



6250 DISTRICT DISPATCH

District Governor

Kristin Duckart

Serving Western Wisconsin
& Southeast Minnesota

June Edition

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Important Note: Deadline for district newsletter submissions is the 25th of each month. The newsletter will be distributed by the first full week of the month.

District Governor's Message



Kristin Duckart
District Governor

Dear Rotarians,

As I sit here at my desk in Wisconsin Rapids, it seems unimaginable that there are only 30 days left to my Governorship. How time flies! The opportunity to serve as part of the leadership team for 6250 has been both challenging and rewarding. Challenging, in that so much needs to happen in so little time....yet rewarding, as I witness the amazing magic that is Rotary...when we come together as members of this incredible global organization to touch lives around the world.

I have met and worked with Rotarians and non-Rotarians as we continue to press forward against the scourge of polio. We are so close. And as Bill Gates mentioned at the International Convention in New Orleans, "We don't do anything only 99% of the way." We must not stop until we have totally finished the job.



We are truly this close. Watch the Video!

There have been water projects, sanitation projects, book shipments, eye surgeries, cow projects, help for disabled individuals.....and the list goes on. What amazing accomplishments. Congratulations!

But also important is the fellowship and fun that we've had throughout the district over this last year. I've enjoyed participating in so many club and district activities. I'm still in awe at all of the initiatives and projects we undertake.....in an effort to make our world a better place.

As this Rotary year winds down, I'd like to thank each and every Rotarian of District 6250...for your commitment, your passion, and your support. Together we have changed the lives of many.

My best,

Kristin

Kristin Duckart
District Governor 2010-2011

District News, Events and Announcements

2011 District Conference Recap: *Talk About Being Inspired!*



Dear Rotarians,

As I write this newsletter to you, I'm sitting in the Minneapolis airport on my way to the International Rotary Convention in New Orleans. Only two days ago, I passed through this same airport on my way home from an amazing Rotary District Conference in Monterey, California. The International Convention is bound to be filled with wonderful experiences and inspiring speakers... as was the conference out in California! But, I am so happy with our own District Conference that I'm bubbling with Rotary bliss! We invited you to "Come Join Us....and Be Inspired!" I know those of you who were in Madison can say you were inspired!

We witnessed, for the first time in our District, the magic of a Rotary Youth Exchange Cultural Fair. It was a hit! Our youth exchange students had the opportunity to shine as they prepared their unique booths which provided an opportunity for attendees to engage with them personally and learn about each of their countries, cultures and ways of life.

You could hear a pin drop in the room as Astronaut, Sandy Magnus shared her story of space travel and life on the International Space Station. I think we were all in awe of her first person narrative and video tour of space station living. It was truly out of this world.

From outer space we then were taken underwater to witness first hand the life changing experience of adaptive scuba for injured veterans and those with disabilities. Jim Elliott, founder of Diveheart, not only shared a powerful plenary session, but also shared a live demonstration in the conference hotel pool.

VISION

Club Vision Facilitation
Information



Save The Date

Did You Know?

You can view the full
District 6250 Calendar
on the district website?
[Click here](#) to view the
calendar.

[Check out the 2010-2011
district calendar with
upcoming training dates.](#)

Attendance Report

[New Reporting Tool for District Attendance](#)

[View the Latest Attendance Reports](#)

In addition to Sandy and Jim, we journeyed to India with Hannah Warren, a former ambassadorial scholar who discovered her life's purpose by creating Jhoole, a fair trade program providing economic justice for women weavers. Hannah's story will be featured in the July Rotarian, and illustrates, once again, the power of one individual with an idea making a difference through the power of Rotary.

In addition, we heard a passionate personal polio testimony from Janice Flood Nichols, a survivor of the 1953 polio epidemic in DeWitt, New York, which took the life of her twin brother, Frankie. Janice's story reminded everyone why polio is and will continue to be our primary international project until we've finished the job. We truly are SO close.

We also heard from Bob Selinger about his projects in Africa, from Jamie Revord about the Rotary Foundation, Stephanie Selvick about engaging youth, and our very own Jerry Mills, who shared an inspiring message about the magic of gratitude, giving and getting involved.

Our evenings were packed full of fun and fundraising. We raised dollars for polio eradication efforts at our Kentucky Derby party hosted by the Madison Rotary clubs.

But the highlight of the conference was the Friday evening program of Rotary International Vice President, Tom Thorfinnson and the featured keynote of Rotary International's current President and resident cowboy philosopher, Ray Klinginsmith who lassoed the crowd with his cowboy logic and inspiring leadership.

Ray's remarks were enhanced by the surprise naming of Tom Marshall, PDG as one of the one hundred and fifty Rotarians worldwide to receive Rotary's highest honor, the Service Above Self Award. Congratulations, Tom!

It was truly my honor, as a Rotarian, and your current Governor, to be part of this amazing district event. I want to personally thank everyone involved, everyone who attended, those of you who supported this event in any way, and last but not least, the team at Morgan Data who helped plan and coordinate this remarkable weekend.

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Past District Governor Honored with Service Above Self Award

The Saturday evening presentation from Rotary International President Ray Klinginsmith was highlighted by a surprise presentation at the District Conference. The Service Above Self award was presented to Tom Marshall. As Rotary's highest honor for individual Rotarians, the Service Above Self award recognizes up to 150 Rotarians (out of 1.2 million) annually who have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service, with an emphasis on personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping others through Rotary.

Tom's service and award was recognized in the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune. [Click here to view the complete article.](#)

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Rotary Foundation Raffle Winner

Earlier this year our District Foundation Committee announced a continuation of the foundation raffles that were begun last year and which arguably help our district to achieve the highest level of foundation support in recent memory. The first raffle is a club raffle. Each club that has provided foundation support, proportionate to its own club goal is entered into a raffle for a 32" flat screen TV. The winners to date are the Rotary Club of Tomah and the Rotary Club of Marshfield Sunrise. A third winner will be determined following the final posting to the foundation early in July. All clubs should be focusing on getting their pledged support into the foundation not later than 30 June.

The second raffle was a "sustaining member" raffle. Every Rotarian in the district who contributed \$100 to the foundation by 30 April was entered into the drawing for a 42" flat screen TV. Friday evening, at our recently concluded District Conference, a name was drawn and the winner is....From the Rotary Club of Sauk Prairie, Karen Voelker. Karen is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. The story doesn't end there. Sauk Prairie is the smallest functioning club in our district. I know their members. They are a wonderful group of committed Rotarians. The Sauk Prairie Club has already achieved 100% of their annual programs support for our foundation with an average annual contribution of \$91.67 per member. Additionally, the club has provided over \$2000 in support of the Polio Eradication Fund.

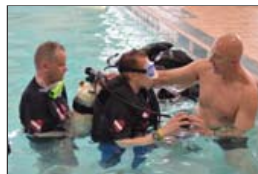
The lesson is really very simple. The size of the club is not what counts...it is the size of the heart and the passion of the members that will determine whether they are simply members of a club...or Rotarians. Congratulations to the Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Sauk Prairie.

Special Note: The latest Monthly Contribution Report from the Rotary Foundation indicates that twenty one of our sixty one clubs are on pace with their contributions. These clubs are qualified to be entered into the drawing to win the last of the 32" flat screen TV's that are a part of our foundation raffle.

With less than a month remaining before the end of this Rotary year it is important that our clubs forward their contributions to the foundation prior to June 30th in order that they are credited to this year. After that date



Rotarian and District Treasurer Ed Smith with his niece; NASA Astronaut Sandy Magnus.



Jim Elliott, Founder of Diveheart, gives a first hand demonstration in the pool at the conference.



the contributions will fall to next year and that will necessarily adversely impact the monies available to support international projects, Group Study Exchange and the scholarship programs. Additionally, it will reduce the funds available for the District Simplified Grants which are available to clubs that want to do significant projects in their communities...so, please, lets all of us do our best to provide our financial support in a timely way to the Rotary Foundation.

Dean Dickinson
Foundation Committee
Raffle Chair

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Rotary Fellowships: and District 6250's Newest!

According to the Rotary website, "Rotary Fellowships are autonomous, international groups of Rotarians, Rotarian spouses and Rotaractors who join together to share a common interest...make new friends around the world, explore new opportunities for service and have fun and enhance their Rotary experience".

The first unofficial Rotary Fellowship was formed in 1928 by a group of Rotarians interested in Esperanto. The first official Fellowship began in 1947 by a number of Rotarians sharing an interest in yachting. Today there are almost 100 Fellowships, ranging from chess and quilting to canoeing and Pre-Columbian civilizations. The Rotary Fellowships encourage Rotarians to form chapters within their own district. District chapters can have meetings or get-togethers, raise funds for a project, and simply get to know one another better.



The newest Fellowship in District 6250 is a chapter of the [Rotarian Wine Appreciation Fellowship](#). If you think you might be interested in learning about wine, sharing your knowledge with other oenophiles (or simply those who like to drink the nectar of the gods!), sign up! The chapter's name is "District 6250 Rotarians: Uncorked!"

The cost of joining the international fellowship is \$20/year or \$100 for a lifetime membership. Both memberships include a pin, but the lifetime membership has a very cool pin in the shape of a corkscrew. Membership in the District chapter is FREE with your paid membership in the international organization.

Be a part of the inaugural year of the "District 6250 Rotarians: Uncorked!". Help shape the organization and meet more Rotarians who enjoy drinking wine-just like you! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sandee Macht at smacht@netwurx.net.

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Friendship Exchange Visits United Kingdom

During April twelve representatives from District 6250 completed a 10-day Friendship Exchange with District 1240 of Essex and Suffolk Counties in the United Kingdom visiting the clubs of Burnham, Braintree-Bocking and Colchester-Manningtree. The group from 6250 was made up of Rotarians from Prairie du Chien, LaCrosse, Madison West Towne-Middleton and Waunakee and was treated to the best of Rotarian hospitality.

Highlights included tours of farms specializing in the production of horse feed (they hold a Royal Warrant for their product), local attractions in each of the towns including museums of the area and WWII, silk and jam factories, castles and other historical places, the 2012 Olympic game sites in Stanford (which is nearing completion), a visit to the University of Cambridge, a welcome by the Mayor of Colchester in her chambers and a fashion show with clothing designed by one of our hosts and of course great food and drink.

The exchange visit of Rotarians and guests from District 1240 to our district is set for October 4-13, 2011 when the clubs of Madison, Prairie du Chien and LaCrosse will host. Rotarians interested in participating in this or any exchange are encouraged to contact Bill Erickson (billjneteric@tds.net) or Bob Bendiksen (RBendiksen@aol.com) for more information.

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Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship Information

Your club has a unique opportunity to support an upper classman or graduate level college student study abroad through Rotary International's Ambassadorial Scholarship program. Applicants are reviewed, selected and funded by the District. All you and your club have to do is encourage students to submit application information prior to July 29, 2011, for study abroad in 2012-2013.

The Foundation of Rotary International sponsors one of the largest international scholarship programs in the world. Scholars study in a different country, where they serve as unofficial ambassadors of goodwill. Since 1947, more than 38,000 scholars from over 100 countries have received scholarships of more than \$500 million through The Rotary Foundation.

The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries and geographical areas. The program sponsors scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. While abroad, scholars serve as goodwill ambassadors to the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to a greater understanding of their host country.

Applications must be submitted to local Rotary clubs by July 29, 2011.

For more information including the [Application Form](#) and timelines, please visit the [District Ambassadorial Scholarship page](#).

Yours in Rotary,

Tom McCarty
District 6250 Ambassadorial Scholar Subcommittee Chair

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 Day Phone: 715.839.5106
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 Fax: 715.839.6243
tmacski@charter.net

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Group Study Exchange with Australia

Governor Elect Chuck Hanson has announced that our District 6250 will be exchanging with [District 9640 in Australia](#) during the 2011 - 2012 Rotary year. District 9640 covers Northern New South Wales and Southern Queensland on the Eastern part of Australia.

Our District Exchange team will be traveling to Australia on March 14 and will return on April 16, 2012. The Australian team will be coming to our District on May 11 and will depart for home on June 11. They will be with us for the District Conference which begins on June 8, 2012 in La Crosse.

Rotarians who are interested in applying for the team leader position should contact District 6250 GSE Chair [Tom Marshall](#) for further information. Other's who are interested in becoming members of the team should also contact Tom.

Team members, with the exception of the team leader must not be Rotarians nor have relatives who are involved with Rotary. Team members must live or work in our District and must be between the ages of 25 and 40. For further information, contact Tom Marshall.

This promises to be another outstanding exchange and we look forward to your involvement.

Tom Marshall
 Group Study Exchange Chairman
 District 6250
Tom@webmonger.net
 715 423 1921
 715 213 3046

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Living Service Above Self: Christianne Wendler

Christianne Wendler is a committed Rotarian who has packed more goodwill into the last ten years than most people do in a lifetime. Now, at age 30, she has recently completed a prestigious Rotary World Peace Fellowship at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, one of a handful of candidates chosen every year to learn more about peace and conflict resolution via a mixture of lecture and real world experience. She was a natural choice for the fellowship, as she is the personification of service before self. The fellowship wasn't just another notch on her resume belt, but a tool Christianne will use to help promote world peace and world caring. "Each of us has the power to do good and to make a difference in this world," she explained.

Starting Young

Her passion for helping others happens at a whirlwind pace and her volunteer history has been accumulating almost nonstop since Christianne was very young. As a child, Christianne helped her father in his quest to provide toys, clothing and food to low income families. "I can honestly say I have over 24 years of service to others in various capacities," she said. Not bad for someone who is just finishing her third decade of life. "This is how I see service," Christianne stated. "It is a natural and vital part of my life."

Christianne's history with Rotary began in 1997, when she was a high school exchange student to the Philippines. However, she spent her junior year doing more than learning about another culture and making friends from all over the world; she made a lasting impact, embracing the four way test to its fullest. During her year there, Christianne volunteered in an orphanage, then returned to the U.S. and raised \$10,000 for the facility, and that was just the beginning. Prior to the Rotary World Peace Fellowship, Christianne worked with HIV/AIDS children in South Africa and spent three weeks helping in earthquake devastated Haiti. She is a Co-Director of Kidlinks World, Inc., an organization assisting HIV/AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children in South Africa and is on her way to becoming a Rotary Shelterbox team member, helping provide shelter to those affected by disasters.

Continuing On

Though the Rotary World Peace Fellowship was a "fabulous opportunity," Christianne stated, it was also "a very emotionally taxing experience" because of the variety and quantity of conflict information presented. The field studies, she continued, "allowed each of us to step out of that framework and expand our horizons by learning about a different context, issue and region. There were multiple times during the field studies when I had to do an internal reality check to make sure this was actually happening, as I never thought I would have the experience to sit with stateless people on the eastern border of Thailand and to hear about their challenges or to sit in a room with top ranking military and police officials in Nepal to discuss the future of their country."

Moving Forward

Originally from Minocqua, Wisconsin, Christianne moved to South Africa with her husband ten days before leaving for her recent trip to Thailand. Now that she has returned from her fellowship, Christianne is looking for new nonprofit endeavors. For example, she constructed a curriculum to teach "American high school juniors and seniors about global social justice issues, with a case study of HIV/AIDS" and is "starting to outline a second curriculum which will focus on social justice and conflict." In the next 5-10 years, she would like to "publish the Global AIDS curriculum and offer it to all schools in the U.S. at a very low cost." In the meantime, Christianne will continue her work with HIV/AIDS children, but, at the same time, will assist in establishing a sustainable food

garden which, Christianne reported, "will feed the 1,200 orphans at Ikageng Itireleng AIDS Ministry fresh vegetables every day."

Even when events take a downturn or the situation seems dire beyond redemption, Christianne stays focused. "The minute you stop believing that you are making a difference, then, yes, it does seem hopeless," she affirmed. The word "cannot" has no meaning in Christianne's approach to life, even if she is simply helping one child at a time.

Christianne is a skilled communicator, offering presentations about her work and her experiences that captivate and engage audiences. She is committed to humanitarian service, particularly through Rotary, and can envision a world, "some day, in which no one goes hungry, suffers abuse, or has nowhere to live." Christianne admitted this is an idealist view, but it is one she is committed to seeing through with every fiber of her being. In her dream world, all orphaned children would "receive proper nutrition, education, psychosocial support and a safe living environment." This remarkable woman is definitely well on her way to making this dream come true.

Club News, Events and Announcements

Do you have an upcoming Club Event or accomplishment that you would like to announce? Send your pre-written article to: rotarydistrict6250@morgandata.com.

Is your Club Part of the Rotary Success Story?

Is your club a part of the success story of Rotary? The following is an excerpt from Tom Thorfinnson's article in the April Zone 28 Newsletter.



The success of Rotary is dependent on three things, healthy clubs, good service projects and good public image.

If our clubs are not healthy, no matter how much we spend on public image, guests and new members will come in the front door and run out the back door. No one wants to join or stay in a club that is sick, unattractive or not relevant.

If our humanitarian service is not focused and sustainable our members will become frustrated and that will hurt our public image.

If our clubs are health and our projects great, but no one knows who we are or what we do, then we will struggle to grow.

We need to make sure that our clubs are fun, attractive, vibrant, innovative and relevant and service is the key to achieving these goals.

Tom Thorfinnson
Rotary International Board Member
Zone 28

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Rotary at the Rafters!

Join other Rotarians as we share a picnic and watch the Wis. Rapids Rafters baseball team play the Eau Claire Express! Governor Kristin Duckart will be present to promote Rotary. Jerry Mills will be present to share his song, "Come Join Us" and Rotarian AJ Frels will sing the National Anthem. Cost is \$15 per person and includes picnic meal, beverage or beer, and game.

Sunday, June 12, 2011
Game at 3:05 p.m.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Tickets can be purchased online for a \$1.50 fee at www.raftersbaseball.com or contact Wis. Rapids Rotary Club President, Linda Buchs-Hammonds, to purchase tickets in advance. (Cell 715-459-5408 or lindabuchshammonds@charter.net)

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RI News

The Rotarian Magazine

The Rotarian Magazine is our link to the greater Rotary world. The pictures and stories tell us of the wonderful work that is being done, in and through Rotary, to make the world a better, safer and a more peaceful place...all because we are advancing the key elements of social justice, health projects, and educational opportunity and alleviating the dire effects of poverty.

A person is not free if they are hungry. A man is not free when he has to watch his children die because of the lack of clean water or adequate food. A mother will not be free if her sick child cannot receive medical care and when people are not free they will seek social justice even if it means going to war to achieve it.

Our magazine, paid for in our RI dues, is not junk mail. It makes you and me "literate" in the great story of Rotary. Read it. Share it with others. Drop it off in a public area where literature is offered, a dentist's reception area, the waiting room at your local hospital or when you go to your accountant's office to pick up your tax filings. Plant the seeds of Rotary by sharing our great story.

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Member Access to RI Website

Do you have questions about what you can find on the Rotary International website and how you go about getting access. [Check out this fact sheet with Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) about the RI site.](#)

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Update on Annual Giving

New RI Foundation Donation Forms

Club executive members can now download a Multiple Donor Form that is pre-populated (filled out) with details of club members including their ID number. This form is on [Rotary.org](#) at [member access](#). Club presidents and club secretaries have access to this form. Also club treasurers and club Rotary Foundation chairs can get this form if they have been registered on member access by the president or secretary. Select the club members who have donated and add the amount of each donation. The new form makes it easy to forward donations from a group of club members who contribute weekly, quarterly, etc. [More Info](#).

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Foundation Reports

Each club in District 6250 has established a foundation goal and the question is how are the clubs going about the achieving those goals? Have each of the clubs done an every member enrollment? Successful clubs take the time to ask each member to make a pledge commitment to the Rotary Foundation. Fulfilling that pledge might involve a quarterly billing by the club secretary/treasurer or participating in the direct deposit transfer from the Rotarians checking account to the RI Foundation account or it might mean a monthly charge to a credit card. Successful clubs establish a process that allows their members to both make and fulfill the commitment.

[Click here to view the updated Club Goals Report!](#)

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Attendance Report

Reporting Tool for District Attendance

Check out the reporting tool for District Attendance!

<http://www.rotary6250.org/clubs/monthlyattendance.shtml> Clubs can view each month's attendance in a visual graph. Also Club Secretary's can request access to update their information directly online!

A big THANK YOU goes out to District 5340 for sharing this web functionality!

[Click here to submit your club's attendance report](#)

[Click here to see the full Attendance Report.](#)

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