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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

FEBRUARY IS WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

Two words that mean many things to different people.

World Understanding can certainly qualify as an abstract concept and one that may be difficult for some to answer in an articulate fashion. Ask one-hundred people what it means and you may get one-hundred different answers.

Ask a Rotarian what *World Understanding* means to them and you may receive a more common response which involves Rotary's dynamic international humanitarian and educational programs. There is good reason for this.

Every Rotarian, regardless of years of experience, has access to a variety of diverse Rotary International and Rotary Foundation programs, that connects people of all backgrounds and origins from around the world.

It is through these programs that interpersonal, international relationships are created, nurtured, grown and harvested. Relation-

ships which give us a profoundly better understanding of the world than any media outlet with a political agenda, photo-op or soundbite can.

The Rotary way to *World Understanding* is through Rotary's programs.

The Rotary Foundation's programs are very well known to Rotarians for advancing *World Understanding* and peace through the Humanitarian Matching Grants program and the ongoing Polio Plus campaign. There is the Group Study Exchange, Ambassadorial Scholarship and World Peace Fellowship programs that Rotarians in our District proudly participate in.

But in addition to the Foundation programs, Rotary International has its share of international programs, such as Rotary Youth Exchange, International Rotary Fellowships, World Community Service, Rotary Friendship Exchange, and unofficial programs



which Rotary supports such as DGE Homestay and Open World, as well as many others.

In these challenging times we live in, with all the international politics along with the social and economic dynamics that interweave (and interfere with) the multi-national fabric, there is more of a need than ever before for the commonality of human values that the programs of Rotary can provide and that Rotary and Rotary membership can offer.

Randy Raviozer
District Governor 2009-10
Rotary International District 6980

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 13
Pre-PETS
West Orlando Rotary Clubhouse
- February 20
New Member Orientation
Tavares Civic Center, Tavares
- February 25-28
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
Altamonte Hilton

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WORLD PEACE SCHOLAR FROM DISTRICT 6980

Justin DeLeon, who was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sanford, was recently awarded a Peace and Conflict Resolution Fellowship by The Rotary Foundation.

Justin has just begun his three-month fellowship at the Chulalongkorn University, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Justin was also a Group Study

Exchange team member for the exchange with the Philippines in 2007-08, so he has the unique distinction of being a Rotary Foundation Alum from two different Rotary Foundation programs.

Justin will be with us at our District Conference April 29-May 3 to share his experiences from this very special opportunity made possible by the support of the

Rotarians in District 6980. The Rotary Centers for Peace and Conflict Resolution is currently one of the top two priorities for The Rotary Foundation, along with the global polio eradication effort.

District 6980 is proud to be a Peace Builder District and has been since the beginning of the Rotary Peace Centers in 2002.



See District Website for Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund info

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION - UPDATE

As of December 31, Rotary International District 6980 is the Number One District in the World with the most new Bequest Society Members (30) in 2009-10.

District 6980 also has the eighth most Bequest Society Members in the World, all-time, since the inception of the program.

Congratulations to George Huffman PDG, Permanent Fund Committee Chair, his outstanding committee members and to DRFC Chair Rick Baines for the incredible amount of work it has taken to bring awareness of this program to the Rotarians in our District.

Of course, the biggest thanks and appreciation goes to the generosity of the Rotarian donors who gave these generous gifts to secure the future of The Rotary Foundation.

Preparations for the Group Study Exchange between our District and District 2490 in Israel are underway.

Steve Graves (Kissimmee Bay) will lead a team of five young professionals to Israel in May. We will receive the Israelis in April. Both teams will be here during our District Conference. GSE Committee Chair Chris Stubbs, and his committee, will be coordinating all of the visits and activities for the inbound team.

This will serve as a call for club nominations for GSE TEAM MEMBERS to Denmark in September 2010. Team members must be 25-40 years of age at the time of travel to Denmark and may NOT be a Rotarian. There are other eligibility requirements as well.

Nomination forms and instructions may be found on the District website and should be completed and submitted to GSE Chair Chris Stubbs by March 15. If you have any questions, contact Chris at dstubbs@linkstaffing.com

The District website has all the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund details on the home page

RI PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE TO D-6980

Past Rotary International Director Carl Rosenbaum has been appointed to serve as the RI President's Representative to our District Conference.

Carl Rosenbaum PRID and his wife Martha, will represent Rotary International President John and June Kenny at our District Conference April 29-May 3.

Our District is fortunate to have a President's Representative with the Rotary service and personal

vocational experience he has. PRID Carl's complete biography is on the Conference section of the District website.

PRID Carl's current positions:

Chairman of the Board of the Arkansas Glass Container Corp.

Chairman of the Board of Safe Foods Corporation

Chairman of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Commission

Rotary History:

District Governor 1990-91

RI Director 1997-99

Chair, RI Finance Committee

TRF Permanent Fund National Advisor

Chairman of the Investment Advisory Group of Rotary International

Member, Nominating Committee for Rotary International President 2007-08

APRIL 29
CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION
QUESTIONS?
CONTACT
DISTRICT
CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE CHAIR
LARRY RICE

LARRY.ROTARY@
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DISTRICT CONFERENCE UPDATE - REGISTER NOW!

Registration for the April 29 District Conference sessions, Luncheon and Governor's Banquet at the Sonesta-Orlando Hotel (formerly known as the Sheraton Orlando Downtown) is NOW OPEN and ONLINE!

This year, our conference will feature a full day of Rotary programs and events on land at the *Sonesta Hotel Orlando*.

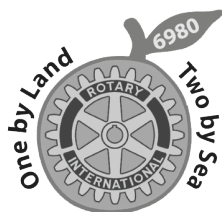
Since 2003 when our District went to a "cruise conference" format with some meal events on land, many

Rotarians who do not cruise have not had the opportunity to experience a traditional Rotary District Conference.

All Districts in the world are required to hold an Annual Conference for the clubs of their District. The purpose of the District Conference is similar to that of the International Convention, enabling Rotarians to interact with other Rotarians in other clubs and to become more aware of the outstanding programs of Rotary International and The

Rotary Foundation.

This year, we will use online registration for the conference events via the District website/calendar. The District will invoice the clubs for each member who registers for the Luncheon and/or Banquet. There will be NO registration fee to attend the Conference. Only the District Luncheon and Governor's Banquet will have a cost to attend. Registration is NOW OPEN!



District Conference
2010

REGISTER ONLINE FOR
APRIL 29
CONFERENCE SESSIONS,
LUNCHEON AND
GOVERNOR'S BANQUET

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The 2010 Rotary International Convention will be held in Montreal, Canada on June 20-23, 2010.

You can register for all Convention activities online at www.rotary.org

Why Attend the RI Convention?

The RI Convention offers more than an opportunity to celebrate a successful Rotary year. From inspirational plenary sessions to informative workshops, Rotary's annual international meeting is designed to help you become more effective in your Rotary service.

Whether you're an incoming club president or a brand-new Rotarian,

you're sure to learn something new and come away with a renewed commitment to Service Above Self.

Above all, a Rotary convention offers unparalleled opportunities to:

- Learn about successful and innovative projects that your club can replicate
- Develop long-term partnerships to benefit your community and beyond
- Build lifelong friendships with people who share your vision of a better world.

The first registration deadline has passed and hotel rooms will soon

become more difficult to book. The final registration deadline is March 31, so now is the time to act if you want to attend.

In addition to the convention's main program, there are pre-convention events you can register for as well as special Host Organizing Committee events.

Southland "Brunch" tickets are now available for purchase from District Governor-elect Charlie Rand. If you want to reserve tickets, let DGE Charlie know ASAP as this year there are limited tickets available. Don't wait until the last minute as these tickets will sell out.



Contact DGE Charlie Rand for your Southland "Brunch" Tickets

NEW GENERATIONS UPDATE

Rotary Youth Exchange

On January 8-10, seven high school students (and their parents) sponsored by the clubs of District 6980, along with more than 70 other students statewide, attended a Rotary Youth Exchange Florida outbound orientation meeting at the Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Lake County, beginning their preparation to spend the 2010-11 academic year in another country.

This year's eleven inbound foreign Youth Exchange students are doing

exceptionally well and enthusiastically participate and support their sponsor clubs' activities.

These dynamic students will actively participate in the District Conference this spring.

Soon, each club's 2010-11 board will need to determine if their club wants to be a sponsor for an inbound Rotary Youth Exchange student for next year. Information will be given to the club presidents-elect at PREPETS and at PETS in February and March.

Interact Update

Representatives and members of Interact clubs should be invited to attend the District Conference on Thursday, April 29 and participate in the official Roll Call of the Clubs.

Club Interact chairs should start now to arrange this with their Interact club and the school Interact advisor.

120 RYLA delegates have been sponsored by the clubs of District 6980. The delegates are Juniors and Sophmores from the local High Schools.

ORANGE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION WILL CONDUCT A SEMINAR ON CIVICS FOR OUR INTERACTORS AT THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

New Member Orientation Saturday, February 20, 2010

The final New Member Orientation for 2009-10 will be held on Feb. 20 in Lake County at the Tavares Civic Center, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

This will be an opportunity for all new members who joined Lake/Sumter County clubs this year to attend a quality Rotary information orientation which is designed to help new members become more familiar with the programs of Rotary.

The Rotaract Club of Metro Orlando has submitted its paperwork to receive its club charter.

The Rotaract Club of Metro Orlando is sponsored by The Rotary Club of Dr. Phillips and will operate as a Community based club of working professionals between 21-30 years of age.

Upon official notification of Charter, an announcement will be made with all the club details and information about its Charter celebration event.

The Rotary Club of Lake Nona (provisional) will be submitting its Charter paperwork this month.

Upon receiving their Charter, details about its Charter Banquet will be provided to the clubs.

Plans are moving ahead for a **provisional Rotary Club in Baldwin Park (Orlando)**. The organizing committee has 15 Rotarian members and a community open house was held on January 27. More details will be in the March Newsletter.



Presidential Citation requirement: One Net New Member in 2009-10



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Art Brown, District Governor-nominee
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AT YOUR SERVICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND COMPLETE
DIRECTORY LISTINGS, VISIT
WWW.ROTARYDISTRICT6980.ORG

District Secretary
District Treasurer
District Coordinator
Rotary Foundation Chair
*Annual Giving
*Permanent Fund
*Polio Plus
*Group Study Exchange
*Grants
*Ambassadorial Scholarships
*World Peace Fellowships
*Alumni
Service Projects Chair
*Vocational Service
*International Service
*Community Service
Club Administration Chair
*Club Service
*Club Bulletins
*Club Meeting Programs
*Family of Rotary
Membership Chair
*Extension
*Development
Public Relations Chair
New Generations Chair
*RYLA
*Interact/Rotaract
*Rotary Youth Exchange
Rotary Leadership Institute
Insurance/Risk Management
District Conference Chair
Standard Operating Procedures
DDF Administrator

Anna Litton
Jennifer Gravin
Bill Litton
Rick Baines DGND
Charlie Rogers PDG
George Huffman PDG
Jim Greene
Chris Stubbs
Bob Shydo
Clark Gwinn
Marty Kramer
Don Miers
Art Brown DGN
Tom Johnson
Bernardo Ramirez
Paul & Ann Smith
Chuck Pratt PDG
Paul Osborne
Carole Arthurs
Barry Gainer
Mary Beth Salisbury
Taren Schwarz
Carlos Giraldo PDG
Pam Bozkurt
Jim Salisbury
John Siegel
Barbara Coggins
Sally Kamrada
John Siegel
Marty Kramer
Sarah Hamby
Larry Rice
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open World 2010

Recently, the Rotary Club of Seminole County South hosted a delegation of young professionals from the Ukraine sponsored by **Open World**.

Rotary participates by seeking Clubs to home host and put together an educational/cultural/entertainment program for the six delegates. In this regard, it is similar to Group Study Exchange, except the delegation's visit is limited to 8 days.

This is a Rotary International supported program.

If you would like more information, or to request a club presentation, contact Clark Gwinn at wclarkgwinn@cfl.rr.com

DGE Homestay 2010

During the week of January 17-22, District Governors-elect and their spouses from Pakistan, Australia, Denmark, Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany, Czech Republic and India were hosted by District 6980 Rotarians in their homes.

The DGE's were treated to a week of fellowship and activities before they traveled on to San Diego for the International Assembly where every DGE in the world attends District Governor training.

Many thanks to Rob Lesperance (RC Maitland) and his entire committee for all their work coordinating this very special program.



SAVE THE DATES!

Rotarian to Rotarian Business Expo, Wednesday March 24 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, downtown Orlando

Rotarian Sponsor Society (for multiple sponsors) Recognition Luncheon, Friday, May 21 at the Citrus Club, downtown Orlando

The Rotary Leadership Institute, Saturday, April 24, at Paul J. Hagerty High School, Oviedo. Registration available online.



Visit the District website for updates on the Haiti Earthquake Relief efforts of Rotary International and the other organizations which Rotarians around the world are working with