



6250 DISTRICT DISPATCH

District Governor

Mary Kessens

Serving Western Wisconsin
& Southeast Minnesota

March Headlines

District Governor's Message

[Celebrate Literacy](#)

[District Conference Update](#)

District Goals for 2007-2008

[Click here to download district goals as a pdf.](#)

District News, Events and Announcements

Save These Important District Dates!

[District 6250 Announces 2010-2011 District Governor](#)

[District 6250 Group Study Exchange Team Sends Update from Argentina](#)

[Kickapoo County Fair Offers Fundraiser to Rotary Clubs](#)

[Rotary Friendship Exchanges - A Call For Rotary Travelers](#)

[Images from a Successful PETS](#)

Club News, Events and Announcements

[Check Out the Latest Membership Tips in the Zone 27/28 Newsletter](#)

[New LaCrosse Rotaract Garners Headlines](#)

[Marshfield Sunrise to Host Lend-a-Hand Service Auction April 10th](#)

RI News

[2008 Rotary International Convention News - Register Now!](#)

[Every Rotarian Every Year Report](#)

Ask Mary

[Do you have a question for District Governor Mary Kessens?](#)

Update on Annual Giving

[Check Here for the Latest Foundation Reports Including:](#)

- [Update on Annual Giving](#)
- [Polio Plus Updates](#)
- [More](#)

Attendance Report

[Janesville Adds 12 New Members Year to Date!](#)
- [View the Latest Attendance Reports](#)

District Governor's Message

Celebrate Literacy!



Mary Kessens

If I might contribute my current position in life to one skill, I would claim literacy. The act of reading has expanded my world from the moment I learned how to recognize Dick and Jane. Coming to town on Saturdays to visit the library in my little rural town was the treat of the week. That I got to take the books home with me was the second treat. When other young girls were reading teen romances, I was behind the covers and in a faraway place with *A Wrinkle in Time*—still my all time favorite book. I learned that girls and women could have adventure, be scientists, make decisions and save the world or worlds as the case may be. I learned that books could be dangerous things when the librarian wouldn't let me check out *Rosemary's Baby* because my mother wouldn't approve! Reading it became one small step to testing other limits of the world in which I grew up.

My secret desire became science fiction novels...*A Canticle for Leibowitz*, *Dune*, *The Foundation Trilogy*, *Left Hand of Darkness*, *Time Storm*, *Dragon Riders of Pern*.... Thru these books I learned about science, diversity, creativity and that interaction with your world—whatever that world might be—could change the world.

Novels from around the planet Earth opened my world...from *House of Spirits* set in Chile through Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom* to *Things Fall Apart* and the modern day *Purple Hibiscus*, both set in Nigeria in different periods. Many other books of history and fiction of India, China and Europe passed before my eyes and through my heart and mind.

Modern novels of America educated my view. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *Hawaii* and all the Michener novels, *A Thousand Acres* and *Moo* all told stories of the human condition, about both the cruelty and the joy of life everywhere.

I would like to forget all of those college textbooks and references, but they are there, too, adding to accumulated knowledge.

Literacy makes a difference in lives. It molds minds, informs decisions and creates a legacy wherever books exist. Rotarians who donate books, read to youngsters, and donate scholarships change the world. From *Good Night Moon* to *Advanced Physics*, our District Rotarians' contribution to literacy is vast. We may never know the impact of our library book donation, but we can be sure a mind will dream a new idea because of it.

To celebrate the wonders of literacy, read the Celebrate Literacy Month article from RI in this month's newsletter. And, take some time to inventory your list of favorite books. Share this list at your next Rotary meeting to learn how your Rotary friends have developed through reading and continue to share literacy with others.

Special reminders from the District Governor:

- **Applications for Presidential Citations are due to the District Governor by March 31, 2008.** Follow these links to [Download the brochure](#), the [nomination form for Rotary clubs](#), and the form for [Rotaract and Interact clubs](#).
- Sign up your Club Leadership Team for District Assembly on March 29, 2008. This is the best opportunity around to start planning for the next Rotary year.
- Register now for District Conference, April 25-26, 2008. On line registration offers a discount. Come and enjoy the facilities at the Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Here international experts share their knowledge about effective projects and the success stories of Rotary International. See you there!

Best Wishes in Rotary,

Mary

[Return to Top](#)

District Conference Update

Rooms and registrations are going quickly. Spaces are filling up. Sign up as soon as possible for "Rotarians Sharing Rotary", our 2008 District Conference. We hope to keep you entertained with music, quizzes and raffles as well as meaningful presentations by Rotary partners worldwide. These include Engineers Without Borders, World Vision and the US Agency for International Development. We will have presentations on Rotary youth programs, our first ever Vocational Group Study Exchange with Argentina, membership development and leadership opportunities beyond your club. Celebrate with the winners of the Presidential Citation, Foundation recognition and Service Above Self awards.

If you would like to share your favorite project or best fundraiser with the rest of the district, contact our conference committee ASAP to join in our "Pop-up Presentations" and highlight your success this year. Display tables will also be available.

Remember to bring your families to share in the fun of the indoor water parks, golfing, river cruise, spas and amenities of the newly remodeled Chula Vista resort.

See you soon at "Rotarians Sharing Rotary", April 25-26, 2008 in the Wisconsin Dells.

[Return to Top](#)

District Goals for the Year

Mary Kessens

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[Return to Top](#)

District News, Events and Announcements

Save These Important Rotary Dates!

Please mark your calendars or register for these important meetings as we prepare for the 2008-2009 Rotary year!



Register Now!



Mark Your
Calendar!



April 25-27, 2008
Chula Vista Resort
Wisconsin Dells

Did You Know?

You can view the full District 6250 Calendar including dates for President Elect Training, Leadership Training and more on the district website? [Click here to view the calendar.](#)