

# 6250 DISTRICT DISPATCH

**District Governor** 

#### Chuck Hanson

Serving Western Wisconsin & Southeast Minnesota

**July Edition** 

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# **District Governor's Message**



Chuck Hanson District Governor

Dear Rotalians

The Iditarod trail is 1100 miles long and was originally used by native peoples in Alaska. When gold was discovered, thousands of people headed for Alaska to seek their fortunes and many outposts and small villages developed along this trail. During the long winters, the Iditarod was the only link with the outside world bringing food, clothing, medicine, mail, and an occasional doctor or minister. Today, it is best known for the famous Iditarod Race. This is a gruelling race among well-trained teams. Without a lot of preparation both for the trail and the teams, nothing could happen. The same is true as we get ready to serve our communities and the world through Rotary. July 1, 2011, marks the beginning of District 6250's Iditarod of Service.

Many Rotarians don't realize the tremendous amount of time, energy and expense Rotary International and your District expends preparing the race course and the teams to support

and promote the success of each club in the District. Beginning last February, the District Training Seminar was held to train District committee members, Assistant Governors, and senior District leadership on the latest information from Rotary International and on the new goals for the Rotary year that would begin in July.

Because Rotary's success depends on vibrant, active clubs, there is a major training effort for Presidents-Elect and this was held in March. This year our District participated in a Multi-District PETS, which successfully brought four Districts together in what proved to be a very dynamic training event. Your incoming presidents had the opportunity to meet with and share ideas with their classmates from similar sized clubs,



hear excellent speakers during plenary sessions, and spend time with their incoming District Governor on the goals for the new year. This was followed by the District Assembly held in April. This is the opportunity for each incoming club president to bring together key club leadership for specialized training to help the new presidents to make sure their team would be ready when the District 6250 Iditarod began. In June, I met with the District Advisory Committee which is comprised of all the District Committee Chairs, Assistant Governors, Past District Governors, and members of the Board of Directors to check on their preparation to provide support to our clubs during the Iditarod of Service. Much has been done to help each club be successful in this new Rotary year. I encourage you to take a moment to thank your new president, club officer, or any member of your club serving at the District level for their work on your behalf.



During the course of training, we charted the course and prepared for the race. Now the 6250 Iditarod has begun. The focus of this District is on the success of its clubs. While it is the clubs of the District that must run the Iditarod of Service during this Rotary year, the leadership of this District is ready to help by providing clubs with information, guidance, programs, or assist in any other way that we can. If preparation is any measure, this will be a wonderful year for Rotary in District 6250.

Mark your calendars. On June 8-9, 2012, Rotarians from all over the District will gather in La Crosse for our District Conference where we will celebrate what's right with the world. We will celebrate you and Rotary. We will celebrate the success of the District 6250 Iditarod of Service because the Rotarians and clubs of this District will have, through their efforts, advanced the cause of service above self in their own communities and around the world.

I am eager to visit the clubs of our District and I look forward to a wonderful year in Rotary with you.

Chuck Hanson



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.

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Update on Annual Giving
 Polio Plus Updates

- More

#### **Attendance Report**

New Reporting Tool for District Attendance

View the Latest Attendence Reports

District Governor 2011-2012 Rotary District 6250

# District News, Events and Announcements

# **Youth Protection Training August 6th**

Youth Protection training will be offered on Saturday, August 6th at the Wilderness Resort (Glacier Canyon Conference Center) in Lake Delton beginning at 9 am. The training will go no later than noon and we will wrap up before that if at all possible.

Mike Ripp, D6250 Youth Protection Officer, will be providing the training.

The training will involve basic youth protection information and will also incorporate changes to procedures for background checks that will affect Club Youth Protection Officers.

While this training is open to any Rotarian, please note the following individuals who must take the training if they have already not done so in the past:

- --Youth Exchange Officers if not completed in the past, must be trained prior to your student arriving
- --Youth Exchange Counselors same as Youth Exchange Officers
- --Club Youth Protection Officers if not trained in the past and your club is involved in any type of youth activity. Even if you have been trained in the past, you may find the new information helpful regarding the background check process

The training session is free; however we do request that you register in advance so that adequate course materials can be provided. The training session is listed on the District 6250 website under the 'Calendar/Events' tab, or you can use the below link to access the registration and information page:

http://www.rotary6250.org/events/2011/08 06 YouthProtectionTraining.shtml

Please follow the information on that web page for sending a registration email and getting directions to the facility.

Thanks again for all of the great work you are doing on behalf of our youth programs!

Al Steevens
D6250 Youth Protection Committee Chair

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### Chuck Hanson Installed as Governor of District 6250

On June 28th over 140 Rotarians and special guests gathered in La Crosse for the Spring Social and Governor's Welcome Celebration. The evening hosted by the Downtown La Crosse Rotary Club featured banner and pin cermonies as well as the installation of Chuck Hanson as District Governor of District 6250. Below is text from Chuck's installation speech, "Life's Most Urgent Question".

Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?" Of course, this is a very personal question. Each of us must answer it for ourselves.

My answer in part has been caring for family, problem solving for clients, and seeking to improve our system of justice through the Wisconsin Bar Association. However, the answer for me would not be complete without service to others in my local community and the wider world. Much of that service has been through Rotary or with Rotarians.

What I have found is that I have received much more than I have given. It is true that I have benefitted from a great education at St. Olaf College and at the University of Wisconsin Law School, but nothing compares with the learning experiences I have had from service to others. A few of the many lessons I have learned include:

- (1) If you don't know you can't do it, you can accomplish amazing things.
- (2) No service project is ever realized unless it becomes a shared vision, because success involves many people.
- (3) Never give up. (Mom gets credit for this one!)



District Governor Installation and Welcome Celebration.

(4) Finally, the word "Yes" is the most powerful word in the English language.

Let me briefly share one of my learning experiences with you. Not long after we had successfully established a sister-city relationship between La Crosse, Wisconsin and Dubna, Russia, the people of Russia suffered an unbelievably bitter cold winter in 1991. Earlier, the old Soviet Union had dissolved. Distribution systems were in disarray. A lot of food had not been harvested or transported. There was a severe economic downturn. People were out of work and in some cases starving.

As part of the response to the crisis, the United States Congress authorized funds to transport humanitarian aid from the United States, as long as non-profit organizations would provide the food, clothing, and medical supplies to be transported. When we heard about it, we thought maybe we could work with other cities in Wisconsin who had sister cities in Russia to gather enough material from across the State to fill one airplane.

I remember sitting in a conference room at my office with three of my friends trying to decide whether to get involved. It seemed like a big task. We really didn't know what we were doing, but we knew that there was a great need and there was an opportunity to help. We decided to go for it because we passionately believed it was the right thing to do.

Our little committee quickly expanded to include a variety of community leaders and lots of volunteers. In less than one month from the La Crosse area, we collected over 400,000 pounds of food, clothing, and medicine which was sorted, boxed, and palletized for military shipment. Churches in the area were collection sites for clothing, the local hospitals helped coordinate medical supplies, the grocery stores provided sites for food collection. Over 3,000 volunteers made it happen in one month.

To read District Governor Hanson's full remarks, click here.

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## **Rotarians at Work Day**

Despite the bad weather that plagued west central Wisconsin during the last part of April and early May I am pleased to

report that thirty four clubs and nearly 800 Rotarians dodged rain drops and braced themselves against the wind to go out into their communities and do a service project as a part of Rotarians (Rotary) at Work Day.

Media coverage of the event, while not as extensive as last year, was nonetheless, very good and provided the clubs in those communities with some great public image support.

I hope that this great opportunity for community service, fellowship and public image awareness will continue to grow in District 6250.

Thank you to all of the clubs and the members who participated this year.

Dean Dickinson Rotary at Work Day Chair

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## Why Ethics

In 2001 Robert Putnam wrote Bowling Alone, a book that documented the alarming decline of community-based clubs, organizations, and activities throughout the United States at the end of the 20th century. The reason the decline was alarming, insisted Putnam, was that community-based organizations are responsible for creating and sustaining "social capital," the glue that holds societies together. Without social capital, communities become fragmented: people lose a shared sense of moral purpose, generations tend to move farther and farther apart, and more pressure is placed on government to find solutions to all manner of social ills.

Since writing Bowling Alone, Putnam has continued his research on social capital, but has focused instead on the positive stories, places where communities have pulled together to create exceptions to the forces of decline and fragmentation, places where organizations have brought people together across the generations to reinvest in their communities and in one another. There are many



District Governor Chuck Hanson and District First Lady Cheryl Hanson.



Incoming La Crosse President Cary Heyer recieves the District Governor Banner from Wisconsin Rapids President Linda Buchs-Hammonds.



Outgoing District Governor Kristen Duckart exchanges pins with Chuck Hanson.

such stories, here and there across the country—many of them in the Upper Midwest. And that's where the Ethics Initiative of District 6250 comes in.

Chuck Hanson, our District Governor, recognized that Rotary has something unique to offer communities: a solid and time-tested ethical code in the Four-Way Test; credibility and connections with schools; and, most importantly, professionals willing and eager to bring positive energy into their communities. So about six months ago he formed a committee to look at ethics programs for youth, select a few that have proven to be successful, and put together a package of resources so that each club in the district could effectively work with their local schools to introduce an ethics program.

The Ethics Initiative Committee has done just that, and the result is a package of resources that describes programs coming from Rotary clubs in Madison, WI and Eagan, MN, a program designed by Junior Achievement, a program from Viterbo University, another from the Harvard Business School, and a program from Youth Frontiers. They range from one-hour classroom activities to full-day workshops. What they all have in common is a proven record of bringing students into meaningful conversation with professional adults on the subjects of how to live responsibly and make good, thoughtful choices in difficult circumstances.

No single program will fix all the problems facing society today. But each Rotary club has the resources and the talent to make significant improvements in its local community. The Ethics Initiative offers each club the chance to introduce a program that builds positive relationships in the community, bridges the gap between generations, and showcases Rotary's enduring commitment to living and working with integrity.

If you would like more information about how your club could create an Ethics Program, please contact Bill Pritchard (608) 785-3285 (William.A.Pritchard@stifel.com) or Rick Kyte (608) 796-3704 (rlkyte@viterbo.edu).

Rick Kyte Co-chair, District 6250 Ethics Initiative

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# **Connecting the Disconnect**

Submitted by Dean Dickinson, Past District Governor

At a recent regional training meeting a discussion took place concerning a perceived disconnect that exists between our members, our clubs and the Rotary District and Rotary International. The participants in the discussion are not "ivory tower" members of Rotary but folks very much involved in ground level work on behalf of Rotary. Is there a disconnect and why does it exist?

Do you feel connected to Rotary beyond your club? Are you aware of why the district exists and what it brings to you and your club? Do you understand Rotary International and perhaps more importantly, do you understand the Rotary International Foundation.

If you answered "no" to any of those questions you maybe answered "no" to all of them and that my fellow members of Rotary is, in fact, a disconnect.

The disconnect originates in our clubs. We are ROTARY CLUBS. We are not the civic club of Podunk or Metroville. We are Rotary clubs and should begin acting like it. Say what, you ask? We conduct a weekly meeting, we enjoy each others company, we do some community service work and...we are home to have a beer and watch the Brewers...oh excuse me!!

When is the last time that your club had a "Rotary" program? Not something provided by the local non-profit but one that dealt with the work that is being done to make this world a better, safer, kinder and more just place. Ten months carry a Rotary theme. Does your club provide even one program that relates to that theme?

How often do you visit the district website or the RI website to keep abreast of what is happening in our organization, locally, within the district, within the greater Rotary world?

When training opportunities are offered in the district does your club send representatives who can bring back great information that will move your club toward greater connectivity with Rotary?

Implicit in each of these questions is the answer to getting connected. If the disconnect begins with you and me then so to does the answer. We should be agitating for Rotary programs in our clubs and be willing to help in making them happen. We should be visiting the websites in order to stay in touch with what is happening in Rotary and we should be attending training opportunities...Let's all get connected!!

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# Nomination of Zone Representative to the Board of Rotary International

This month all of the clubs in the twelve districts that comprise Zone 28 will receive a communication from the General Secretary of Rotary International, John Hewko. The information will include the names of the delegates to the Zone Nominating Committee. It will invite all clubs to submit their suggestions for director to the Board of Rotary International.

Clubs should consider the following in making their recommendations:

- All Past District Governors may be considered.
- The candidate should be a good speaker but more importantly, a good communicator.
- The candidate should have demonstrated good leadership ability and the ability to relate well to others.
- Will family or work responsibilities prevent the candidate from giving the time necessary to serve effectively?
- The candidate must be in good health.
- Has the candidate been active in Rotary beyond the district level and continued to serve Rotary at all levels?
- Does the candidate possess a broad knowledge of Rotary and a strong commitment to the total program of the organization?
- If married, is the candidates spouse supportive of Rotary activities?
- What ideas does the candidate have for changes and improvements in Rotary?

The paperwork in support of the club recommendation must arrive at the address of the convenor of the nominating committee prior to 1 September. As your voting delegate to the Zone Nominating Committee I would appreciate it if you would give this your immediate and considered attention.

PDG Dean Dickinson Zone Nominating Committee

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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 <u>District</u> Ambassadorial Scholarship page.

Yours in Rotary,

Tom McCarty
District 6250 Ambassadorial Scholar Subcommittee Chair
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Eau Claire, WI 54701
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Mobile: 715.828.7303
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tmacski@charter.net

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## **Club Visioning News**

#### Congratulations

The following clubs have recently completed Visioning: Waunakee, Eau Claire Morning, Eau Claire Noon, and Janesville Noon. Over half of the clubs in our District are on their way with renewed

Vision and plan. If your club hasn't yet, you may want to consider completing this process in the next 12 months.

#### What is Club Visioning?

The visioning process is designed to help a Rotary club create its own vision for the next five years, and to discover for itself the steps necessary to achieve that vision. The result is unique - - designed and endorsed



by the club's own members. In the process the club develops a shared commitment, providing long term direction, creating a framework to establish goals and objectives, and helping the club to optimize the use of its resources. The process creates efficiency, continuity and cohesiveness.

#### What is the process?

A club visioning event brings together a good cross-section of its membership from the newest to the most experienced Rotarian. The process uses the talents and life experience within the club to develop a vision and goals reflecting that club's unique membership and identity. The event provides renewed focus on objectives and is completed in a dedicated, fun-filled four hour session that includes brainstorming and prioritization around an identified set of questions.

#### Thank you to our volunteer trained facilitators!

To make sure that all of this can be accomplished within a limited time frame, the club visioning event is run by a team of Rotary facilitators from across District 6250. The 20-member team has been well-trained in a specific process designed to help the club bring out its best thinking. Thank you to these Rotarians for volunteering their time and expertise!

#### What is the result?

By the end of this four-hour process, each club will have a clear vision of the following:

- What the club stands for in the community;
- The club's target membership size in five years;
- Identification of the club's attributes;
- Top three objectives for each avenue of service; and
- Ways to improve the club's leadership development.

As one of our facilitators has said ....

"I am really impressed of how (Visioning) has been received. I personally feel the great & multitude of ideas is simply astonishing. I have left with SO many great ideas. Our Rotary clubs truly can be visionary and this is a method to bring it out ..."

This sounds like just what our club needs! How do we sign up? You can start by contacting Tom Mickelson mickelson@gdinet.com or Ann Kaiser at Akaiser@shec.hshs.org or 715.717.3996.

"If you don't know where you are going, chances are you will end up someplace else." Yogi Berra

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# A Wonderful Exchange Year; Getting Ready for a New Group

Our students who have been abroad are returning filled with the enthusiasm of an incredible Rotary Exchange Year. We can't wait to see their pictures, hear their stories and see how they have changed. We welcome them back and hope to keep them involved in our Rotary lives. Sadly, our inbound students are getting ready to leave and some have already left. We will miss them dearly. They have had an amazing year of travels, friendships, personal growth and being involved in Rotary. This year's students were involved in service projects raised over \$4000 for Polio Plus and put on a phenomenal culture faire at the district conference. We benefit from them as much as they benefit from being a year on exchange. If you haven't done some activity with an exchange student, you are missing a special relationship. Our new students will be arriving in less than two months. I get excited just thinking about that.

We are also getting ready to send new students off on their exchange. Two of our outbound students will be going on exchange for the second time. They know how wonderful a year on exchange can be. We hope we have prepared them well.

All this wonderfulness couldn't happen without Rotarians. Thank you all for doing so much to make it all happen. I especially want to thank the club Youth Exchange Officers and Youth Exchange Counselors along with any committee members they might have who help them. Pat yourselves on the back for doing so much. Think about the lives you have influenced. I still hear from students who were on exchange over 20 years ago. Our district committee should receive a special round of applause for the love-charged time they give to our inbound, outbound and rebound students. You are all amazing. Michelle Matthys started out our year as our Inbound coordinator but is back full force as her club YEO and we are soooo happy to have her back. LeRoy Kemnitz has also taken a leave of absence from being our district Registrar but we hope he will be back helping later this summer. They were both so helpful and caring. As with most Rotarians, when someone needs help, Rotarians step up and ask what they can do. We were so fortunate in having Margo Zeman take over

the role of Inbound Coordinator and Toni Pabon take over as Registrar. Clare Gromoll continues to be great as our Rebound Coordinator keeping our past outbound students connected and engaged. Our outbound students have benefited from the dedication and changes Doug and Sharon Richmond have made to our Outbound program. This year our Short Term Exchange got recharged with the help of Tom Marshall and the leadership of Janine O'Rourke who took over the Short Term Coordinator program. We are happy to see that program be with us again. Linda Buchs-Hammonds continues to amaze me with all she does as Assistant Chair. She is truly wonderful. Thank you to the whole team.

We are hoping to see more clubs become involved in youth exchange. If any of you would like some information or would like one of us to speak to your clubs, we will be happy to do that. We love to talk about youth exchange. Please consider committing for the 2012-2013 year. Please contact me at <a href="mailto:judyalevine@gmail.com">judyalevine@gmail.com</a> or Linda Buchs-Hammonds at lindabuchshammonds@charter.net.

Judy Levine
District 6250 Youth Exchange Chair

# 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: <a href="mailto:rotarydistrict6250@morgandata.com">rotarydistrict6250@morgandata.com</a>.

## Caledonia Club Hosts Country Brewfest July 9th

Saturday, July 9th 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Houston County Fairgrounds Caledonia, MN

Proceeds benefit Local and International Rotary projects.

For more information click on the banner at right or go to

www.caledoniarotaryclub.org.



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### Portage Rotary Craft Brew and Wine Festival July 16th

Portage Rotary Club is hosting a Craft Brew & Wine Festival July 16, 2011 from 11am to 5pm in Commerce Plaza. Downtown Portage.

Sample 15 different varieties of Wisconsin beer & wine! Tickets are only \$25 and includes a commemorative glass.

Tickets available at Daley's Beverage Mart, Blarney Stone, Corner Pocket, Portage Chamber of Commerce, or your favorite Portage Rotarian.

Tickets may also be purchased at the event. Must be 21 or older to purchase tickets. This event is in conjunction with the Sand County Fine Arts Festival, an outdoor arts festival featuring fine art, music, great food, cheese and more!

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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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