IN

Sept.11-14: Zones 29/30 Rotary Institute, Indianapolis, IN

Sept. 20: Rotary Leadership Institute, Lexington, KY

Oct. 4: Foundation/Membership Success Seminar, Lexington, KY

Nov.1: Foundation/Membership Success Seminar, Pikeville, KY

George Rassenfoss - Rotarian Extraordinaire!

Congratulations to **George Rassenfoss, Jr.** (Paris Rotary Club) who has achieved the amazing record of having perfect attendance for the last 64 years. The Paris Rotary Club has been blessed by the outstanding service of so many community leaders throughout the years, but none can compare to George.

George has been a member of Rotary since 1946, when he joined the Rotary Club in Erlanger, Ky. where he achieved perfect attendance for 28 years. In 1974, George moved to Paris and joined the Paris Rotary Club, where he continued his spotless attendance record to date. Last year, the Paris Rotary Club established "The George Rassenfoss Attendance Award" in his honor to recognize those in the club who achieved the highest attendance record for the year.

A 1939 graduate of the University of Kentucky, George holds a degree in civil engineering. He has worked for large construction firms, conducted private surveying, and was the Paris city engineer from 1978 to 1983. George survives his wife Martha whom he married in 1940 and shared 65 years of marriage raising eleven children. In 1969, George purchased a farm on Hume Bedford Road, where he continues to reside and raise Black Angus cattle.



George continues to serve as the Sergeant-at-Arms for the Paris Rotary Club, a position he has held for nearly twenty years. George's proven commitment to his family, business and community have made him a Rotarian Extraordinaire for Bourbon County.

2008-09 Officers of District 6740

Governor Rakesh Sachdeva
Secretary Carol Wilcher
Treasurer Samuel B. Smith, Jr.
Parliamentarian David Williams
Newsletter Editor Jeanne W. Clark
Directory Editor Jeanne W. Clark
Governor Elect Dennis P. McEvoy
Governor Nominee Robert Ryan

Rotary Leadership Institute Coming Your Way

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a series of fast-paced, interactive, one-day courses offered to refine a Rotarian's leadership skills and increase their base of knowledge in Rotary.

Courses are fun, topical, interactive and geared toward busy business and professional Rotarians who want to be more effective leaders in their vocations and their clubs. It is recommended that clubs nominate 2 Rotarians each year to begin RLI and support prior attendees continuation of the Parts II and III.

Rotary clubs need a constant influx of new leadership as club officers, board and committee leaders change every year. It is difficult at the club level to learn enough about the exciting world of Rotary with its 1.4 million members in 166 countries. Furthermore, 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 their leaders. This is an outstanding opportunity for each club to improve the Rotary knowledge of its key people, who will also be exposed to new ideas of leadership. Just the interaction with other Rotarians makes the courses worthwhile.

The next RLI will take place on Saturday, September 20th in Lexington at the Ramada Inn on US 27/US68 north (Paris Pike) near the intersection of I75/I64. For more information contact Jack McAllister at mrjackmac@insightbb.com or PDG Tom Ashford at Rotarytom6740@comcast.net

The Four Way Test

Of the things we think, say, and do . . .

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOOD WILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Club Partner Found!

The Rotary Club of Ludhiana Central (District 3070 DDF), India has found a partner in its efforts to help fund its Rotary Trauma Centre. Thanks to the generosity of the Louisa Rotary Club, the Ludhiana Club will have the grant money they need to buy a ventilator for the emergency centre in a charitable hospital which is catering to the poor community and is providing treatment at a very low cost.

The daily OPD of this hospital is more than 500, but the trauma centre is ill-equipped so the poor have to be rushed to private hospitals in case of emergencies. Because many of these patients cannot pay at the private hospitals, they are left without treatment and to whatever fate befalls them.

District Chairman Rtn. Harish Singla comments, "Thanks to Rtn. Rakesh Sachdeva and the Rotarians from District 6740, especially Rotary Club Louisa, for their kind gesture in participating in this project."

Gift from the Caymans

Teresa Hail (Somerset Rotary) recently returned from a vacation in the Cayman Islands. During her visit, she found time to go to her weekly Rotary luncheon by visiting the Cayman Island Rotary Club where she received the club's distinctive flag. She will be forwarding a Somerset Rotary flag to her new friends in the Caymans.

Foundation Giving

Club presidents are reminded to make sure every member is aware of its membership and Foundation giving goals. Members should receive periodic updates throughout the year of the club's progress toward reaching its goals.

In the Spotlight with District Governor Rakesh Sachdeva

Rakesh Sachdeva is a practicing pediatrician and pediatric gastroenterologist in Pikeville. He completed his pediatric residency at New York Medical College and pediatric GI Fellowship at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York. He currently serves as the Chair of the Division of Pediatrics at the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Rakesh is active on the Board of Directors of the Big Sandy Community and Technical College Foundation, the Kentucky Pediatric Society Foundation, and the East Kentucky Science Center. He also serves as a director on the BB&T Corporation KY Advisory Board.

A member of the Pikeville Rotary Club, the second largest club in District 6740, Rakesh served as the President of that club in 2003-04. He was the International Service Chair for the district from 2002-04. As District RYLA Chair (2002-03), Rakesh was instrumental in introducing RYLA to District 6740. That same year Rakesh was honored by being named "Rotarian of the Year" by the Pikeville Club. He also served as the Foundation Co-chair for the district in 2004-05.

Rakesh and his wife Seema, a fellow Rotarian, are proud to be Major Donors, Paul Harris Society members and Benefactors of the Rotary Foundation.

Rakesh and Seema, also a pediatrician, reside in Pikeville with their two daughters, Shilpa (a freshman at Duke) and Shikha, and their fifth family member, "Buster", a Golden Retriever.

Group Study Exchange Seeks Participants

The Group Study Exchange for this Rotary year pairs our District with District 3070 Amitsar, India, which is located in Northern India in Punjab. Our team will arrive in Delhi around the 12th of January and will depart from Delhi around the 13th of February. Our team will be on hand to participate in the district (3070) conference February 6-8, 2009.

The outbound team consists of five members: the leader is a Rotarian and the four other team members are non-Rotarians between 25 and 40 years of age who have been working in their professions/employment for at least two years.

The deadline for applications for the outbound team leader is Monday, August 18 with interviews for the position being conducted on Saturday August 23 in Lexington (time and place TBA). The deadline for applications for the team members is Monday August 25 with interviews scheduled for the first week in September.

Please send all inquiries and/or applications to **Josephine Richardson**

GSE Chairperson
127 Main Street
Whitesburg KY 41858
Phone: 606-633-9637 or 3306
Fax: 606-633-1727
Email: chcafe@aol.com

The team from Amitsar will arrive in Kentucky in April and will take part in our District Conference held this year in Pikeville.

Update on Situation in Georgia

Rotarian Tom Golden (Winchester Rotary Club) writes to Ron Simpson the following:

"Thanks for your thoughts...actually, my job was to get all of the Georgian's out of Iraq and redeployed home to get in the fight. Our orders were given by the President and SECDEF to get the Georgians home in less than 96 hours. My team and I did it in about 60 hours. We moved 1,653 people and 45 pallets on thirteen C-17s.

I slept a total of twelve hours in three days in order to make this happen. The days were hot...140 degrees, and at night it got down to about 95. It was a furious pace.

The brigade that was scheduled to replace the one here was decimated by the Russians. We have unconfirmed reports that out of 2000 personnel in the brigade, all but 45 were casualties. The Russians beat them bad. This will set their military and country back several years.

The good news in all of this is we worked ourselves out of a job since no Georgians are here in Iraq. We should be leaving here soon. We are awaiting follow-on orders. I am tired and ready to come home. I'm hoping we'll get our orders soon.

Pleas say hello to all of our Rotary friends, and I look forward to the meetings again when I return home."

We hope you enjoy receiving the Rotary Newsletter each month, and we look forward to hearing about your club projects and other newsworthy information. Please submit pictures and articles for publication by the third week in each month to me at jclark@setel.com.

**Yours in the spirit of Rotary,
Jeanne W. Clark
Newsletter Editor**

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