



JUNE EDITION

DISTRICT 6420 NEWSLETTER



District 6420...

Moving Hope to a Reality



DG Don Ahrendsen

Greetings District Rotarians,

This will be my last message in the Newsletter as your District Governor, and Bonnie and I would like to thank everyone in the District for your support and for the opportunity to serve in this position. It's true that the more effort you put into Rotary the more you will receive in return, and among those that we have received are close friends that we will always have from around the world.

I feel very fortunate to have served the year that Ray Klingensmith served as President of RI. His focus was on improving Rotary from Club level up, as my focus has been. I brought the message of "Best Practices" to the Clubs on my visits. Because we change leadership yearly, it's easier to continue a program, even if it is no longer a best practice. Remember the message on some of the badges you'll see, "Don't be afraid to fail-be afraid not to try", and "We've always done it that way", with a slash through it.

Visioning has been brought to the District and will help your Club to be better and in turn the District to be better. It is not the answer to all Club problems but it is a piece of the "Improving your Club" puzzle that will allow long term goals that the entire Club will decide and be involved in.

Membership: A recent survey of non-Rotarians described members of Rotary as old, secretive, closed, inflexible and lack of diversity. The Ottawa Noon Rotary had a net increase of 12 members this year and we did it by having FUN and INVOLVING new members in the Club activities. So I'm bragging about my Club. That's what your Club should be doing. That's why we had "Pride Night" at the District Conference and that's why we changed some activities to have FUN. If your Club is struggling in an area and you are using the "We've always done it that way" theory, maybe its time to consider change. I believe Paul Harris once said "Rotary Clubs must be evolutionary and sometimes revolutionary".

Maintain your Clubs best practices and improve those that are not to make your Clubs "Bigger, Better, and Bolder".

Once again, thanks to all for making this a year Bonnie and I will always remember and treasure.

*Yours in Rotary Friendship and Service,
District Governor Don Ahrendsen*



Foundation Feature

Foundation Chair PDG Elise Cadigan



Our Rotary Foundation Improves & Saves Lives See how your donations make the difference!

BASIS EDUCATION

Worldwide, 75 million children- 41 million of them are girls- do not have access to basic education
Rotary projects work to ensure that children have access to quality **basic education** and to reduce gender disparity in education

What your contributions have done this year...

- Developed adult literacy programs
- Sent a vocational training team(VTT) to provide training in educational curriculum development and gender disparity in rural communities.
- Sponsored a scholar studying adult education with an emphasis in literacy.

WATER AND SANITATION

Worldwide ,2.6 billion people lack access to improved sanitation facilities and 884 million do not use improved sources of drinking water. 2.2 million children will die from diarrhea and related diseases and 80% of them will die before they are 3 years old.

Rotary projects increased equitable community access to safe drinking **water and basic sanitation** and educated communities about safe water, sanitation and hygiene in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

What your contributions have done this year...

- Installed rainwater harvesting systems at schools, clinics and community health centers.
- Implemented sanitation projects in rural villages to construct latrines and provide hygiene education to residents.
- Provided training to community leaders on management and maintenance of water sources.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Nearly 27,000 children under five die every day from largely preventable diseases and conditions. Pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death and disability for women in developing countries.

Rotary projects are reducing the mortality rate for children under the age of five, reducing the maternal mortality rate and improving access to essential medical services and trained health care providers for mothers and their children.

What your contributions have done this year.....

- supported a scholar studying public health with an emphasis on maternal and child health.
- supported a vocational training team of medical professionals that trained community health workers in prenatal care.
- provided updated medical equipments, including incubators and supplies to a maternity health clinic in Nigeria..

**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT.....PLEASE GIVE
“THROUGH ROTARY, WE CHANGE LIVES”**

Yours in Rotary Foundation and Friendship, PDG Elise Cadigan DRFC 2010-13

YEA YOUTH

Rockford Exchange Student Graduates From Loyola University.



2002-2003 Rotary Exchange Student Caroline Erol is pictured with her host families Terrie Hall and David Gill. Caroline will graduate on Saturday, May 21st from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She is graduating Cum Laude with a Degree of Juris Doctor with a certificate in International Law.

Rotaract at NIU

6420 Rotarians please share the names and contact information of students you know who will be attending NIU this fall. Scott Peska at NIU is the Faculty sponsor and Nick Brooks is one of the students who is willing to reactivate NIU's Rotaract Club. Scott's email is speska@niu.edu and I would appreciate it if you would also provide me with the names and contacts royst1@frontier.com.

Rotary Clubs with Interact Clubs, please ask them to help us develop a list of students heading to NIU. At the Zone Leadership Meeting this weekend, I was amazed at how many Rotaract clubs are established in District 6440 and 6450 which are districts east of ours. Please help our District establish a strong youth base in Early Act, Interact, and Rotaract.

PDG Pat Burch, District New Generations Chair

Exchange Students - Ricardo, Nora, Diego



Surprise Visitor – The Moline club's 2005-06 Inbound Student, Nora Bickmann was a guest last week. Nora and her father will be taking a two week trip on a Harley out to South Dakota, Colorado, New Mexico, and back to the Midwest on drivable Route 66 pavement. Her mother will also follow in a car.

Article from the Moline Smile club bulletin.

Sycamore EarlyAct blooms with "April Flowers" project

By CAITLIN MULLEN (from DeKalb Daily Chronicle, May 18th, 2011)



McKenzie Bohlig (center) and other students from the EarlyACT club Grove Elementary School in Sycamore give plants Tuesday to residents Grand Victorian of Sycamore. (Kyle Bursaw – kbursaw@daily-chroni

SYCAMORE – North Grove Elementary School fourth-grader Amber Godinsky said seeing senior citizens smile Tuesday when they received student-grown plants was rewarding.

"It's really happy to know you made their day," said Amber, a member of the Sycamore school's EarlyACT club.

Students involved with EarlyACT, an elementary-level version of the service club Rotary, delivered potted flowers to residents at The Grand Victorian of Sycamore and Bethany Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center in DeKalb because the group's monthly theme is citizenship.

Fourth-grade teacher Allyson Holder and the students said the plants, which hadn't bloomed, were "mystery flowers" because club members couldn't remember the type of seeds they had planted.

Each month, the school's EarlyACT group – which includes third-, fourth- and fifth-graders – takes on a different project. Last month, the students held a sports equipment drive for children in need in other countries. North Grove Principal Ryan Janisch has said the student group offers children the opportunity to build leadership skills and work together to help the community.

Fifth-grader McKenzie Bohlig said they planted the seeds and decorated the flowerpots in the past month.

"We worked really hard on the pots," McKenzie said. "And EarlyACT came up with the entire idea."

Holder, one of the group's advisers, said the service project allowed students to give back to a generation that has given so much to the community.

"They all like to do things for other people, and this is what they decided to do," Holder told residents at The Grand Victorian.

Flowers were exchanged with a smile. Students offered their baby potted plants, and residents thanked them for their thoughtfulness.

"I feel like I should give you something for this," one resident remarked.

"You really don't need to. We wanted to do this. You're giving us your smile," McKenzie said.

Carole James, activities director at The Grand Victorian, said she found the flower delivery "extremely thoughtful" and appreciates opportunities when young people can interact with residents.

"It's really nice they do things like that. It makes you feel so good," said The Grand Victorian resident Marcy Sellner after receiving a flower and chatting with students.

Fourth-grader Hannah Hanks said the gift of flowers and honoring senior citizens are components of the citizenship theme. She said she believes it's important to make others happy.

Membership Matters

One of the primary speakers at the recent Rotary International Convention noted:

In 2001 we, Rotary, had 1.2 million members
Since 2001 we have inducted 1.2 million members
In 2011 we still have but 1.2 million members

These numbers are staggering and point out that Membership Development in an ongoing process....a process that has to be shared by every member of a Club not just one or two members or a small committee. If every member of a Club does not take personal responsibility for identifying, inviting and engaging prospective members to their Club.....who will?

OK, it's the first part of June, less than 30 days left in the Rotary year, but the work of Membership "ain't over until it's over!!" I believe I should give Yogi Berra credit for that quote. You, we, the District.....we are so close to breaking the cycle of stagnant membership!! We just need that final little push and then for Clubs to carefully reevaluate those members they are tempted to "flush."

How about a final push for membership yet this fiscal year. Have you made a list of those you meet daily, who might be interested in Rotary membership?? How about your pharmacist, your chiropractor, your lawyer, your banker, your golfing partner, your accountant, your financial planner, your recently retired friend or relative, your children, your neighbor, your clients, your vendors....invite them to your next meeting and tell them why your have asked them to join you.. A little trick I have successfully used is to invite a guest or two to join me for a meeting and then I asked one our current members who is a "good closer" to sit with us to visit with my prospects. Our "good closer" is a polio survivor who also lost a family member to polio. He tells a very compelling story as we visit with my guests about the polio eradication work of Rotary.

One last item....**the Membership Incentive** - Every member inducted into Rotary and registered at Rotary International between the dates of the District Conference and June 30th will be made a Paul Harris Sustaining Member by the District..... Let's close out the year by sharing the work of Rotary with one new member.

By: Membership Chair PDG Fred Luckenbill

Great news from the International Convention

Completing The Gates Challenge is within sight. Rotarians have now donated \$173 million of the \$200 million needed. The remaining amount needs to be raised by June 30, 2012. With more than 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide that is slightly more than \$20.00 each. For District 6420 a goal of \$35,000 has been made. For the 2,000 plus Rotarians in our district that is about \$17.00 each, a little over a dollar every month.

What better time to start on pushing Every Rotarian Every Year. Rotary made a pledge to the children of the world in 1988 that Polio would be eradicated. Now that the end is in sight we must make the final push.

Containment is not the answer, as long as the virus remains alive some where in the world the threat of spreading the virus will be a reality.

For the members of Rotary who have been donating since 1988 congratulations. Nearly 1 billion dollars have been raised. The effort to inform the newer members about Polio eradication needs to be done to encourage them to join in the Final Inch. Remember if everyone give s a little no one has to give a lot.

Bud Phillis

Geneseo Club Provides Scholarships

May 18, 2011 - The Geneseo Rotary Club is pleased to announce the following scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year.

Reed Thompson is the son of Chris & Jolene Thompson. Reed will be attending Ball State University and will study Architecture. Reed was awarded a \$750 Rotary Scholarship.

Erik Solberg is the son of Brad and Sara Solberg. Erik will be attending either the University of Illinois or Ohio State University and major in Chemical Engineering. Erik was awarded a \$750 Rotary Scholarship.

The Geneseo Rotary Club is pleased to announce that the first annual Dr. David Rash Memorial Scholarship, named in honor of the memory of long time Geneseo resident and 35 year Rotarian, will be awarded to Sally Hamer. Sally will be attending the University of Illinois, the alma mater of Dr. David Rash, and study theater. Sally is the daughter of Michael and Molly Hamer. Sally was awarded a \$500 scholarship.

The Geneseo Rotary Club, made up of 45 local business leaders, is pleased to provide this support to three members of the Geneseo High School class of 2011. We wish them and all the graduates' good luck in their future endeavors.

Article provided by: Scott Rubins, Geneseo Rotary Club

Rock Falls Rotary Celebrates 75 Years

G. E. (Gene) Newburn, Rock Falls High School agricultural teacher, was a member of the Sterling Rotary Club which met in 1936 at noon. Newburn made inquiries about forming a new club which would meet in the evening. On April 22, 1936, an application was submitted to Rotary International to form a new Rotary club. It officially was admitted on June 5, 1936, chartered as Rotary Club #3989, Rock Falls Rotary, with seventeen charter members reflecting a cross-section of the community. That was 75 years ago.



Past Presidents of the Rock Falls Rotary Club:

Front row (left to right) Bill Wescott, Glenn Kuhlemeier, Pam Erby, Betty Clementz, Pat Novak

Back row: Keith Zoeller, Rollie Ducoing, Bob Sondgeroth, Art Johnson, Mike Albert, Dave Blanton, Cheryl Faber, and Rebecca White

Monday, June 6, 2011 the Rock Falls Rotary Club celebrated its past, present, and future with a dinner and program at Deer Valley Country Club to which district leadership and all district clubs had been invited. With over 60 persons in attendance, the members themselves traced the history of their accomplishments of the past. Past presidents shared their memories, along with a proclamation of the Mayor of Rock Falls. DG Don Ahrendsen presented a citation from Rotary International acknowledging the occasion. DG Don also presented the recently announced district awards to the club members of the Literacy and Public Relations Committees. A 2-year seedling of a blue spruce was presented to each with the message to grow Rotary in the future.



Members of the Rock Falls Rotary in the midst of each sharing a year in its history.

The Rock Falls Rotary club was chartered June 5, 1936

Article and Pictures by: Betty Clementz, Rotarian



A Weekend of FUN

These were the top 3 poems selected from the poetry slam event at RYLA

(Red team)

Hmm....where to begin (dramatic pause)
 How to describe this magnificent weekend?
 Our new blue bags...check out our things...
 Inside of it was a red rubber bling
 Entered our dorms and met some new peeps
 All figuring out where they would sleep.
 Dinner was good...Yummmm
 Here t'was better than mums...
 Running like crazy, striving to win
 We completed our challenges with a great grin!
 Crawling into our new bunk beds
 We settled down to rest our heads.
 Day Two was filled with surprise
 We could hardly believe our sleepy eyes
 "The Wall" was such a task
 We whipped out our flask (of water)
 With holes in our sneakers.
 We heard wisdom from speakers.

Burgundy team - a rap

I woke up in the morning, not feeling so pretty.
 Got my body out the door. I'm going to hit the Forest.
 Before I leave, brush my teeth, With my RYLA toothbrush.
 Cuz when I leave for the day,
 I ain't coming back 12:30 when its lights out.
 I'm talking tennis shoes on my feet, feet
 At Harrison.... what's to eat, eat
 Enjoying all the heat, heat
 Dang lots of activities Using our creativity
 And tonight there's going to be a party!

(Purple team)

We came from all corners Of this very wide state
 To take part in this program That really is Great.
 The food is amazing We're having a blast
 But the lessons we learned Will last and last....
 These lessons we learn Come from problems galore
 From climbing through ropes to stepping on boards.
 Through everything we did We all took a part,
 Like Bobby Sheets said: "Use All of your Heart".
 We were all seeking to understand before being understood
 And if we are lucky It will all turn out good.
 As individuals, we did not know But as a group, we did grow.
 And then it rained.....

PDG Pat Burch, RYLA Committee member

IMPORTANT UPCOMING MEETINGS

- June 25, 2011** Induction Ceremony for DG Leo Patterson at the Dixon Elks Club, Dixon, IL. Registration on website www.rotary6420.org
- July 6, 2011** Friendship Exchange meeting at CGH Medical Center, Sterling, IL. 6:30 PM.
- August 4, 2011** Deer Valley Workshop for: Membership, Foundation, Public Image and Visioning. Registration on the website.

Mount Carroll with celebrate 25 years of "Service Above Self"

The Rotary Club of Mount Carroll with celebrate 25 years of "Service Above Self" on June 18th, 2011 with an house, at Kraft Commons in Mount Carroll, from 5PM to 7PM. Please plan on attending to help commemorate this milestone.



Front row (left to right): Ralph Kennedy, Dick Noble, Leonard Dixon, Gene Teeter, Gary Foltz, Wayne Brooks, Pat Connor

Second row (left to right): Melissa Parsons; Nola Charles, Jane Dixon, Anna Gray, Ann Crouse, Bev Atherton, Julie Katzenberger, Terrie Miller

Back row (left to right): Ed Juracek; Lou Schau; Ken Alexander; Mike Risko Paul Tobin, Jody Martens Mike Doty, Chris Dinning,

Not Pictured: Barb Brierton, Ann Dougherty



COWBOY LOGIC:
SOME THINGS ARE NOT FOR SALE
OUR Core Values are NOT for Sale

SERVICE | FELLOWSHIP | DIVERSITY | INTEGRITY | LEADERSHIP

The District 6420 Friendship Exchange

As I write this brief article, our District 6420 Friendship Exchange group is preparing to leave the United States on Monday, June 6. They will arrive in London on Tuesday, June 7, and will be met by their English hosts, John and Lesley Tyers, at London Heathrow Airport.

They will travel from London to Peterborough to begin the Exchange, staying with Host families in Peterborough, Holbeach and Leicestershire during their two week program where many exciting events are being planned for them... including Rotary meetings!!

We will look forward to seeing their wonderful pictures and hearing their stories about the Friendship Exchange with District 1070.

In the meantime, our Committee continues to plan for District 1070's visit to the States from Sept. 14-28. There will be five couples in their program.

Here is a schedule of their visits to our District and the Area Coordinators who will be arranging host families, Rotary meeting visits and sightseeing venues for them:

- Sept. 14-18 Dixon Betty Clementz Coordinator assisted by Mary Martin
- Sept. 18-22 Rockford Kathy Kwiat-Hess Coordinator
- Sept. 22-25 Quad Cities Mary Fislar Coordinator
- Sept. 25-28 District 6440 Rudy Welvers Coordinator

In the July District Newsletter, I will give more information on dates and locations for specific events that may interest many of you..

On behalf of our District Friendship Exchange Committee, we thank you for your support of this program and welcome your ideas and participation.

Mary Fislar,
District Friendship Exchange Chair

A NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT TREASURER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

June 30, 2011 is the end of the Rotary fiscal year of 2010-2011. Please submit all final receipts and bills that need to be paid by June 25, 2011. I will close the books for this fiscal year on June 30, 2011. If you have not submitted final bills and receipts by then, you will not be reimbursed for those expenses. Please assist me by meeting this deadline so that I can meet my deadline and also reimburse you for all your expenses. You may submit bills by e-mail to me at anitapapich@earthlink.net or by regular mail at: 5287 Sandpiper Place; Loves Park, Illinois; 61111.

District 6420 and I truly appreciate all your hard work during the year in making our District a success as a Future Vision Pilot District. Thank you for all your efforts!

District Treasurer PDG Anita Papich

Mendota Rotary Club celebrates their 50th Anniversary.

On May 1, 2011 the Medota Rotary Club celebrated their 50th year of "Service Above Self". The club was chartered on May 25, 1961.



District Governor Don Ahrendsen presented the 50th Year Certificate to Roger Anderson, president of the Mendota Rotary Club.



Four charter members were in attendance at the 50th Anniversary. (L to R) Roger Anderson President, Dick Shotliff charter member, Gaylon Ehlers charter member, DG Don Ahrendsen, Harry Conkey charter member, and Vince Slomian, charter member.



Richard Graft (left) from the sponsoring LaSalle Rotary Club with Roger Anderson.

Speaker was DGE Leo Patterson, a former member of the Medota Rotary club, presented a program about his involvement in the Mendota club and Rotary International over the past 25 years.

Article and pictures by: Roger Anderson, Rotarian.

To learn about where our VTT team is go to:

This video: [Clean Water - One Bucket at a Time](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YC4B7fg6XHE)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YC4B7fg6XHE>

This article: Vocational Training: Building a Better Future for Guatemalan Youth
<http://www.clubrunner.ca/portal/story/StoryDetail.aspx?accountid=50032&sid=11881&std=District>

District Golf Outing Fundraiser for PolioPlus off to a great start.

As you read in the last newsletter, one of the items donated to our Fall Golf Outing and Silent Auction was from Danica Patrick. As the item had to be used at the June races in Chicago and the golf outing is in the fall, we decided to set up a "internet auction." Thanks to Dr. Kris Tumilowicz from the Loves Park Rotary for his generous donation to PolioPlus of \$1234.00. Kris was the high bidder on the Internet Auction for the Danica Patrick Racing package. He, his wife Patti, and son Michael watched the race from the pit area, met Danica, and had a great time. Thanks also to Joe Corrigan from the Loves Park Rotary for arranging this auction item.



The golf outing is just around the corner. Please do not delay in assembling your foursome; we have an incentive for you to get your application and money in early. Want to help out? Here are a few ways you can help this great cause and have fun along the way.

1. Get a foursome together and sign up asap. If you get in your registration by August 15th you will be placed in a drawing for a **complimentary foursome of golf with carts and lunch at The Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Club (\$325 value)** So don't procrastinate! Get your info and money in and get a chance to play this great course. For a registration form contact Mike VanSistine.
2. We would like to establish a contact at each of the clubs. This person would be responsible for promoting the event and would be sent information and kept up to date on the golf outing. Consider sponsoring a sign on the course or donating an auction item for the silent auction.
3. Volunteer that day or be a member of the golf planning committee.

If you have any questions about the golf outing or would like to help in any way please contact Mike Van Sistine. Work (815) 399-0711 Cell (815) 988-3500 or gmtheclub@gmail.com

Article by: Mike Van Sistine, Loves Park Rotarian

2010-11 Rotary Club Attendance and Membership report

Club	07/01/10 Membership	Feb. %	March %	Apr. %	May %	Change Total
Belvidere	45	54	53	60	56	44 -1
DeKalb	31	58	65			29 -2
Dixon	76	54	58		64	71 -5
East Moline/Silvis	99	79	74			89 -10
Erie	9	78	85	83	77	9
Freeport	77	42	43	47	43	76 -1
Freeport Sunrise	18			82	65	14 -4
Galena	56	68	74	81	71	51 -5
Geneseo	40	74	75	80	79	43 +3
Granville	26	89	93	90		30 +4
Harvard	9	86	89	87		11 +2
Henry	32	76	63	77		36 +4
Ill. Valley Sunrise	35	75	53	64		38 +3
Kishwaukee Sunrise	45	63	51	60	60	43 -2
Lacon	24					24
LaSalle	48	50	51	48	55	41 -7
Loves Park	44	75	80	82	80	48 +4
Marselles	16	73	73	68		17
Mendota	11	92	90	92	98	10 -1
Milan	31	73	75	75		28 -3
Moline	125	71	70	81	82	129 +4
Morrison	51	58	54	61		48 -3
Mt. Carroll	27	58	44	51		26 -1
North Winnebago Co.	16					15 -1
Oregon	50	56	57	58	60	52 +2
Ottawa	82	53	59	61		92 +10
Ottawa Sunrise	28	69	74	81	73	26 -2
Pecatonica	20	61				20
Peru	46	47	51	52	56	46
Plano	15	71	77	73		16 +1
Princeton	68	75	74	76		71 +3
Quad Cities	23	65	67	49		21 -2
River Cities	29	54	60	64	65	27 -2
Rochelle	77	94	54	56		74 -3
Rock Falls	19	98	86	73		19
Rock Island	95	63	66	68	68	99 +4
Rock River Valley	18	95	93	89		19 +1
Rockford	204	40	37	41	35	192 -12
Rockford East/ CV.	33	68	68	69		33
Sandwich	13	71	72	71	75	12 -1
Savanna	26	71	67	74	66	30 +4
Sterling	59	88	80			58 -1
Streator	26	61	60	67	71	29 +3
Sycamore	76	60	54	57		78 +2
Toluca	17					17
Twin Cities	43	68	64	63	65	40 -3
Walnut	23	65	83	78	84	25 +2
Wenona	13	73	77			12 -1
Total	2094					

Make up a Rotary meeting online:
www.rotaryclubone.org



Welcome new members to Rotary!!

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Morrison Rotary | Danielle Vance |
| Walnut Rotary | Carol Dietz |
| Freeport Noon Rotary | Barrie Hendrickson |
| Moline Rotary | Jennifer Kress |
| Rock Island Rotary | Ted Kutsunis |
| Rock Island Rotary | Scott VanDeWoestyne |
| Rock Island Rotary | Katie Colbrese |
| LaSalle Rotary | Peter Jasiek |
| Dixon Rotary | Debbie Deets |
| Loves Park | Jeff Larson |

New Paul Harris Fellows

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Loves Park Rotary | Stan Tumilowicz |
| Geneseo Rotary | Ken Werner |
| Rockford Rotary | Patricia Fong |
| Rockford Rotary | Ruth Little |
| Rockford Rotary | Suzanne Berger +1 |
| Rockford Rotary | Casey Brauns +2 |
| Rockford Rotary | Roger Maggio +2 |
| Rockford Rotary | William O'Donnell +2 |
| Rockford Rotary | Cynthia Drollinger +5 |
| Rockford Rotary | Thomas Killoren +5 |



The joy of....

The power of

The magic of



Rotary gives life to the motto that
"Peace is Possible"

That's All Folks