

Our District Messenger
www.rotary6250.org



District Governor Hal Keitel 2006 -07

January 2007

Governor's Message

Success is rarely the result of just one thing. It's more likely the consequence of many people and numerous events merging through innovative work and clear communication. Our district just completed strategic planning, rewriting the financial policies and reached agreement on many issues at the Leadership Advisory Council.

As a result, we have three active committees who will bring the goals of the strategic plan to fruition.

- *One: The Vision Statement for our district will be developed by PDG Bob Bendiksen, DG Hal Keitel, DGE Mary Kessens, DGNN Dean Dickinson and chaired by DGN Tom Marshall.*
- *Two: Improved communication among clubs, the district and Rotary International will be led by the Assistant Governors, and chaired by AG Jim Crubaugh.*
- *Three: Team members that will provide strategic planning for individual clubs include Jeff Heinzen, Mark Johnson, Randy Otto, Rob Stroud, Hal Keitel and chairperson Bob Bendiksen.*

All will convene as soon as possible and have results within a few months.

Hal Keitel

January is Rotary Awareness Month

Get the word out about service to local media and your friends!

Semiannual Report

Has your club secretary or treasurer completed the report for RI?

“District Leadership sought Water Park ... found Vision”

– a candid report from Assistant Governor Jim Crubaugh

Strategic planning? Setting a new course? Re-focus our direction? From my years in the Army I remembered it as “organizational effectiveness training”.... A means to the end, a God-awful boring 6 hours in front of me. More on our district website.....

New Club – Welcome Holmen Morning!

The newest club in our district, Holmen Morning, will be chartered on February 10, with 35 members. If you want to participate in welcoming them to the family of Rotary, contact Pat Stephens, President of LaCrosse East (stephens.pat@uwlax.edu), the sponsoring club, or Larry Bodin, the Charter President (larry.bodin@micorp.com).

Featured Club – Tomah

A new Interact Club was formed at the Tomah High School in December. Pictures and more information are on our district website. [Click Here]

International Projects – Volunteer Service Team Travels to Nigeria in November – by Al Strohschein

A volunteer team for the development of international service projects traveled to Rotary District 9110 in Lagos and Ogun states of Nigeria from November 2nd to November 13th. Members of the team are available for a presentation to your local club. Watch from more information about district signature projects that your club can participate in. More information is located on our district website [Click Here]

International Projects – Waunakee Rotarians Travel to Haiti – by Bill Erickson

Early in 2006 Rotarians from the Waunakee Rotary Club District 6250 donated toward the drilling of a well to provide safe water for a village in Haiti. Bill and Phil Willems are anxious to share their story with district clubs. Contact Bill at billjneteric@msn.com or Phil at fiveand10@tds.net Bill's story is can be viewed on our district website. [Click Here]

District Meetings

Central States Rotary Youth Exchange Winter Meeting, January 19-20, Schaumburg, IL
International Assembly (District Governor Training), Jan 28 – Feb 1, San Diego
Leadership Training, February 17, WI Dells
District Foundation/Membership Meeting, February 24, WI Dells
President Elect Training, March 9-10, WI Dells
District Assembly, April 14, WI Dells
District Conference, May 4-6, WI Dells

November Membership Report –

Congratulations Granton – still maintaining 100% attendance. But watch out for Medford – their YTD attendance is 92%. Who will win the Attendance Contest, and receive the scholarship money?

One of the District Goals this year is have all clubs regularly report their attendance by the 15th of every month. There is no formal report to submit. A simple report of meeting dates and attendance # at each meeting is all that is requested. Email the report to District Secretary Alan Selene at alanselene@ryansigns.net, or snail mail to Alan at One Ondossagon, Madison, WI 53719. *The most recent report is posted on our District Web Site.*

The District Messenger editor is Julie Keitel. Send info to jkeitel@new.rr.com, or 9 W. 18th Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54902. The monthly deadline for articles is the 7th of the month, and the newsletter will be published by the 15th. The newsletter is emailed to club presidents and secretaries, assistant governors, and district committee chairs. Please copy and distribute to your club members, or post on your club website. More detailed information is available on the district website.

“District Leadership sought Water Park ... found Vision”

When I woke up that Saturday morning in December it was all I could do to think “positive” and to think “wonderful thoughts”. After all, it was 6:00 AM and this retiree doesn’t see anything clearly until at least after 8:00 AM, especially on a Saturday. What was it they said was happening today? Strategic planning? Setting a new course? Re-focus our direction? From my years in the Army I remembered it as “organizational effectiveness training”.... A means to the end, a God-awful boring 6 hours in front of me.

Ok, I made it to the Dells in time, got my triple shot Starbucks, headed over to the hotel conference room. (Open BOTH eyes Jim, people are looking) good morning everyone, yes I am here, no, I didn’t have an accident getting here...blah blah blah...hey, who are these strangers? They’re giving the class? New thoughts? New voices? New ideas? (What do you mean ‘we’ll’ produce the new ideas???) Of course, if we are to develop a plan...let’s have some new “outside” folks to look in at us...see what they see and let’s talk about it. Works for me....I’m up and have my coffee anyway.

And that’s how my Saturday started at the Dells that fateful December day, with the District seeking a vision and a focus for us, a direction to follow, and we were all to be a part of it. Well, since there were about 20 of us, that meant 20 potential different directions to follow. Now, that had to be headed off before we got anywhere for sure. And then they appeared, the District 5960 Vision Facilitation Team, Catherine Smith from out of New Brighton, Minnesota; Steve Wilcox of Hudson, Wisconsin, and Fred Barth of Minneapolis. And so our journey began:

We soon learned of our needs, just by thinking about where we were and where we thought we were headed....and sure enough, seems everyone had a different idea of present direction and need. (Well, what else did you expect??) And so our day began, seeking to define The District’s focus and direction and then turning it into OUR District’s focus and direction. To set a new course of direction and utilize only one rudder, and all rowing while facing the same direction...(think about that one a bit...and what it does to a group when not all are facing in the same direction while rowing).

And so it went, development of a District vision and direction for working with Clubs for setting their goals and District goals, identifying and optimizing resources, providing development and continuity of leadership and building consensus for further Club and District development. Develop a management team within District, then interface our Club and District goals with that of Rotary International’s main strategic goals. From that we can develop our road map for getting to our destination of ‘achievement’ through Club, District, and RI integration of activity and efforts. All this for the good cause and order for the unified target, a single vision, traveling with leadership via our district map.

The hours sped by (I have to write that.) and sure enough it was time to bring it all home...we boiled our ideas down to manageable and realistic goals and a direction to follow. Objectives and topics were identified and from that a Visioning Team will formalize the plan in coming weeks...all headed in the same direction and for a common good....of OUR DISTRICT 6250.

AG Jim Crubaugh
January 2007

Pictured are the Interact members of the Tomah High School along with their Rotarian advisors and the Rotary District Governor. On December 19th, a luncheon was held at the Ground Round in Tomah to establish Interact as a chartered club and to induct the members into the club. Interact is a Rotary based organization that gives high school students of any age and grade level opportunities to work on service activities both on a community and international level. Interact is part of the Rotary family that allows for Rotarians to mentor these students that are interested in service and to act as professional resources.

Meetings are held once a month and generally consist of approving the prior month's minutes, upcoming service projects, fundraising, establishing new membership, secretarial reports, and budgeting for activities. Some activities that Interact has already been involved with include putting up and taking down the Rotary lights at Gillette Park, helping out Santa in Gillette Park, and establishing criteria for selecting the Rotary Students of the Month eligible to the entire high school student body. Upcoming events will include participation in a speech contest held at the Al Ringling Theatre in Baraboo, gathering food for the food pantry, holding a brat sale, and having a fun day in Wisconsin Dells.

Written by Wes Revels, Rotary Club of Tomah



[[Return to Newsletter](#)]

VOLUNTEER SERVICE TEAM Travels to Nigeria in November 2006

A volunteer team for the development of international service projects traveled to Rotary District 9110 in Lagos and Ogun states of Nigeria from November 2nd to November 13th 2006. Mary Kessens, a group study exchange team leader to District 9110 in 2002, led the team. Accompanying her were her husband, Thomas Mickelson; Lynne Spielman, from the Waunakee Rotary; Alan Strohschein, from the Columbus Rotary; Bob Trussoni, from the Marshfield Sunrise Rotary; and Kristin Duckart, from the Wisconsin Rapids Noon Rotary. Rotarians from District 9110 welcomed the team with open arms and open hearts. Special thanks must be given to Ike Ugwu of the Rotary Club of Amuwo, Gbemmi Sonuga of the Rotary Club of Ikoyi Metro, and Richard Oguai of the Rotary Club of Amuwo. These fine Rotarians made our District 6250 volunteer team most welcome in their country.

While in Nigeria, the team had an opportunity to visit life changing Rotary projects. These included a school for beggars' children in Lagos, organized by the Rotary Club of Falomo District 9110. Strong connections with the community were evident through the presence of an active Rotary Community Corp. which supported school attendance. Still needed were toilets for the children, and expanded facilities and educational materials. A group meeting of woman entrepreneurs participating in a joint District 6250 and 9110 micro-lending project highlighted how we are helping families afford education, housing, and business development efforts. One woman who was blind can now support her family because of her small loan.

A visit was made to the more rural Ogun State. The team was able to participate in a Governor's meeting with about 400 educators. The need for medical training materials and equipment was highlighted, as well as lessons in the openness of government in Ogun State. A Rotary Saint, PDG Olu Olukoya, took the team to many well and sanitation projects in rural and urban areas. In most cases, the well and borehole projects are the only clean water source for thousands of people.

The Nigerian and American members of the team met with several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) who are involved with community needs assessments, improvement of health care and education, and community development. There appeared to be many linkages, which could be developed to grow a larger Rotary project that might meet multiple community needs.

The team members in our district and in District 9110 will continue to work on the development of joint projects. Team USA is focusing on completing a shipment of books and medical supplies to District 9110, expanding an Education for Life Scholarship fund for the education of girl children and women, and developing joint water/sanitation projects between District 6250 Wisconsin and 9110 Nigeria.

All of the members of the team, whose names and web addresses are at the foot of this article, are available for presentations to Rotary Clubs in District 6250, as well as to other organizations.

Some of our Nigerian friends will be attending the 2007 Rotary International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. On their way back to Nigeria, they hope to stop in District 6250 for the welcoming party for our incoming governor for 2007-2008, Mary Kessens. Contact Al Strohschein if you would like to be a host. We are also planning another trip to Nigeria within the next two years. If you have an interest in this experience, please contact one of the team members.

There are many opportunities for Clubs in District 6250 to partner with Clubs in District 9110. All of the members of the volunteer service team that traveled to Nigeria in November 2006 are ready, willing, and able to assist your clubs in linking to clubs in Nigeria. Please contact members of the team for additional information

Mary Kessens, DG 2007-8, Madison West-Towne-Middleton Rotary
kessens@gdinet.com

Lynne Spielman, Waunakee Rotary
spielman@chorus.net

Bob Trussoni, Marshfield Sunrise Rotary
trussoni@marshfieldutilities.org

Kristin Duckart, Wisconsin Rapids Noon Rotary
kduckart@uwsp.edu

Alan J. Strohschein, Columbus Rotary
kastro@sglawoffice.net

[Back to Newsletter]

WAUNAKEE ROTARY

IN HAITI

“Working together as Rotarians we can do wondrous things.” (DG Hal Keitel 2006)

Early in 2006 Rotarians from the Waunakee Rotary Club District 6250 donated toward the drilling of a well to provide safe water for a village in Haiti. Without safe water the death rate of children can reach 50% in the first year of their lives. The \$1,250 donated by the Waunakee Rotarians will be matched by District 5950 which has an existing RI grant and in turn by RI and then again by World Vision for a total of \$10,000. The well will be drilled by Haiti Outreach, a humanitarian group with headquarters in the Minneapolis area, and an in country base in Pignon, a town in the north central highlands of Haiti. Haiti Outreach has drilled over 2200 wells in that area, built water distribution networks, built and funded schools, started a micro-lending bank and provided housing for needy families. To get a first-hand look at the Haiti Outreach operation, Bill Erickson and Phil Willems signed on to a work group that was going to Haiti to work in cooperation with Haiti Outreach and four Minnesota clubs from District 5920 to build a home for a family. The \$1,500 to buy material and furnish local labor for the home was donated by an individual from Minnesota.

And so the project begins - -

On November 27th Bill and Phil flew out of Madison, met eight others in Miami and proceeded onto Port au Prince Haiti. The group of 13 was made up of ten Rotarians and three Haiti Outreach people. We spent the night in Port au Prince and although the airport in Port au Prince was crowded and the streets clouded with traffic, we felt safe and in control. We flew to Pignon the next day.

Our 18 passenger plane landed on a grass runway in Pignon where we were met by Neil VanDine the Incountry Director of Haiti Outreach. He and Jim Kirzeder one of the Haiti outreach workers that came in with us, would lead our building party. Jim has made 47 trips to Haiti over the years.

We were housed in a complex that was originally run by a mission group, but now is run for profit by a local group. All of the buildings had seen better days. Meals were furnished and prepared by local ladies. If you like goat, you would be thrilled with the cuisine. There was no power the last five days and the water had little or no pressure most mornings. The beds were cots, but we always slept well.

This area is rural and the people are poor. Most have gardens and as we were there at harvest time, most people looked well nourished. We were told other times of the year children can suffer from malnutrition.

The first three days we worked along side local laborers and volunteers to build the house. The home was 18' x 25' with stone walls and a tin roof. The stone was gathered from the nearby hills and the mortar, which was mixed with water carried in by local women, was dug from a pit on the property. The work was shared by all and relatively easy.

The fourth day we traveled over the roughest road we had ever encountered to two villages that were dedicating wells that were recently completed. The whole town gathered to give thanks. Ron Alex, PDG from District 5950 accepted the "thank you's" on Rotary's behalf. The wells will be administered and maintained by locals which will provide security, maintenance and collect a small monthly charge. This local involvement is essential for the ongoing success of the well. All wells are manually pumped with a heavy duty unit developed and provided by Haiti Outreach.

In the morning of the fifth day we went into Pignon, a town of 20,000. We visited the local market, hospital, an orphanage and the school. Haiti Outreach has added a floor to the hospital and added onto the school. The orphanage was built by an earlier missionary and now is run by a couple from Kansas. Throughout this tour you're aware of how poor these people are, but still they are happy and friendly.

In the afternoon we visited a major water distribution project Haiti Outreach had completed several years before. It consisted of capping a large mountain spring, channeling it down the mountain which in turn

powered “ram pumps” that provide water to homes within a four mile radius. Over 800 local people took part in its building over a two-year period using most hand labor to dig in piping, mixing and pouring concrete.

The sixth day, Sunday, was election day for local government officials and Neil and Jim felt it would be best if we did not go into the town. The UN forces were on patrol and in the end it was a quiet day. Even the local churches were closed. We spent the day at Neil’s home where he and Jim barbequed chicken legs which we ate as we watched satellite TV which had both the Vikings and Packer games on. Neil’s home is one of very few that has electricity and running water.

The seventh day, Monday, we went to the home site where we dug mortar, mixed it and “pailed” it to the workmen. The group is getting good at “bucket brigades” We returned to the mission for lunch and then Jim had arranged for local craft vendors to visit the mission so we could buy local crafts for souvenirs. Later that afternoon we returned to the home site where the family receiving the home thanked all the workmen and ourselves. Prayers were offered, songs sung and lots of hugs were exchanged. The house was almost done.

“Rotary and Haiti Outreach did a “really good job”, and we went away with a feeling of accomplishment.”

(Ron Axel PDG 5950 2/2006)

Tuesday we were up at 6:00 a.m., ate breakfast, thanked the cooks and headed for the airport. A chartered plane from Mission Air picked us up and flew us to Port au Prince. We sat around and eventually left for Miami and home.

“It was a worthwhile trip, with a great crew. We’d do it again in a minute!!” (Phil and Bill 2006)