



2006-2007

District Governor
Patricia Burch



District 6420 Newsletter



December Edition

Christmas Greetings District 6420 Rotarians:

December is Family of Rotary month and Christmas gives us the perfect opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends. Our daughter, Sarah, and new husband, Mike, are driving in from Albany, New York along with puppy, Henry. Husband, Ben, and son, Adam, and I are looking forward to catching up (on wedding pictures) and sharing some Christmas cheer with extended family and friends.

Do you believe the year end is fast approaching. The good news is you still have a chance to contribute to our Rotary Foundation, Every Rotarian Every Year whether by gifting stock, using a credit card, or writing a check. Thank you Sterling Noon for the opportunity to present 9 Paul Harris Fellows at your Christmas celebration. I can't think of a better District Governor Christmas present. Congratulations to Oregon Rotary on your record setting Angel Ball (\$33,000) fundraiser for Hospice, Village of Progress and Foundation. Thank you for sending me an invitation so I could see for myself what a fantastic event your club has hosted for 13 years.

District 6450 has undertaken the renovation of the Paul and Jean Harris home. Information on how to make a contribution will be posted on our web site. If you would like further details, please call me, email, or snail mail.

D.G. "Santa" Pat is checking her naughty and nice list. Which one are you on?

. Presidents/President Elects/Assistant Governors - have you registered for the Mid Year Meeting? This is one meeting you don't want to miss.

. Rotarians - have you made your annual contribution to our Rotary Foundation?

. Club Presidents - have you started filling out your Presidential Citation criteria? Don't wait until the last minute.

. District 6420 Clubs - have you filled out an application for one or more District Awards recognizing the achievements of your clubs or your hard working members. Check the District Web site for the criteria and applications forms.

. Have you checked our District web site to catch up with what are Ambassadorial Scholars are doing? Korah Winn has shared what Thanksgiving is like in Belfast, Ireland with pictures. Any emails I receive I will forward to our web master so that every one in the District can share what's happening in the world through our District.

"Some people make the world more special just by being in it". Rotarians, thank you for being in my world.

Yours in Rotary Service

District Governor Pat Burch

FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

As of November 30th, District 6420 Rotary Clubs have reached the 26% mark of their goal of \$168,765. We have tallied \$43,470 in Annual Giving.

Kudos go to Rockford East/ Cherry Valley Rotary with a \$1700 addition this month to bring their total to \$2800, which is 62% of their goal. On board with a \$1410 contribution, representing 6% of their target, is Rockford Rotary. Rochelle Rotary added another \$1134 this month to bring their giving to \$1234 which is 13% of target. Morrison Rotary has reached 7% of their goal with a contribution of \$350. Freeport Sunrise Rotary has achieved 14% of its goal with \$127 recorded. Stay tuned for next month's Foundation Highlights as Geneseo Rotary and Sterling Rotary have surprises for us.

To each and every Rotarian in our District, please consider a significant contribution to our Rotary Foundation in your end-of-the-year charitable giving. As Rotarians we have provided polio vaccine to the world to eradicate this disease from the face of the earth. We have given the gift of literacy to many men, women, and children to ensure a more secure future for them. In many parts of the world we have provided safe water, shelter and food so that people can lead their daily lives with dignity.

Let us continue to provide hope to a world in need of peace through our contributions to The Rotary Foundation. May your hearts be filled with joy during this season of giving. Our lives are measured by what we do for others. Thank you for all that you do as Rotarians both in your local communities and on the international level. Together we have touched the lives of others in ways that we may not even know.



Happy Holidays from
PDG Don Clayberg and PDG Anita Papich
 Co-Chairs of Foundation

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Our Rotary Hopes for 2007

While we all stop and say to ourselves "where has the time gone", there are others in our Rotary World who are wondering how much longer it will be before they have clean sustainable water to drink, healthy food to eat, a roof over their head and books to read. Hopefully each of our clubs has made a contribution in one way or another to help those who lack the basic essentials of life.

As we look towards the 2007-2008 Rotary year, many of your club officers faces will change, plans and goals will be formalized and the projects will begin. To provide each of our 49 clubs with the ideas and back-up support that is expected, your District 6420 Leadership Team is preparing to train of our new club teams for 2007-2008. To begin this process, your incoming Club President and Club Secretary must be registered at Rotary International. If your club is not one of the 28 in District 6420 who has submitted these names to Rotary International, and the form is no longer in the hands of your club secretary, the following will need to be done before December 31st. Simply go to www.rotary.org and from the home page, second column from the left, top item you will see "Update Club Information Now". Click on that link and you can either print out the form or if you are the club president or secretary, sign in to "member access" and update the information on-line. It is that simple. With 32,554 clubs world wide, and each trying to register two officers, I would suggest you use the on-line registration rather than the paper version.

With these club contacts, Rotary International, District 6420 and your clubs will be able to provide your club with the support and assistance that is needed to bring things as simple as a smile on a child's face. Others throughout Rotary will be seeking the help to provide the medical and nutritional needs for their parents to learn a more productive and meaningful life.

The best to each Rotary Club and Rotarian Family at this time of the year.

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Let's see what our youth exchange students are doing in the winter.



Benoit from France enjoying the snow. He comes from the French Alps.



Guiherme and host brother Luke Burke collecting aluminum cans to help the needy in Rochelle. Guilly also helped sell Christmas trees a Rochelle Rotary fundraiser

Inbounds play in the snow in Roscoe at the District Winter Melting hosted by the North Winnebago Club

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Awards

Recently the District Literacy Committee surveyed each club for information about Literacy Activities. The good news is that 86% of the district's Club are engaged in type of Literacy effort. Of the 14% only 4 have indicated that they do not have any literacy projects underway. We want to recognize and thank District Governor Pat for her efforts for gathering these surveys during her visits to the clubs. The survey indicates that there is wealth of literacy activities being undertaken in District 6240.

To build awareness of literacy issues among Rotarians 25 clubs have sponsored speakers at weekly meetings. Several of the clubs reported more than on program offered during the year.

Among the most popular activities cited were reading programs in schools, after school programs or libraries, donations of money or materials to local literacy efforts and mentoring programs.

Dictionary Projects are catching on with several clubs reporting that they have donated dictionaries to all of the 3rd grades in their respective districts. For as little as \$3.00 or under per students, any club can purchase and distribute a small dictionary which includes reference materials to school children. This program has gained wide spread acceptance by teachers as well. Rotarians who have participated in the distribution have indicated that they have gained immense satisfaction from being involved.

Other interesting ideas were reported as well.

Belvidere Bright Horizons Club reports bestowing three "Most Improved Reader" awards to local middle school students.

Dixon reported that they collected books to be included in Holiday Food Baskets. Granville has been involved in several reading programs including "Curious George" History of Creators" and the Illinois Quad Cities focuses on Multi-lingual Literacy Programs.

The moral to the story is that Literacy Projects abound in District 6240. If you need additional information, you literacy committee is ready to assist you. E-mail info@lavendercrest.com for assistance.

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A letter from Korah Winn, our Ambassadorial Scholar in Northern Ireland.

Dear All,

I've been excited to send out my December update. It's a big one for sure. ☺ It's getting so close to Dec. 25th so I wanted to write you all a lovely note before life gets any busier than it already is. ☺

I admit that it was tough going through Thanksgiving without my family but I had a whole group of friends from here who rallied around me and helped me celebrate my favorite holiday. It was the first Thanksgiving I've ever been to with no other Americans, but we had a ball. They couldn't get over how much food we prepare for Thanksgiving. We feasted. ☺ I made them deviled eggs, creamy mashed potatoes and corn, homemade macaroni and cheese and pumpkin pie from scratch. They totally loved it and got in the spirit by bringing along lots of other foods and making desserts like pavlova and banoffe. We had a wonderful time. I even introduced nap time after the meal was over (just kidding.) We played charades until we had enough energy to go back for dessert. It was a great night. One of the highlights was when they decided to dress me as the statue of liberty in honor of celebrating an American holiday. They're a great group of people and I'm so glad I've been able to become great friends with many of them.

I have good news from the home front... there is a new Rotarian in Arizona. The story is this, my mother remarried in 2002 to a man named Casey Rooney. They just moved from Illinois to Arizona in June of this year. They were both very proud of me and excited for me when I was chosen as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. When Casey got out to Arizona, he looked into the Rotary club in Prescott Valley and decided that he would join their club. I thought that was great news. One of the things that I was asked to do as a scholar was to encourage people to become Rotarians so it's nice to know a small impact has been made.

University has been going quite well. My classes are challenging and I always walk away with a head full of information. I have quite sad news though. Dr. Steve Walsh, my module coordinator and thesis supervisor, will soon be leaving to take on a new position in England. He's worked at Queen's for 10 years now so he is incredibly knowledgeable. We are all happy for him, but there is a concern about how the next semester will go and who exactly will replace him for supervising thesis production. I hope everything works out for the best.

I am currently making presentations at clubs. My Rotary host counselor Naomi has been helping me right and left to get adjusted and be a part of things in Rotary here. She's been an angel to me. I am heading to Enniskillen on Monday for another presentation. Enniskillen is about two and a half hours away so it is in a new area that I've never been to before. I love getting to go to Rotary events. I really enjoyed the district conference. I went to my own club's charter night in late November and had a wonderful time. There was a dance after the dinner. I got to jive with my club's president. ☺ There are just some experiences you never imagine having before coming and that was one of them!

I'm pretty excited about the possibility of a new volunteering experience. My friend Chris works with Northern Ireland youth at a resource center and I was asking him about mentoring programs. He started asking me some questions and found out that I have a degree in elementary education and that I can teach English to non-native speakers. He's going to see if he can work up a position for me one day a week, helping out some people at the center he works at. I've got my fingers crossed that it is all going to work out. ☺

Just in case you were wondering about Christmas, I have a best friend here named Kathryn McGeagh who absolutely insists that I spend Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day with her. Naomi has also invited me over to her home for a nice meal on Boxing Day so I am going to be surrounded by families during the holidays. You don't have to worry about me sitting by myself in my dorm room on Christmas. The people here have shown a huge compassion towards me as they know that I'll be missing my family during the holidays. I couldn't ask for a nicer group of people to be with while I am far from my loved ones.

As always, pictures are a great way to share with you what is going on here, so I am including links for you to view. I know some people still have 56k connections and I don't want it to take 30 minutes for them to get this email so I took the time to upload my pictures for you all to view. Now you can put some faces with names. ☺

http://picasaweb.google.com/ms.winn/2006_11_30 - Here are pictures from one of my Rotary ambassadorial presentations.

http://picasaweb.google.com/ms.winn/2006_11_04 - These are pictures from my host club's charter night.

http://picasaweb.google.com/ms.winn/2006_11_23 - These are pics from the night I put together a Thanksgiving meal for my Northern Irish friends. They LOVED it!

http://picasaweb.google.com/ms.winn/2006_11_28 - These are photos from Dublin. Here is a brief little write up I put on my website about what that trip showed me.

Korah Winn ~ www.dovewithin.com

korahwinn@hotmail.com

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Look for this and more of Korah's adventures

in our web site www.rotary6420.org

The Sterling Noon Rotary celebrated at their Christmas Party a big way

On December 19th the Sterling Noon Rotary club had their Christmas Party at the Sterling High School Commons and started the night out by having Governor Pat Burch present 9 new Paul Harris Fellow awards plus two Rotarians who added stones to their Paul Harris pins. Then the Sterling High School Madrigal Singers entertained us with Christmas songs and for who ever could stay, they showed the original black and white version of "It is a wonderful life".

The Sterling Rotary is now raised over \$3,630 in foundation giving which is over 52% of their years goal. Governor Pat Burch congratulated them for "Leading the Way" in their foundation support.



Volunteers Wanted

Feb. 5 - 19 a Polio Immunization Team goes to India. If you are interested in going, please call Dave Groner as soon as possible (269 782-2128 or email groner@locallink.net) A deposit of \$400 will secure a spot with the total cost of \$4100. Dana McCoy and Jan Andersen from Sterling Noon Rotary, along with Joann Dawson and Eileen Schmelzel who are non-Rotarians will be going.

There will be over 5 million children will be immunized during the NIDs.

The last four countries with confirmed cases of polio are:

Nigeria, India, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

If any club would like to assist us with the cost of the trips. (any amount is appreciated), they can send a contribution to:

Sterling Noon Rotary Club
PO Box 135
Sterling, IL 61081
Attn: India Trip



CALL FOR ENTRIES -- DISTRICT 6420 AWARDS & CONTESTS

Deadline: March 28th, 2007

DISTRICT AWARDS

Any member of a District 6420 Rotary Club may nominate a candidate for these awards:

DISTRICT ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR -- for all rank-and-file Rotary Club members (excluding those eligible for other awards)

DISTRICT CLUB OFFICER OF THE YEAR -- for all current Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers

DISTRICT NEW ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR -- for all members who have joined Rotary for the first time after 3/1/05

SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD -- for any individual deemed to have best exemplified the ideals of Rotary International (only non-Rotarians eligible)

Nominators must fill out a form to be provided by the District, with the name of their nominee(s) and any other information requested.

DISTRICT CONTESTS

Any Rotary Club in District 6420 is eligible for the following awards:

GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD -- Clubs should fill out application, and submit a sampling of the materials, articles and other items associated with their Public Relations efforts over the previous year

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER CONTEST -- Clubs should submit two to four copies of their Newsletter from the past year, published between March 2nd, 2006 and March 1st, 2007.

Entries will be judged on: Ease of Reading (30 points), Visual Style (25), Local Information (15), District Information (15) and International Information (15).

DISTRICT WEBSITE CONTEST -- Sites should be up to date; will be accessed on-line by judges. Each site will be judged on: Timeliness (40 points), Content (15), Visual Style (15), Links and Information (15) and Ease of Navigation (15).

First and Second prizes will be awarded for each contest; Club entries will be divided into three classes: 1A (25 members or less), 2A (26-50), and 3A (51+).

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD

Clubs should submit the application form (available for download at www.rotary.org) to be considered as the District 6420 Official Entry for the R.I. Public Relations Award

SEND NOMINATIONS TO: DG Patricia Burch

1040 Turkington Terrace, Rochelle, IL 61068

OR: rotary6420pr@hotmail.com

All Awards & Contests to be judged by the District Public Relations Committee; winners will be announced at the 2007 District Conference

For questions: Brian Adams (815) 895-0991 or rotary6420pr@hotmail.com

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The District Website now has two locations:

www.rotary6420.net

OR

www.rotary6420.org

It is the same great website now expanding for greater information and enjoyment with the new FORUMS sight and listen to the Rotary Anthem and song!

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THE DICTIONARY PROJECT

Rotary Clubs around the country have been taking part in a literacy project which encourages children to read...by putting the words right in front of them.

The Dictionary Project provides dictionaries for elementary school students; Rotary Clubs purchase them in bulk, and distribute them to third-grade classes in their areas. These distributions are generally done in connection with a club's literacy campaign; this also provides an opportunity to publicize Rotary, through photo opportunities and interviews with local news organizations.

Experts say that third grade is an important time in children's reading development; at that age, students are just beginning to expand their vocabularies, and providing them with dictionaries encourages them to find and use new words. Dictionaries can be purchased through The Dictionary Project; some editions cost as little as \$1.00 each, so extras can be given to the teacher to help with lesson planning -- lessons which can incorporate the dictionaries.

Along with the dictionary, each student can receive a sticker identifying their local Rotary Club as the sponsor. This sticker comes with the Four-Way Test, and a blank line for the student's name; they can sign it and put in inside the cover, to make the dictionary their own...and give them a constant reminder of Rotary, and what Rotary is about. The Sycamore Rotary Club has been donating dictionaries to the schools in town for the past two years; students have been excited to receive them, and immediately put them to use. Last year, they were handed out to the public schools in the district; this year, donations were expanded to include two private schools in town.

If you are interested in bringing The Dictionary Project to your town, you can log on to www.thedictionaryproject.org. Ordering information, and templates for the stickers, are available through the website. And if you have other questions, or would like to share your stories about The Dictionary Project in your town, you can contact the District Literacy Committee at rotary6420lit@hotmail.com

Submitted by Brian Adams, District 6420 Literacy Committee

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Announcements

Our district lost a dancing Rotarian. Past Assistant Governor Bill McClure from the East Moline / Silvis Rotary club dies at the age of 78. He will be missed not only for a Rotarian but for his Ballroom dancing ability.

Granville Rotary provides the following:

Our meeting place, Putters Bar and Grill, has given us notice of their closing for the season effective immediately. We have made arrangements to move on a temporary basis, which may become permanent, to Moreno's On Main, a restaurant located in beautiful downtown McNabb, 7 miles south of Granville off Route 89. Visiting Rotarians, spouses and guests are welcome to join us any Thursday, 6:30 pm. As the restaurant is normally closed on Thursday evenings, we will have the place to ourselves! We already had plans to meet at SAMMS in Hennepin for our holiday party on December 28, which will proceed as planned; This move to Moreno's on Main is effective January 1, 2007.

More changes in the directory

1. Page 60 Leonard Carmichael's e-mail is len_elevator9_pat@yahoo.com
2. Page 61 Ben Litherland's e-mail is jbl4865@sbcglobal.net

You can now make a Rotary meeting on the internet at www.rotaryclubone.org

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New addresses for clubs, Rotarians sending dues or contributions to North America

All Rotarians and clubs that remit their dues and send Rotary Foundation contributions to North America need to note the new address of lockboxes (special post boxes designated to collect these funds).

Effective 1 October 2006, lockbox addresses are changing for Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation:

For Rotarians and clubs that remit payments to the U.S.:

Send membership dues and payments to Rotary International:

Rotary International, 14255 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693

Send contributions to The Rotary Foundation:

The Rotary Foundation 14280 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM YOUR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

GOVERNOR PAT BURCH, GOVERNOR ELECT ELDON LEEMHUIS,
GOVERNOR NOMINEE JIM PRATHER, AND YOUR NEWSLETTER
EDITOR PDG BOB NEWLON!



Signs that your Pastor Needs a Vacation...

His first words to the congregation on Sunday morning are
"All right, listen up you heathens..."

He falls asleep during his own sermon.

He shows up for Sunday service wearing Bermuda Shorts
and a Tank Top.

Every time his pager goes off, he shouts, "Why can't they
just leave me alone?!"

Announces baptismal services will be at the Grand Canyon.

You go to his office for counseling and pour your heart out
to him and he says, "Sounds like a personal problem to
me."

For the past two months he has preached the same sermon
every Sunday.

Share Your Programs

Programs are so important in making our Rotary clubs strong but it is sometimes hard for clubs to come up with a good program every week. I would like you to share your exceptional programs/speakers that you have had at your club recently with me, PDG Bob Newlon. I will list them in the newsletter to give other Rotary clubs ideas or to have that program at their meeting. If the program is area sensitive I will note that comment.

Please send me the information of your interesting programs and/or names of the speakers along with the contact information.

I also have a great number of Rotary videos on VHS or DVD for a back up program in case your guest speaker cancels at the last minute.

Does your Rotary club have a fundraiser coming up?

Are you proud of something that your Rotary club has done in Literacy, Membership, Public Relations, or for the Rotary Foundation?

Send it to:

PDG Bob Newlon by the 20th of the month.

1108 E. 18th Street

Sterling, Illinois 61081

E-mail to: newlon@essex1.com

**Newsletter will be
out by the 25th**

This month's bumper sticker:

How Many Roads Must A Man Travel Down Before He Admits He is Lost?

(That one hit home for me, folks)

ThThTh That's all folks!