

Our District Messenger
www.rotary6250.org



District Governor Hal Keitel 2006 -07

March 2007

Governor's Message

Our Rotary year has two most important upcoming events, the District Assembly on April 14th and the District Conference on May 4-6th. The District Assembly is a MUST event for club leadership development. Clubs should plan to send their officers and other team members to develop club goals and strategies for the coming year.

The District Conference is not only educational, but also gives us an opportunity for friendship and fellowship. Contact the Kalahari Resort BEFORE APRIL 4 to get the special room rate. Also note, this year, there is only one registration fee per Rotary family. More information registration follows below.

I have so appreciated meeting many of you during club visits. Let us further the friendship by celebrating the conference together. Hats off to 6250!

Hal Keitel

March is Literacy Month

Literacy is one of the focus topics at our upcoming District Conference. RI President Bill Boyd says "Literacy is a stepping stone away from poverty. Once there is literacy in a family, it's almost always there to stay, as literate parents raise literate children."

What does your club do to support literacy efforts in your community? Or do you have an international project? The following story is from the www.rotary.org :

Inspired by his daughters, Don Plunkett returned from a trip to India with a new literacy project for his Rotary club in Peekskill, New York, USA.

"My daughter Mariah was traumatized by the level of poverty she witnessed in India and wanted to do something," Plunkett says.

The Plunketts decided to help through [Mrs. Helena Kaushik Women's College](#) near Jhunjhunu, India, which provides a college education to rural women who would otherwise not have access to one. Back in New York, Mariah and her sister, Kayla (then ages 12 and 9 respectively), began saving their allowance to sponsor scholarships.

The Rotary Club of Peekskill then picked up Plunkett daughters' idea and now sets aside US\$1,200 from an annual fundraiser to cover all costs for a student to attend the college for a year. The project, in its third year, is going strong.

"More girls in the village now attend elementary school in hope of attending their new and only women's college," Plunkett says. "Just a few years back, they were mostly all in the fields and not the classrooms." The Plunketts plan to return to India next year.

The Peekskill club is one of the many clubs participating in literacy-related projects. Clubs typically get involved in literacy projects in three main ways.

1. Adoption projects Adoption projects, such as the Peekskill club's, usually involve long-term commitments between a club and a community. Together, they can assist a school by supplementing existing programs with a combination of volunteer time and donations. Clubs can work either with local communities or internationally. The [Rotary Club of Columbus](#), Ohio, adopts inner-city schools as part of its long-running Adopt-a-School project.

2. Donations Schools and libraries worldwide need books, teaching resources, and other classroom materials. This type of literacy project often involves simply organizing a book drive or donating money to organizations that provide books. *Before conducting a book drive, work with your local school, library, or community center to determine what types of books are most needed. Donated reading materials should work in conjunction with existing programs. The International Reading Association resolution on book donations to developing countries provides [excellent guidelines](#) (PDF).*

Examples of successful Rotary projects or partnerships include the [Dictionary Project](#), [Books for Africa](#), [District 7620 Books for International Goodwill](#), and the [Guatemala Literacy Project](#).

3. Volunteering

Service-minded Rotarians love hands-on projects like volunteering as reading tutors or mentors. "Volunteering in existing tutoring or mentoring programs is one of the most effective and rewarding projects clubs can do," says David Plater, a program coordinator at Rotary International who specializes in literacy.

"Both volunteers and students benefit from the interaction, and all it really requires is time." Your club's community service or literacy coordinator can serve as a liaison to the community and seek out opportunities for tutoring.

Clubs also can work with local affiliates of the [International Reading Association](#) to get project ideas and contacts.

President-Elects' Training (PETS)

Membership, Rotary Foundation support and goal setting were themes of this year's Presidents Elect Training Session (PETS), held on March 9-10, 2007 at the

Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Over 95 Club President Elects and Nominees, Assistant Governors, Committee Chairs and trainers participated. This year's PETS was an experiment as a single district event and relied heavily on training materials provided by Rotary International. PEs gave the sessions outstanding ratings and went back to their clubs with enthusiasm for new service projects.

DGE Mary Kessens shared Rotary International goals and emphases in areas of Membership, Youth, Family of Rotary, as well as the Avenues of Service. She exhorted PEs to say "YES, YES, YES" to Rotary service and leave their clubs in stronger shape than at the beginning of the year. RI President Wilf Wilkerson's Presidential Citation Criteria relies heavily on activities in the five areas. More information on the Presidential Citation can be found on the rotary.org website.

DGE Kessens announced our district participation in its first Vocational Group Study Exchange. (GSE) We will exchange in 2008 with Argentina District 4850. The exchange will be for professionals who provide services to people with disabilities.

Former Ambassadorial Scholar to Ghana, Katie Krueger gave the luncheon presentation on her experiences in Ghana and the subsequent establishment of the Project Japale' Goune' Foundation.

PEs participated in learning sessions concerning their roles and responsibilities as Club Presidents, goal setting, club administration, membership, service projects, The Rotary Foundation, Public Relations and long-range planning. Planning and the availability of resources for clubs were emphasized. "Speed Dating with Your District Committees" was a popular event where PEs learned about district committees and resources in four-minute segments. Also participating were Jim Damato and Tom Woods, our Rotary International staff for Club and District Support.

A question and answer session wrapped up the well-attended event where the highlights included fundraising projects of mud volleyball and chicken poop contests. Successful raffles, brat and flower sales and golf tournaments were also highlighted. PEs contributed to the knowledge base of all in a quick tempo of questions and answers.

A special thanks goes to Virginia Bartelt and all of the training committee and presenters for a valuable training session for all.

Upcoming District Meetings

District Assembly, April 14, WI Dells

Your next opportunity for training is the District Assembly on April 14, 2007 at the Kalahari Resort. Recommended attendees include PE's, club committee chairs and officers, new members and other club members interested in enhancing the projects of their clubs. More information can be found on the district website.

District Conference, May 4-6, WI Dells

Hats Off to 6250!

Come share your literacy project/story!

Register by March 31, and the fee per Rotary family is only \$40! After that it will be \$50. Contact Kalahari Resort by April 4th to get \$119/139 per night. The rate includes passes to the water park. 877-525-2427

Great entertainment both nights - Friday night is our friend Diane Michaels from the Reedsburg area– she is a nationally known folksinger/storyteller. Bring your family – all will enjoy Diane’s style. On Saturday night we are going to swing with ‘Copperbox’ – one of the most popular bands from the Fox River Valley, which we think all ages will enjoy! The band has a passion for playing different styles of music, the result is a unique accordion rock sound with influence from Cajun, Zydeco, Tex-Mex, Bluegrass, Classic Rock, and European folk music. Needless to say, it's an eclectic sound.

Featured Club – Madison South

Happy Birthday Madison South members! The club is celebrating its 40th birthday later this month. Hal and I receive their weekly newsletter – one of the more entertaining pieces of mail we receive. Hey Dick, Steve and Janet – how about an article and some pictures for next month’s District Newsletter?

Polio Plus Update

In January 2007, PolioPlus entered a new era by adopting tailored approaches to reach the last children, in each of the last 4 endemic countries, with new eradication tools. This move, from the 'one-size-fits-all' eradication strategy, is the single biggest development since PolioPlus was launched in 1985.

Polio can be eradicated

- *Impact* – polio cases worldwide have fallen by 99% since PolioPlus was started in 1985.
- *Polio Surveillance* – since 2004, new surveillance standards and laboratory processes have ensured that every country can detect every circulating poliovirus more rapidly than ever.
- *Outbreak Control* – every re-infected country has already stopped its outbreak or is on the verge of doing so; since 2006, new international response guidelines stop outbreaks faster than ever.
- *Finishing Eradication* – the poorest, most war-torn and most crowded countries on earth have stopped polio; new generation 'monovalent' polio vaccines provide even more potent tools for the last 4 endemic countries which, in December 2006, adopted new and tailored approaches:
 - **India:** monthly polio campaigns will target the very young children who sustain polio;
 - **Nigeria:** new Immunization Plus Days will target the very high risk states where polio continues to circulate;
 - **Afghanistan & Pakistan:** synchronized campaigns will target the populations moving across borders and living in insecure areas where poliovirus survives.

Future Rotary International Conventions www.rotary.org

2007 Salt Lake City- June 17-20 – **Register by March 31 for discounts!**

2008 Los Angeles

2009 Seoul, Korea

2010 Montreal

2011 New Orleans

Fast breaking update from Rotary International

As the Internet continues to grow, unfortunately so do e-mail scams and other forms of Internet fraud targeting Rotarians or abusing Rotary information.

The latest wave of e-mail scams, brought to RI's attention by Rotarians who received messages, includes an e-mail that falsely claims to be from the BMW Group. The scam is especially confusing because it uses the likeness and apparent signature of 2005-06 RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar. The message text usually congratulates the recipient for winning and asks for recipients to verify their information. Visit [FraudWatch International Web site](#) to learn more about this type of fraud.

RI is aware of these schemes and encourages Rotarians to be vigilant about deleting any e-mail that appears suspicious. Rotary International does not solicit funds via e-mail, nor does it request that personal information be updated via e-mail or other electronic means.

January Membership Report –

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.