



District Update

News for Rotary District 6740



March, 2011



**Robert Ryan (Patty)
Governor**

“STRETCH RUN”

I am now in the stretch run toward the end of my District Governor Year.

It is fitting that March is Rotary Literacy Month and an ideal time to consider a literacy project in your community. In our District, some of our fellow Rotarians provide dictionaries to school children, read to students and provide funding for scholarships.

As you read this newsletter, our District Club Presidents-elect are attending MidSouth Presidents Elect Training Seminar in Nashville, Tennessee, where they join with Presidents-elect from across Kentucky, Tennessee and mid-Alabama in training to lead and serve their Rotary Clubs during our next Rotary Year. Our Presidents-elect will join with our ten Assistant Governors after the conclusion of their Assistant Governor Institute immediately before the commencement of PETS. As Sydney J. Harris wrote: “The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows”.

March is also the month during which Rotaract (Rotary in Action) was inaugurated in Charlotte, North Carolina. From its 1968 inauguration, Rotaract has grown from its initial 21 members to encompass over 7,000 Rotaract Clubs in 163 countries and geographic areas. Originally open to ages 17 through 24, since 1991, Rotaract has welcomed young adults aged 18 through 30 years of age.

Daniel Boorstein said “education is learning what you didn’t even know you didn’t know”. Hopefully, this Rotary Year’s opportunity for our District Clubs to earn a Presidential Citation will inform Club members of the many facets of their Club and help find new ways to build and serve their communities. With the March 31st deadline looming, my hope is that each Club will be fast breaking to memorialize its members’ service to ensure its receipt of a Presidential Citation, with or without distinction. As your Club President is aware, a failure to have a net membership gain will not prevent a Club from being eligible for this year’s Citation.

(continued on pg. 2)

Keep us up to date
with events and news
from your club!

Please send articles
and pictures for
District Update
to
Dan McLemore
email: pipit@aol.com

Exemplifying Ben Franklin's saying that "the doors of wisdom are never shut", Rotary will roll out four three year pilot programs beginning July 1, 2011 aimed at securing Rotary's future as a premier humanitarian service organization. Those Pilot programs include associate and corporate membership, satellite clubs and an Innovative and Flexible Rotary Club pilot.

During the latest political turmoil in Egypt, Rotary International Scholar, Jamie Gajewski of Madison, Wisconsin and four other scholars were removed by Rotary International Travel Service. With the civil unrest making it unsafe for her to complete her scholarship in Egypt, Jamie will finish her scholarship at the University of Coronado in Spain.

Agreeing with William Butter Yates that "education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire", my hope is that our District Clubs and their members have experienced a "lighting of a fire" in seeking new members, expanding the prominence and visibility of their Club in their local communities and making their reservations to attend our upcoming Multi-District Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on April 29 through May 1st to celebrate their President's and Club's winning performances.

- Robert Ryan, DG



2010-11 Presidential Citation for Interact and Rotaract Clubs

The 2010-11 Presidential Citation provides an opportunity for Interactors and Rotaractors to conduct projects related to the Avenues of Service. To receive the citation, Interact and Rotaract clubs must score at least 30 out of a possible 50 points, as listed on the certification forms. Sponsor Rotary club presidents must sign the Interact certification form or Rotaract certification form and return it to the district governor for endorsement by 31 March.

FOUNDATION SETS UP DISASTER FUND FOR JAPAN

By Ryan Hyland

Rotary International News -- 15 March 2011

In response to the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on 11 March, The Rotary Foundation has established the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands Disaster Fund, which will support long-term recovery projects in affected areas.

Rotarians and non-Rotarians can donate online. Clubs and districts can contribute cash and District Designated Fund (DDF) allocations to the fund.

The 9.0-magnitude quake, Japan's largest in history, and the tsunami that followed it caused widespread devastation, paralyzing much of the northern coast. More than 10,000 people have been killed, and thousands are missing. Millions have been left without clean water or power, and at least 550,000 people have been forced from their homes.

A series of explosions at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, 140 miles northeast of Tokyo, damaged reactors and forced the evacuation of tens of thousands. The Japanese government is working to contain the situation. Damage from the earthquake and tsunami is estimated at US\$170 billion.

RI President-nominee Sakuji Tanaka, of the Rotary Club of Yashio, Saitama, was in Lisbon, Portugal, on Rotary business during the disasters. He was able to reach his wife, Kyoko, on the phone to confirm her safety.

"She said it was the most horrifying experience she'd ever had," says Tanaka. "The northern region of Japan is still in chaos. We are unsure when this chaos will end or when things will get better. However, I am most thankful to know that Rotarians around the world care for us."

Japanese RI directors Masaomi Kondo and Masahiro Kuroda, as well as staff at Rotary International's Japan office, are confirmed to be safe.

Rotary clubs and districts worldwide are mobilizing efforts to bring urgently needed aid to victims.

"I've received many messages from Rotarians all over the world," says Noriko Futagami, the Public Image Resource Group coordinator for Zone 2. "I also have reports that Rotary clubs have begun to start planning projects for immediate help. Unfortunately, there are many Rotarians and families who haven't been able to be contacted. Rotarians in Japan worry for their safety."

To contribute online:

https://riweb.rotaryintl.org/donor_xml/ContributionMenu.asp

THE JAPAN DISASTER

From: Emily Sperling [mailto:ESperling@shelterboxusa.org]

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 3:13 PM

Subject: ShelterBox in Japan

I hope this note finds you well. After Friday's disaster in Japan I'm certain you, like me, find yourself thankful to have a home and know your family is safe.

I wanted to keep you up-to-date about our efforts in Japan. A highly-experienced ShelterBox Response Team, consisting of members from the United States, United Kingdom, France and Australia (**three of which are Rotarians**), is working out of Tokyo and Sendai. We arrived in country less than 24 hours after the disaster.

The latest reports say that last night 590,000 people, including 210,000 evacuated from the area around the Fukushima nuclear power plant, spent the night in temporary shelter while millions in Japan's north have spent the past three nights without water, food or heat in near freezing temperatures. The Japanese government has not yet requested any international assistance for the provision of emergency shelter but has put great value in international aid agencies operating autonomously and self-sufficiently in the country, as ShelterBox is. To this end, ShelterBox is moving an initial 200 ShelterBoxes into Tokyo and have up to 5,000 more on standby should they be needed. [photos of disaster area: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/shelterboxuk/>]

The support we've received so far from Japan's Rotary network has been invaluable and we wouldn't have been able to operate as effectively and safely as we have without them.

We continue to respond to multiple crises, including in Bolivia, Madagascar and Peru, and work to replenish stock to ensure our continued readiness and rapid response.

Please stay connected with our efforts. We'll be posting updates at www.shelterboxusa.org. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Regards,
Emily

Emily Sperling
Interim Executive Director
ShelterBox USA

p: 941-907-6036 ext. 106
c: 941-387-4710
f: 941-907-6970
skype: emilysperling
e: esperling@shelterboxusa.org
w: www.shelterboxusa.org

8374 Market St. #203
Lakewood Ranch, FL. 34202

Providing shelter, warmth and dignity to disaster survivors worldwide.

District and Club Database DaCdb (DakDeeBee) Use it. It's Free!

What if you bought a tool for your friend, that could help him do his job better and easier, but he just wouldn't use it. Well that is how it feels in our district. Some of our clubs are not using this wonderful tool. (**THANK YOU to those clubs using it!**) Our district leadership has purchased a software program that will help the secretaries of the clubs do their jobs more efficiently, increase club and district communications among all members, and provide an easier method to manage our Rotary responsibilities. Our District and Club Database is that tool.

It is easy to use. Let's start with attendance. That only requires one person to do anything in the program. The Secretary of each club, or designated responsible officer, logs into the program, and clicks on "My Club", and then "Submit Attendance", the screen will appear that asks for the Month, Total Membership, Average % of Attendance, and the Number of Meetings. If there have been any meetings cancelled there is a place to enter the reason. Once these fields have been entered, you just click on "Submit Attendance Report", and voila, it is done! Be sure to click on "Submit Attendance Report"! Some have not and, of course, it wasn't submitted.

Governor Robert would like to see all clubs report their March attendance with the District and Club Database. I know you can do it.

Secretary or other officer:

Here is how to login. Call up your browser and enter the following internet address:

<http://www.directory-online.com/Rotary/login.cfm>

You will be presented with the following fields. Enter the applicable data into each.

User ID: Email Address

Password: Your Rotary Number (From the label on your Rotarian Magazine)

Club Number: Your Club Number (Only for Club and District Officers)

Click Login

Do your attendance. Nothing to it! Let's all use this wonderful tool for attendance this month. Carol Wilcher, our District Secretary will thank you for it.

Dean C. Hammond Jr.
Aide to DG Robert Ryan
859-227-2879 (Cell)
dean@aften.com



Mark your Calendars for

**“Music City Encore”
Multi District Conference**

April 29-May 1, 2011

**Sheraton Music City
777 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN**





Mark Your Calendars for the **Rotary International Convention** May 21-29, 2011

New Orleans is home to a variety of art styles and communities, boasting over one hundred galleries. A large number of these are clustered around the Contemporary Arts Center, in the warehouse district – and close to the Convention

Center, where the Rotary International Convention will be held May 21-29, 2011.

While immersed in a world of European, African, Asian and American art, New Orleans has developed an unusual art style of its own. Sometimes referred to as “swamp art”, you’ll spot it in galleries and French Quarter shops. And quirky (and award-winning) Louisiana art is epitomized in the “Blue Dog” series of George Rodrigue.

The Ogden Museum of Southern Art has five floors of old – and new art from the southern culture.

The National World War II Museum is close by, providing historical photos, films and first-hand stories of the war fronts and the families left at home.

The New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) in City Park has visiting collections and a permanent collection that rivals any museum of its size.

Newcomb College Art has a special place in Americana, with outstanding art pottery from the early Women’s College.

Local areas, such as Faubourg Marigny, Central City and Magazine Street provide miles of art galleries, glassmaking studios and performing arts presentations.

And tops on the list of art areas is Royal St, right in the heart of the French Quarter – and just a short walk from any of the area hotels and the Convention Center.

You’ll find beautiful art on buildings, street corners, in city parks and in public gardens.



Jackson Square Art photo -- Courtesy of the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau



Audubon Park photo -- Photographer Jack Edwards, New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau website.