



District 6000 News

Rotary International, District 6000, Iowa USA

Delwyn D. Bluhm, Governor

– A Global Network of Community Volunteers –

June/July/August 2006-07

Rotary: Rollin' out the red carpet

D-6000 'Leads the Way' at first USA National Special Olympics in Ames

When 3,500 Special Olympics athletes from all 50 states competed in 13 sports at the first USA National Games July 1-8 in Ames, D-6000 Rotarians, who raised \$59,000 for the occasion, joined the celebration! Special Olympics athlete Rolla Lucas of Davenport (l) and Council Bluffs police officer John Focht (r) raised the "Flame of Hope" as it crossed the Mississippi River in Davenport from Chicago's Soldier Field en route to Ames. See pages 12-13.



Governor's comments . . .

All set to 'Lead the Way' in 2006-07

By DG Del Bluhm/Ames

The final chapter of the history book of Rotary's first 100 years drew to a close at the beginning of last year. Now we are already starting this Rotary year, as one could call it, our second chapter of Rotary's second 100 years. And we are all set to LEAD THE WAY.

We need to make the most of The Rotary Foundation plus really understand and know that it is 'our' foundation, not somebody else's cause. The Rotary Foundation is Rotary's greatest resource because of what it allows Rotarians to do in the world. Last year the District 6000 EREY Goal for the Annual Program Fund (APF) was \$388,995, the largest in our Zone BUT we actually raised \$430,000! *Congratulations!*



Del Bluhm
District Governor

We will hopefully raise the bar a little this year by setting our goal higher. This will ultimately increase our District's Share Funds for Matching Grants and District Simplified Grants, as well. In fact this year all 63 clubs of D-6000 reported their suggested EREY (Every Rotarian, Every Year) goal for the APF (Annual Program Fund) and the total is \$397,519. So, barring other major fund raising commitments in D-6000 for this Rotary year, I believe that we can become a **Centurion District**, that is, one where the average support given to the APF is more than or at least equal to \$100.00 per capita. Based on our latest membership figure we would need to raise \$444,500, which is far less than was raised, in total, last year when we add in Katrina at \$88,655.25 and Special Olympics-USA National Games at \$60,013.00.

GOVERNOR'S NOTES

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Membership, literacy, polio, public relations

GOVERNOR'S NOTES

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On another topic, 2005-06 RI membership chair, Alana Bergh says, "It's not enough to get people to join Rotary. They need to get involved." We are growing again as a district, since on Jan. 1, 2006 we were at 4,397 members, but as of March 28, 2006 we are back over 4,400 members – actually at 4,445 members. Soon we will get the membership figures for July 1, 2006 after the Semi-Annual Reports to RI, which were due July 15, are tabulated. Membership development and retention will be a major effort of D-6000 during 2006-07, as will club extension, the process where we identify and charter new Rotary clubs. Actually we may need to spend more time on strengthening our existing clubs since a strong Rotary club retains existing members and attracts new ones.



RI President William Boyd and Lorna

Membership

RI President William Boyd, shown here with his Rotary Partner Lorna, says being a Rotarian means recognizing that, in Rotary, no member is ever any more important than any other member. Some of us may have greater responsibility, but no one has greater value. Each club member is equally a part of Rotary and equally a part of Rotary's future. In the last 101 years,

Rotary has grown tremendously in size and

visibility. It has gone from one small club to a vast international network of volunteers, people with the ability to make a real difference. President Bill also believes in continuity, cooperation and sustainability as Rotarians work to make a difference in the world while we focus on clean water, health and hunger, literacy and the family of Rotary.

Literacy

This Rotary Year I have agreed to make a special emphasis on Literacy when the Literacy Promotion Committee asked for this support. The primary focus of the emphasis will be in two parts, namely:

1. The district should celebrate what the clubs have been doing for Literacy.

2. All 63 district clubs will now have the opportunity, if they choose



First Lady Christie Vilsack with author Frances Kennedy.



Rotary District 6000 is remembered as the group that helped Christie Vilsack launch Iowa Stories 2000.

to do so, to be one of the first partners for Iowa's new "Reach Out and Read" program, which is being sponsored by Christie Vilsack's Foundation which is now a national foundation. She still remembers that Rotary International District 6000 was the first organization to give support to her program over five years ago. Past District Governor Corliss Klaassen and Jeanne, plus Georgia and I, on July 17 attended a celebration of this fifth anniversary at the Iowa Governors Mansion where Christie explained her plans to provide future leadership of this effort to sustain Iowa Stories 2000 for the future after she leaves.

The Literacy Promotion Committee will be explaining and defining their plans in more detail this fall.

Polio

One cannot think about continuity, cooperation and sustainability without thinking of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's spearheading partners – Rotary International, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

PolioPlus



Rotary International

The Initiative announced in February that Egypt and Niger were no longer polio endemic. Now the number of polio-endemic countries has fallen, leaving just Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan as the only remaining countries that have never stopped indigenous polio transmission.

Polio Plus Partners does have an ongoing need for funds in these final years of the program. District 6000 did commit \$70,000 in District Directed Funds (DDF) last year to Polio Plus Partners. We are making progress and we will be successful eventually.

Clubs challenged

Rotary is involved in many important service projects. In District 6000 we want to continue to make a difference in the world through our commitments to club service, vocational service, community service, service to youth, international service and The Rotary Foundation plus its supported programs. The RI President is helping to motivate us in this work by offering the 2006-07 Presidential Citation which recognizes the many accomplishments of our Rotary clubs. As your governor, I too,

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Kids receive 10,000 Rotary tattoos at the Iowa State Fair

By Kurt Johnson/Des Moines

Chair, Iowa State Fair

For the fourth year in a row, District 6000 had a promotional booth at the Iowa State Fair. A ribbon cutting was conducted on the opening day, Aug. 10, with District Governor Del Bluhm. The fair ran for 11 days: Aug. 10-22. The booth was open each day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and volunteers staffed the booth in three-hour shifts. Over 90 volunteers were involved in the effort!

New this year was a large display of Rotary Club banners. The 5 ft. wide by 6 ft. tall display, which was on loan from the Rotary Club of West Des Moines, was covered with the banners from many different Rotary Clubs. Also new was a television that continuously showed videos of Rotary Clubs in action in international and community service projects.

The purpose of the booth is to increase awareness of the general public about Rotary and its efforts in the areas of international and community service. The materials provided promoted Group Study Exchanges, Youth Exchanges, Rotaract, Interact and Rotary in general. Also, about 10,000 tattoos were applied to children of visitors to the booth! We also gave away the coloring books that were left over from the National Special Olympics that was held in July.

This year's volunteers were from the following clubs: Adel, Albia, Ames, Ankeny, Boone, Corydon, Davenport, Decatur County, Des Moines, Des Moines AM, East Polk, Indianola, Iowa City Noon, Jefferson, Johnston, Marshalltown, Mt Pleasant Evening, Newton, Northwest Des Moines, Osceola, Ottumwa, Waukee, West Des Moines, West Liberty,

Special thanks to the following committee members for all of the time and effort they put in to making this a successful event: Jim Riordan (Waukee), Angi Bright (Ankeny), Mark McAndrews (NW Des Moines), David Carlson (West D.M.), Chris McLinden (D.M. AM), Greg Baker (Johnston), John Mertz (Knoxville). Also, thanks to the following additional Rotarians: Howard Aleff (Knoxville – help with setup and take down), and Rod Traviss (Des Moines – loan of television), Jeff Hunter (Des Moines – loan of chairs.)



District Governor Del Bluhm and Georgia were joined by Rotarians DGN Diana Reed and Rick Rarick, Chuck Ward, John Calhoun, Ken Andersen and Greg Baker for the ribbon cutting at the Rotary booth at the Iowa State Fair.



Water soluble Rotary wheel tattoos were a big hit with children at the Iowa State Fair.

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want to recognize our Rotary clubs by offering the *2006-07 District Governor Club Recognition Award* which identifies other levels of Rotary club achievement. In the next edition of District 6000 News I will outline and explain the criteria of each of these awards, since I hope that many of our 63 clubs will compete and try to achieve this recognition. Already with 15 official visitations completed, we have seen numerous clubs who are certainly potentially capable of this achievement.

Publications/Public Relations: Again this year we are very fortunate to have Centennial District Governor Bill Tubbs as the editor of District 6000 News. He has talent, knowledge and dedication to lead us in the preparation of this outstanding document that all D-6000 Rotarians are eager to read. Additionally, he has been selected by RI President Bill Boyd to serve on the international committee for improved Public Relations, representing all of North America. You will hear more about improved Public Relations for Rotary in coming months which is now referred to as *'Humanity in Motion'*.

District Simplified Grants: Georgia and I are looking forward to visiting your club as we complete our official club visitations this summer and fall. We are glad the District Simplified Grants allow us to help clubs with local community projects.

Proud to be a Rotarian: I am really proud to be a Rotarian and to be representing District 6000 as your district governor this Rotary year. I wish my father Kenneth, a 40-plus-year Rotarian from Charles City, could share this experience with us but he passed on in 1998.

Please join us as we all work together in 2006-07 to LEAD THE WAY.

District Simplified Grant deadline Oct. 1

By DGN Cal Litwiller/Mt. Pleasant

District Simplified Grants (DSGs) allow districts to use a portion of their District Designated Funds (DDF) to support their own service activities or humanitarian endeavors. District Simplified Grants will allow districts to use these funds, at their own discretion, for local humanitarian projects that improves the lives of the economically disadvantaged and/or for community improvement projects in our local communities in District 6000.



The maximum amount available for district use is 20 percent of the district's total DDF, that is, the contributions to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Programs Fund from our district three years prior. District 6000 allocates the full amount of 20 percent for DSG projects.

All clubs will need to be thinking about what projects they want to apply for in the first three months of their Rotary year. The application deadline for the Rotary year of 2006-07 is Oct. 1, 2006. The DSG Committee will review these applications and select worthy proposals meeting all the DSG criteria shortly after the deadline. The early selection process, with funding provided, is to allow for clubs receiving a DSG to complete the project on or before the end of the Rotary year in which it was awarded.

DSGs must adhere to the grant policies that govern all grant programs. They cannot be for bricks and mortar and cannot benefit Rotarians or a specific group of people. The DSG

Committee asks that they be informed of the status of approved DSG Projects with brief interim reports every six months and with a final report within one month of completion.

The DSG Committee will notify club presidents when the DSG Application has been received and will officially notify club presidents of the status of your DSG application after the DSG Committee review as to its selection or non-selection for funding. It is the goal of the committee chair that this will happen on or before Nov. 1, 2006.

The DSG Application, the "Terms and Conditions" document, Rotary Foundation Report Form and Individual Project Summary Form are all found on the home page of the District 6000 Web site (www.rotary6000.org) on the left side of the home page under 'District.' Then click on 'Download Forms.' Questions on the DSGs application, types of projects that are acceptable, possible funding, etc., will be answered at the District 6000 Foundation Seminars that will be held during September and October.

Register club leaders to attend Regional meetings

By Jerri Uitermarkt/District Administrator

Don't forget to get yourself and your members registered for one of six Foundation and Membership Seminars to be held during September and October.

Club presidents' attendance, as well as that of your Club Membership Chair, your Rotary Foundation Chair and those members responsible for developing Matching Grants or applying for a District Simplified Grant, are requested at one of the scheduled seminars. All Rotarians are welcome and encouraged to attend.

All seminars will be held 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the below locations:

- **Mt. Pleasant:** Wednesday, Sept. 13 at the Brazelton Hotel;
- **West Liberty:** Thursday, Sept. 14 at the Ralph/Elizabeth Farmer Community Center;
- **Oskaloosa:** Wednesday, Sept. 20 at St. Mary's Parish Center;
- **West Des Moines:** Thursday, Sept. 21 at DMACC's West Campus;
- **Osceola:** Wednesday, Oct. 11 at the American State Bank Meeting Room;
- **Carroll and Corning:** Thursday, Oct. 12 (locations to be announced, see note below).

The seminars for Carroll and Corning will be live, interactive Web casts. Details and Registration will be announced as soon as they are received from our District Trainer.

Please register yourself and your club members using the registration process on the District 6000 web site (www.rotary6000.org). Registrations for all but Carroll and Corning are located in the upper right hand side of the home page under District Events. To register, you must login to the web site using the instructions detailed on the home page and click on 'Attending'. If you do not have access to the District web site, you can register by calling the District Office at 877-976-8279.



'Rotary on the River' in 2007

Rotarians from Minnesota and Ohio met with Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau officials and Rotarians from D-6000 (Iowa) and D-6420 (Illinois) on May 19 and Aug. 5 to plan for the Sept. 3-9, 2007 Zone 27-28 Institute (l-r): Tom and Jamie Thorfinnson of Eden Prairie, MN; RI Director-Elect Mike and Nikki Johns of Cleveland, OH; and David and Beverly Skrzynski of Berea, OH. D-6000 PDG Bill Tubbs (back), will serve on the Institute's core committee.

The Institute will bring 500 past, present and future Rotary leaders from 25 districts in the upper Midwest USA and Canada to Iowa for the first time since the Zone Institute was hosted by West Des Moines in the late 1980s. It involves Rotarians from Nebraska to New York to Ontario. Davenport's revitalized downtown arts district and two-state river attractions were instrumental in the selection, which was highly competitive. The 2006 Institute is Sept. 4-10 at Niagara Falls.

Host clubs wanted for Group Study Exchange

By Karin Franklin/Iowa City

D-6000 Group Study Exchange chair

The first half of our exchange with District 3110 in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India is well underway. Applications for the team leader and team member positions were due Aug. 15. The next step is the selection process, which is tentatively set for Sept. 10. Members of the Outbound Committee will gather and interview candidates for team leader. With that selection made, the newly appointed team leader will join the committee in selecting the team members. Then the fun and excitement of orientation and trip preparation begin to ensure our team is ready to go on Jan. 4, 2007.

This year Rotary International is strictly enforcing the requirement to have a detailed itinerary of hosting clubs and vocational visits completed two months before the trip. RI will *not* release the issuance of plane tickets if this requirement is not met. We will be relying on our exchange District in India to fulfill this requirement for our outbound team.

Our turn comes in February when we will need to have the itinerary prepared for the team coming from District 3110. That may seem like a long way off right now but it is not when one considers it usually takes us about 4-5 months to enlist the host clubs and obtain from them the details of the Inbound team's visit.

If your club has an interest in hosting our visitors from India at any time between April 21 and May 13, 2007, please contact Mark Snell, chair of the Inbound GSE Committee, at marksnellRCDM@att.net. The visit is only three weeks this year, so a limited number of clubs will be able to host.

Group Study Exchange is a wonderful Rotary Foundation program that enables young professional Iowans to reach out to another country and culture, and enables clubs to bring a piece of the world into Iowa. For both ends of the exchange, it can be a life-changing experience!



Friendship Exchange team members from New Zealand visited the John Wayne birthplace at Winterset with District 6000 Rotarians.

Friendship Exchange: Lots of activities

By John Lewis/Des Moines

Chair, D-6000 Friendship Exchange

The District 6000 Rotary Friendship Committee (RFE) is in the midst of implementing several projects as a part of its overall objectives. The committee is busy preparing for a 12-person team's departure for Australia in October, and a similar-sized team is planning to leave for India in early 2007.

The team to Australia will be led by Jerry Powell of Wellman and the team to India will be headed by Will Hoekman of the Rotary Club of Des Moines. Emphasis is being placed on development of materials, both printed and electronic, that will carry a positive message about District 6000 and Iowa to the many Rotarians and others with which the teams will interface in those two countries.

District 6000 RFE teams have enjoyed visits to a significant number of other locations throughout the world and to fellow Rotarians there, and the committee is always interested in considering additional venues for exchanges. We have been pleased to host teams from many parts of the world, as illustrated in the accompanying photo, taken while our friends from New Zealand were here last year.



Former AG and two-time District Conference chair Sarah Simpson received a bouquet of flowers, a plaque denoting her years of service, and a standing ovation upon her return to Muscatine Rotary on Aug. 28. Sarah suffered a severe stroke in November 2005. Sarah, who was United Way director for Muscatine, and her husband, Tex (I), have sold their home. On Sept. 30, they will move to 1451 S. Greenville, Allen, TX 75002. She may also be reached via e-mail: tsimpson@machlink.com. Among the many friends who greeted the Simpsons were DG Del Bluhm and Mike Ruby.

The thrill of a Rotary International convention

The author's enthusiasm is an invitation for each of us to experience Rotary's grandest event



Bettendorf Rotary president Carolyn Leutwyler with RI President Bill Boyd.

By Carolyn Leutwyler/Bettendorf Rotary President

I hope I can convey all the excitement and wonderful things that happened at the Rotary International Convention in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Malmo, Sweden, because it was a fantastic experience!

My friend, Faye Clow, a Bettendorf Rotarian who was our first woman member and our first woman president, accompanied me. We first were reminded that we were in Rotary Land when we were waiting for our connecting flight in Amsterdam. Suddenly we saw total strangers looking at us with a smile and a warm greeting. Soon, we had five or six Rotarians gathered around – one from Zambia, two from Canada, one from Australia, one from New Zealand. The warmth and the chatter simply radiated the area.

I realized that this is just the beginning. As we boarded the plane, I noticed people's eyes searching for Rotary pins and then giving a big smile and wave. When we arrived in Copenhagen after 24 hours of travel and about two hours of sleep, we were tired and late for our "seating" for dinner at Tivoli Gardens. We rushed to the Bella Center to register and get our tickets to the events we had signed up for. Afterward, we stopped at a sidewalk cafe/pub that we had noticed about a half block away from our hotel. A woman whom we had met on the bus from a Rotary club in New England joined us and then when we went inside, a man eating alone looked up and said "Rotary?" Of course we asked him to join us and had a wonderful, if weary evening. That man was from South Africa.

At the Bella Center, of course, we were surrounded by thousands of warm, friendly Rotarians from all over the world. It is such a unique experience to know that you can greet a total stranger

and they will give a warm greeting back. You immediately have something to talk about. We all want to know what projects each person's club is working on, so there is never a lack of conversation.

Before I left home, Tom Ahlstrand of my home club, Bettendorf, told me that his relative by marriage, a college friend, was going to be attending the convention. He ask me to say hello if I should see him. I said, "Gosh, Tom, what are the chances of my meeting him with thousands of Rotarians there?" So one day as we were being transported by the convention buses, Faye and I were chatting, when suddenly the man from across the aisle said, "Did I hear you say Bettendorf? Do you know Tom Ahlstrand?" He then had a suggestion for me to earn money for the sergeant-at-arms. He said, "Mention this woman's

Even though Copenhagen and Malmo were the official Rotary part of the trip, Rotary just didn't end there. It stays with you wherever you go and envelopes you in friendship. I always say that joining Rotary was the smartest thing I ever did!!

name from his college days, and I think he will pay \$10 to keep you from telling the story!" Then we decided that maybe our members would pay \$20 to hear the story!!!

Another day, I was on the bus without Faye, and a gentleman sat beside me. We started discussing our club's projects and I told him that we were planning on doing a Lobsterfest. He said that his club does a Lobsterfest. He turned out to be the presidentelect

of the club in Albany, New York and has been sharing all their info about procedures, planning and presenting a Lobsterfest with us!! We have been talking with them for months!!!

Of course, our hotel was filled with Rotarians. One morning at breakfast I saw Dave Groner, the man who spoke at our Rotary District Assembly in April 2006. He gave his talk as if he were the chief of an African tribe – remember? He is from Michigan. It was fun to visit with him.

Another morning, we chatted with some Rotarians, when one

RI CONVENTION
continued on next page



Rotarians from District 6000 were among the 15,000 at this year's convention.

President Boyd invited to Bettendorf

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

continued from previous page

mentioned that he had recently participated in "something I wouldn't be familiar with," a PEP project. Before he could say another word, I said, "with CCI?" We had fun talking and then he told me of a huge coincidence. He had met a Rotarian from Japan. They soon discovered that they had each led GSE teams. Then they discovered that they had each led GSE teams to Australia, then they discovered that they had each been home hosted by the same family in Australia!!! Just imagine. Doesn't Rotary make the world a very small place?

Of course, we went through the House of Friendship which was very interesting and a great meeting place for all the Rotarians. We saw an impromptu performance by some Russian dancers who were excellent! We ran into District Governor Del and Georgia Bluhm twice! We had signed up for home hosting. We thought we would be having dinner in the home of a Dane or a Swede. As it turned out, about 35 of us from around the world were taken to Ystad, Sweden, which is a very old town of about 15,000 people. The town dates back to the year 300. We were hosted by their three Rotary clubs. We were given a short tour of the charming town and then taken to a beautiful Town Hall, welcomed by the mayor, (who, of course, was a Rotarian) and entertained by a chorus of wonderful singers from the Rotary clubs.

Then we went to an old brewery which had been turned into a restaurant where all three clubs treated us royally and gave so many standing toasts, that I was wobbling back to the bus by the end of the evening. It was a wonderful experience. Of course there were many inspiring talks.

I did vote as it was rather important this year, but the real highlight of my Rotary convention experience was attending the President-Elect's Luncheon, where I was able to meet RI President, Bill Boyd, and have my picture taken with him. I invited him to come help us celebrate our club's 50th anniversary in May 2007. He took the invitation I gave him and put it in his vest pocket and told me he would "try his best." So, if he actually comes, you will all be invited!!

The Rotary experience continued on to St. Petersburg, Russia, where Alexandra Yurova, the interpreter for our Russian delegation



Governor 2005-06 Corliss Klaassen and Jeanne with DGE Diana Reed at the RI Convention in Copenhagen.

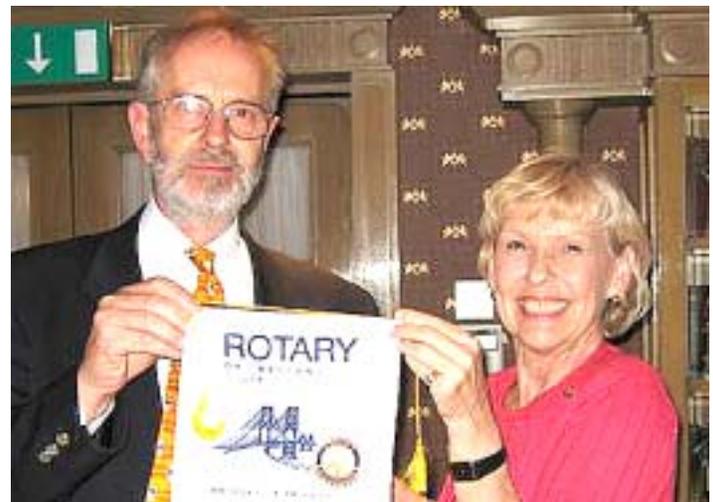
of medical clinics, who was my house guest for two weeks in April 2006, joined us for two days. It was so wonderful to see her again, as I had "fallen in love" with her when she was my guest. She accompanied us to the Hermitage, to Pushkin's home, to the Church of the Spilled Blood, and to some good restaurants. It was great to have our own personal interpreter. She was charming as usual, and insisted on buying souvenirs and taking her turn at treating us.

As we were leaving Russia, standing in one of the many lines at the airport, with our Rotary bags on our shoulders, we heard a shout, "Hey, Rotarians." Of course we waved and yelled back to a lovely young couple. None of us wanted to leave our place in line, but the man said, "Here, catch this" and threw to each of us his club's pin. They were from Encinada.

From there, Faye had to return to work, so I traveled on to London and met another friend of mine, Linda Wilkinson. On the first day, we went straight to Buckingham Palace where standing in the crowd was a Rotarian who was with his wife and grandson. (Rotary follows one, doesn't it?) From there, we went to the Westminster Rotary Club. They had 12 or 14 members, including two or three women. We were warmly welcomed. Even though Copenhagen and Malmo were the official Rotary part of the trip, Rotary just didn't end there. It stays with you wherever you go and envelopes you in friendship. I always say that joining Rotary was the smartest thing I ever did!!



Doug Peterson of Ottumwa Rotary checks the images on his digital camera.



Bettendorf Rotary president Carolyn Luetwyler exchanged club banners at the Westminster Rotary Club.



Rotarians and partners on the District 6000 Public Relations Committee met at Homestead on Aug. 11 to discuss strategies for Rotary's enhanced public image (l-r): Linda and PDG Bill Tubbs (North Scott), DGN Susan and Bob Herrick (Boone), Georgia and DG Del Bluhm (Ames), Peggy Nitchals (Ames), Mark Osmondson (Marshalltown), Marti Kline (East Polk) and PDG Corliss Klaassen and Jeanne (Chariton). Also serving on the committee are ADG Gary Welch (Ankeny), Tom Brooke (West Liberty), and John Schwandke (Muscatine).

Let Rotary's light shine: Funds available for projects that enhance public image

By DGN Susan Herrick/Boone

Chair, D-6000 Public Relations Committee

The District 6000 Public Relations Committee met on Aug. 11 to "Lead the Way" in fulfilling the RI objective to create greater understanding of what Rotary is and what Rotary does among the general public, and to provide education/re-education of Rotary members. The goal of this committee is to enhance Rotary's public image through the media at the district level and from the club level.

Among the exciting possibilities for each club in District 6000 is the availability of Public Relations (PR) Grants. Grant application forms are being sent to all District clubs. The grants are to be used to assist clubs in promoting Rotary and improving Rotary's public image.

Clubs are encouraged to undertake projects like placing RI-prepared TV and radio public service announcements, billboards, banners, and newspaper supplements in their communities or creating other projects that enhance Rotary's image. A club may

apply for a grant up to \$3,000. This is intended as seed money to get projects started that reinforce RI's key message of "Humanity in Motion." Applications are to be submitted by Oct. 31, 2006, with notice to be sent to recipients by Nov. 17, 2006. The projects must be implemented no later than June 1, 2007. Multiple clubs may work together on a project but there cannot be pooling of several grant monies into a single project.

The benefit of effective public relations will be enhanced membership development and retention, and increased opportunities for effective partnerships in community and world service. See the District website for "Lead the Way in Public Relations: Effective as ever, but quiet no more: Let Rotary's light shine" for multiple suggestions on projects your Rotary club can undertake.

Also watch for a mailing from the Billboards Committee that will assist in public relations projects involving outdoor advertising. And continue to create your own club's magic in the public relations arena in your community. The District Public Relations Committee welcomes all of your ideas!



PDG Bill Tubbs of District 6000 is representing the clubs of North America on the Rotary International Public Image Resource Group (l-r): Fernando Ribeiro (Brazil), Shirley Ann Downie (South Africa), Martin Molony (Ireland), Bill Tubbs (U.S.), Lorna Boyd and RI President William Boyd (New Zealand), Loryn Clark (Australia), vice chair Pauline Leung (Taiwan), Hisao Taoka (Japan) and chair Robert Aitken (Australia).

Clubs: Sponsor students for RYLA

By Ed Minnick/West Des Moines

Chair, District 6000 RYLA

The Ninth Annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference will be held at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa on Tuesday Oct. 10, 2006.

RYLA is a daylong leadership program for high school sophomores, which demonstrates Rotary's respect and concern for youth. Participants learn methods of responsible and effective voluntary youth leadership through a training experience that encourages continued and stronger leadership of youth by youth. The conference also publicly recognizes the high qualities of many young people who are rendering service in their communities as leaders, and provides positive motivation.

RYLA is a great day where they learn about leadership while having fun. To encourage the students to put into practice the ideas they learn at RYLA, participants are sent home with a voluntary assignment to write an essay about what they learned at RYLA and they can use this new found knowledge to become a better leader. The essays are judged and the top writer has the opportunity to read their essay at the District Conference where the first place winner is awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, \$750 scholarship for second place, and \$500 for third!

From the 2005 RYLA class congratulations to Eric Parrott of Mid-Prairie Wellman who won the \$1,000 college scholarship,



Sophomores from throughout District 6000 made new friends and learned leadership skills at the 2005 RYLA. Clubs are again encouraged to sponsor students.

Alicia Afrah-Boateng of Bettendorf who won the \$750 college scholarship, and Megan Barta of Carroll Keumper who won the \$500 scholarship in this year's contest.

Our goal this year is to have a minimum of two sponsored participants (ideally one male and one female per sophomore class) from every Rotary club in District 6000. We had 175 students from all over the district last year and hopefully we can match or exceed that again this year!

On behalf of District 6000, thank you in advance for your participation in and support of RYLA.

Rotary's story told at Johnson County Fair



Rotary's public image was enhanced with this display, sponsored by Rotary clubs from Iowa City, at the Johnson County Fair.

By Paul Nichols/Iowa City Downtown

The four Rotary clubs in Johnson County – Iowa City, Iowa City AM, Coralville-North Corridor and Iowa City Downtown – joined forces in hosting a booth at the Johnson County Fair, July 24-27. The Iowa City Rotaract, and Iowa City West High 1440 Interact and City High Interact clubs accepted an invitation to participate, so that all Rotary age groups were represented.

The seven clubs contributed information, posters, banners and brochures that were used to create the display. A poster about the history of Rotary (prominently featuring UI Law School graduate Paul Harris) and a Four-Way-Test banner greeted visitors at the booth entrance. The featured projects included Iowa M.O.S.T., the Dictionary Project, Xicotepec, FAMSCO and Polio Plus.

To promote membership, one poster outlined when and where each club regularly meets, and listed some of their projects. Club brochures and general information about Rotary were distributed to visitors who were interested in learning even more.

Club members volunteered to spend time at the booth, meeting and greeting fair-goers, answering their questions, and promoting the many local opportunities to participate in Rotary. With the positive response from the clubs and public, this is a project that will likely be repeated at future fairs.

Did You Know?

In appreciation of your gift of \$25,000 or more, The Rotary Foundation will honor your contribution by establishing a named fund within the Permanent Fund.

Information: 1 (847) 866-4458.

REACH OUT AND READ:

Clubs challenged to support Iowa literacy initiative

By Carolyn Jons/Ames Morning

Chair, D-6000 Literacy Promotion Committee

We have an exciting dream. Just as Rotary International has all but eradicated polio, Iowa Rotarians will join with physicians to put books in the hands of all Iowa children. The goal is to ensure that literacy-related advice and children's books are given as routinely as immunizations are administered at pediatric visits.

Our inspiring initiative is for Iowa Rotarians to match Christie Vilsack's pledge of \$30,000 to become a major sponsor for the new Iowa Reach Out and Read Network this year.

Reach Out and Read works to promote school success by supporting reading aloud as part of routine pediatric care. It now has active programs in every state in the United States.

At every well-child check-up, doctors and nurses encourage parents to read aloud to their young children, and offer age-appropriate tips and encouragement.

Providers give every child between the ages of six months and five years a new, developmentally appropriate children's book to keep.

In literacy rich waiting rooms, often with volunteer readers, parents and children learn about the pleasures and techniques of looking at books together.

There are now 14 active Reach Out and Read sites in Iowa with 20 to 30 anticipated in the year ahead.

Exposure to books and reading in the first years of life increases the probability of healthy child development and decreases the chance of school failure. Reach Out and Read is the success story of a public-private partnership, which has helped primary care physicians practice medicine in a new way. By promoting literacy, doctors and nurses expand their traditional practice and responsibilities to make a positive difference in children's developmental skills and consequently in the nation's economic health.

Rotary's support of this effort is an ambitious target. District 6000 Governor Del Bluhm will approach District 5970 of northern Iowa to make this initiative an all-Iowa effort. But even if



Doctors and nurses encourage parents to read aloud to children as a routine part of pediatric care.

only clubs within District 6000 support this sponsorship, that's less than \$7 per member.

Clubs participating in this support may designate their dollars to a particular Reach Out and Read site. It's also important to note that every Rotary dollar would help put books in the hands of children. Administrative costs of the program are covered by its national organization.

Many clubs within District 6000 already participate in other literacy efforts, including reading to children in waiting rooms or schools, or by buying dictionaries for classrooms. The Reach Out and Read effort is a perfect match for those activities already in place and provides an option for clubs that want an additional avenue for community service.

The District 6000 Literacy Committee is available to speak to individual clubs about this initiative and about the importance of early childhood development. Contact Carolyn Jons at ccjons@aol.com. Please encourage your club to join in this important dream.

Survey: Rotary clubs are impacting literacy

Thirty-four of 63 clubs in District 6000 responded to an April survey about their literacy projects in 2005-06.

There were three categories of literacy activities during the past year. Clubs who *give books to children* reported contributing \$8,661, 266 hours by 97 volunteers, and giving 7,403 books. Clubs who *give time and read to children* reported contributing \$2,280, 833 hours by 99 volunteers, and giving 699 books. Clubs who *promote literacy* reported contributing \$10,035, 756 hours by 81 volunteers, and giving 288 books.

This data, although incomplete, indicates Rotarians are beginning to seize opportunities to impact literacy. The survey didn't ask about the results for children. — Carolyn Jons

'Call Center' slated to open

Fully operational on Oct. 1, 2006, The Rotary Foundation's new "Contact Center" will begin answering questions posed by Rotarians in the U.S. via a toll-free telephone number: 1 (866) 9ROTARY (that's 1-866-976-8279).

This new pilot project, currently available only in the USA, will enable Rotarians to get their Foundation questions answered promptly. The Center will be staffed by Foundation personnel experienced in Humanitarian and Educational programs, as well as Fund Development.

If this new pilot project is successful, the service will expand to offer more options and more countries. Rotarians seeking contribution reports, questions on Matching Grants, Paul Harris Fellow recognition, and other general Foundation questions should be directed to the toll-free number first. The Contact Center is being managed by Clifton Healy.

Rotary Foundation Annual Program Fund giving

District 6000 Clubs • July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

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Let's make 2006-07 our 'when' year!

By John Kleinschmidt/Ames

D-6000, Annual Giving Chair

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Bowler Mike Carnes of Davenport, Iowa, shows his enthusiasm for the games. In Special Olympics, the athletes give their unqualified support to each other and they are all winners.



Athletes competed hard and played to win, but always adhered to the Special Olympics motto: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Competitions were held in athletics, aquatics, basketball, bocce, bowling, golf, gymnastics, power lifting, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball and Motor Activities Training Program (MATP).

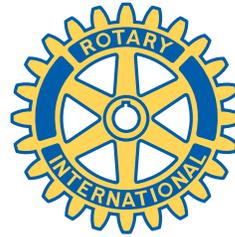
*Photos by Bill Tubbs (North Scott)
and Carole Custer (Jefferson)*



Volunteer Jack Brockway of the Rotary Club of Pella raises a flag to signify "all clear" at the bocce venue.



Scott Kurtz (North Scott) is one of 25 from the Rotary Club of North Scott on a trip to spend a day at the games.



'Humanity at USA Nat



They came from all 50 states and more than 100 countries for spectacular sporting and humanitarian events. Over 10,000 athletes competed in 13 sports and were accompanied by over 9,000 family members and friends, 100,000 spectators.

And Rotary was there to Lead the Victory. The USA National Games, July 1-8 in Ames, Iowa, far surpassed the fund raising goal of \$50,000. Athletes from far and near traveled to Ames and opened the games.

Rotary's presence was evident throughout the games with signs at the venues, banners on the streets, and Special Olympics sections that were part of the Olympic Village, a home page Web site, and other materials at the House of Friendship.

Commented 2006-07 District Governor Del and Georgia Bluhm to kick off our year, and a wonderful experience.



District Governor Del and Georgia Bluhm with some of the scores at the first USA National Special Olympics Games a huge success. Rotarians from throughout the U.S., hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Ames, Iowa.



... shares a "high five" with a softball player. Scott is one of the Rotarians at the Rotary Club of North Scott who traveled 360 miles round trip to attend the Games.

In Motion' International Games

... numbered nearly 3,500 for the largest and most significant event in Iowa, and perhaps U.S., history. They were accompanied by 1,000 coaches and official delegates, 10,000 volunteers and 30,000 spectators.

... Way for the Special Olympics athletes at the first Special Olympics in Iowa. District 6000 clubs answered the call and 10,000 Rotarians sponsored the awards. Rotarians from clubs throughout the state opened their hearts to the athletes.

... throughout – including logos on the volunteer shirts, banners, front-page ads in the Ames Tribune's daily paper, circulated throughout the community and the "Humanity In Motion" banner, and coloring books and promotional materials.

... Governor Del Bluhm, of Ames: "It was an exciting way to demonstrate the theme of Rotary's theme, 'Humanity In Motion.'"



The theme in the House of Friendship at Hilton Coliseum was "Compete, Empower, Unite." At the Rotary booth, Rotarians Bob Ostrich and Clarence Cory handed out Rotary coloring books and crayons, and tri-fold brochures which describe District 6000's "Humanity In Motion."



... es of Rotarians who lent their hands to make the Special Olympics a success. The festivities included a reception for the athletes at the Ames and Ames Morning, and District 6000.



Richard Horton (Ames Morning president), Bob Mick (Newton) and Tanya Goodman (Ames).



Jan Anderson, Bob Anderson (Ames president), David Miller (Ames) and Jacquie Andrew (Jefferson).



Rotary's sponsorship of awards was recognized at each of the 13 venues. Diane Bystrom and PDG Don Goering are pictured with the sign at the bocce venue.

Foundation: 27 Centurion clubs in '05-'06

By PDG Don Goering/Ames

D-6000, Rotary Foundation Chair

During the 2005-06 Rotary year, District 6000 Rotarians contributed \$430,570.03 to the Annual Programs Fund of The Rotary Foundation. This means that most of the Rotarians of District 6000 contributed \$96.43. In addition, there was another \$61,067 contributed to the Restricted Funds programs such as the Polio eradication efforts and \$127,100 to the Permanent Fund for total contributions of \$618,737.77 to The Rotary Foundation. Thank you to every District 6000 Rotarian that contributed this past year!

It is exciting to report that 27 District 6000 Rotary clubs (42 percent) had per Rotarian giving last Rotary year of \$100 or greater. Each Rotary year, the number of D-6000 Rotary clubs meeting or exceeding the \$100 giving level continues to grow as more and more District 6000 Rotarians join the Every Rotarian, Every Year campaign.

For the 2005-06 Rotary Year, The Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Coralville-North Corridor contributed \$348.79, leading the district in support of the Annual Programs Fund. The Rotary Club of West Liberty was second in giving with per Rotarian giving of \$322.50, followed by Northwest Des Moines which contributed

\$272.63 per Rotarian.

The 2005-06 D-6000 Rotary Club Presidents set an Annual Programs Fund goal for their Rotary Club. The year-end contribution report shows 41 of the District 6000 63 Rotary Clubs met the goal they had set. It should be noted that while the clubs met their goal, several of these clubs set goals below The Rotary Foundation goal of \$100 per Rotarian.

The other District 6000 clubs with per Rotarian giving of \$100 or more include: Ames Morning, Ames, Ankeny, Bettendorf, Burlington, Clinton, Dallas Center, Decatur County, Des Moines A.M., Fort Madison, Indianola, Iowa City AM, Iowa City Downtown, Johnston, Lenox, Mount Pleasant Noon, Muscatine, Nevada, Newton, North Scott, Ottumwa, Pella, Washington and Wellman. Unfortunately, two District 6000 clubs made no contributions to The Rotary Foundation last year.

The challenge for District 6000 Rotarians for 2006-07 is to make sure that each club meets or exceeds the goal set by their 06-07 club president in support of the Annual Program Fund.

ANNUAL GIVING

continued on p. 22

Three Ambassadorial Scholars selected

By Jeff Bremer/Northwest Des Moines

Chair, D-6000 Ambassadorial Scholars Committee

This year we had 14 applications submitted to our district for our consideration in recommending three scholarships. My committee is made up of Joe Walt from Indianola, Jason Summers from Albia, Susan Sinclair from Ames, Dick Johns from Iowa City, and Ed Rogalski from Davenport.

We reviewed the applications and narrowed the number down to eight. Those eight students were then invited to Simpson College on June 3 for a formal and personal 45-minute interview. When the day was completed, the committee recommended the following three people to represent District 6000:

1. Abigail Sawyer from Iowa City. Abbie was a referral from a former Ambassadorial Scholar winner and she wants to study at the University of Otago in New Zealand. She wants to focus on both humanities and journalism. She is sponsored by the Iowa City Rotary Club.

2. Rohini Ramnath from Ames. Rohini is a very engaging young lady and she wants to study at the University of Western Cape in South Africa. She wants to focus on political science and international studies and use her education to help people from the lesser-developed areas of the world. Rohini is sponsored by the Ames noon club.

3. Brett Johnson from Coralville. Brett showed our committee that perseverance pays off. This was Brett's second year to apply and he wants to study at the Universidad Catolica de Peru in Lima, Peru. Brett wants to use his education to address social justice issues. Brett is sponsored by the Iowa City AM club.

As the chair of this committee, I am very proud of the students we have recommended to pursue the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. I am also thankful that my committee takes careful time to evaluate each and every application to make sure that our process

is a fair one for each student.

The students we chose last year are about to depart for their year abroad. As they get ready to finalize their plans, we wish them well and a safe year abroad in their studies.

1. Andy Stoll will be studying at the University of Hong Kong and pursuing his interests in film making.

2. Ramsey Tesdell had to change his plans because of the uncertainty in the Middle East. He will now be studying at the University of Jordan in Amman.

3. Nihad Heto will be deferring his scholarship for one year. He recently found out that his immediate family and extended family have all lost their jobs in Bosnia and he will be their main source of support until they can find some form of gainful employment. Nihad is very committed to helping his family and we know that a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship will be in his future.

I want to thank all the Rotarians for their interests and support for the Ambassadorial Scholarship program. Without your monetary gifts to The Rotary Foundation this great program would not exist. Please continue to let my committee know of students who have the character and personality to pursue the opportunity as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

Applications are due by the first week of April and most students who are interested begin the application process in January. My committee will review the applications in late April and early May and interview the top eight candidates the first Saturday in June. The interviews *have* to be in person and they *have* to be on the day that we have scheduled for the interviews.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please call my home phone at 641-828-2080, my cell at 515-249-5366, or my business number at 515-249-5366. My home email is jeffbremer@mchsi.com

We look forward to another great year.

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Why support FAMSCO, Iowa MOST?

District 6000 Rotary clubs are asked to make a voluntary contribution of \$5 per member in support of each of two district-wide projects that do incredible work in Rotary's Fourth Avenue of Service – World Service. The articles below give us an idea of why our support is important and the lives that are changed:

FAMSCO activity picked up at an amazing pace this summer

By John Ockenfels/Iowa City AM

FAMSCO President

FAMSCO (Fire And Medical Supply Company), District 6000's 501(c)(3) and ongoing World Community Service Project, has been very busy this summer, completing three container shipments and moving out of two warehouses and into two new warehouses.

In April, FAMSCO was notified by landlords of each of its Iowa City area warehouses that it would have to find a new location to store its inventory. One of the warehouses was to be torn down and the other was to be remodeled and leased to a new tenant. The first warehouse was vacated prior to May 1; the entire inventory was transferred to FAMSCO's Coralville warehouse.

In preparation for vacating the Coralville warehouse by July 31, FAMSCO made three container shipments in order to reduce its inventory. The first container went to El Salvador and included hospital beds for a hospital in San Miguel as well as many other items that will be distributed to various hospitals and clinics in El Salvador.

The second container went to Guatemala and included new doors and windows for a health clinic which is being built in the Western Highlands of Guatemala, as well as equipment to be used in the clinic, including exam tables, lab equipment, lights, furniture, hospital beds and dental chairs.

The third container was shipped to Honduras and consisted entirely of medical equipment and supplies to be distributed in the area around Pimienta, Honduras.

Each of the container shipment included approximately ten tons of goods and was sent via Dole or Chiquita with the invaluable logistical support of Universal Heart, Inc. of South Bend, Indiana.

While the shipments were being made, Iowa City Rotarian PDG Gary Pacha was busy negotiating with the City of Coralville to find a new home for FAMSCO, and thanks to his efforts FAMSCO now has the rent-free use of two warehouses (Thanks, Gary!).

Iowa City AM Rotarian John Ockenfels donated the use of a forklift and four semi-trailers, which were loaded with the remaining FAMSCO inventory. For the time being these have not yet been unloaded, as FAMSCO will take the opportunity to erect heavy-duty warehouse shelving which City Carton Recycling has donated and which should permit FAMSCO to make the best use of the space available in its new locations.

Also planned for the near future is the implementation of a computerized inventory system that will allow FAMSCO to share the contents of its inventory with Rotarians in Central America so they can choose the items that are most needed.

FAMSCO plans to make at least two more container shipments in this calendar year. FAMSCO also hopes to ship three or four fire trucks between now and December.

FAMSCO is also collaborating with the Rotary Club of Clinton, which has applied for a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant to send a fire truck and a tanker truck to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Earlier this year, FAMSCO completed shipment of a school bus to an orphanage in Manzanillo, Mexico as part of a Matching Grant project with the Rotary Club of West Liberty and the Rotary Club of Manzanillo as International and Host Partners.

Ockenfels, who recently was elected to a two-year term as president, outlined some of FAMSCO's goals and needs in the near future. "Funds for shipping are a critical need, which is why we ask every club in District 6000 to contribute \$5 per member each year. We also would like to have at least one FAMSCO member in every club in District 6000," Ockenfels said. "It's easy to do: just go to www.famsco.org and fill out the on-line membership form."

Finally, Ockenfels noted that FAMSCO's operations could easily be expanded to other parts of District 6000 by securing warehouse space in an additional location or locations in other parts of the district. "After 16 years, we have the know-how. All we need is for Rotarians in other parts of District 6000 to take the initiative by securing some warehouse space and finding some volunteer help. We can show them how to do everything else – and it would make FAMSCO even more effective than it has been up to now. It would also provide Rotarians in other parts of the district with another opportunity to serve in a very meaningful way."

Ockenfels reflected on the true significance of FAMSCO's mission: "Even though we talk about 'inventory' and 'tons of product shipped,' it is the final use of these goods that fulfills one of our primary motivations for becoming Rotarians: FAMSCO allows us to share the abundance of what we have with disadvantaged communities that desperately need so much. All of us who have been involved in FAMSCO know that FAMSCO has made a difference in the lives of many thousands of people in different parts of the world. We invite all Rotarians of our district to join us as we continue to build on the Foundation of Rotary, and the Foundation of FAMSCO."

Iowa MOST plans trip in 2007

By PDG Gary Pacha/Iowa City

Iowa MOST will launch its second mission to Huehuetenango, Guatemala to perform cleft lip and palate surgery in the coming Rotary year from Feb. 22 to March 4, 2007. This mission will again work with the Rotary Club of Huehuetenango and the Hospital Nacional de Huehuetenango Dr. Jorge Vides Molina.

The Iowa MOST team includes plastic surgeons, dentists, nurses, pediatricians and anesthesiologists, as well as Rotarian non-medical volunteers. Iowa MOST planners will shortly send application forms to all club presidents via the District 6000 e-mail system. Club presidents are asked to share the application forms and deadline information with their members.

Non-medical volunteer needs include medical records coordinator, pediatric ward assistants, recovery room assistants, photo-journalist, translators and quartermaster or supply assistants. Spanish language competency is a plus, but not a requirement to volunteer for most positions. Rotarian volunteers can expect to pay the cost of their transportation, lodging and some meals, which is estimated to be about \$1,200.



Ereza Vejsa



Bujeta Vokshi

Kosovo students will return to Iowa

By Norm Smith and Marilyn/Muscatine

Chair, D-6000 Rotary Youth Exchange Outbound

The school year has come and gone. Bujeta Vokshi and Ereza Vejsa from Kosovo are now safely back in their homeland. They will return to Muscatine again in the fall as students at Muscatine Community College, thanks to scholarships and private donations toward their expenses.

On their return trip to Kosovo for the summer they hand carried the legal papers for the next two girls coming to Muscatine. (In the land of foreign intrigue, important mail is often not delivered or stolen.) The year flew by, with attendance at most Rotary meetings, participation and leadership in the Muscatine Children's and Youth Choir and building a cadre of new friends and adventures. They attended District Conference and proudly carried the Albanian flag, as Kosovo does not have a flag per se.

Liz Schropshire, director of the Schropshire Foundation in Kosovo, was instrumental in facilitating the girls' arrival in Muscatine and is working to enable two more Kosovo girls to come to Muscatine. The maze of visa procurement, raising the needed funds and many other details are handled by Schropshire for their Kosovo departure.

Muscatine Rotary has supported the girls with funds and interest, and the community has benefited and contributed as well. The girls were instructors for the small children's choir section of the Muscatine Children and Youth choirs. They were active in school chorus and took advantage of the learning the "American Way," including going to prom! They participated in graduation for the experience, but did not receive an actual diploma.

It has been a great year with Bujeta and Ereza. We will welcome them again in the fall in their new roles as MCC students.



District Governor Del Bluhm (back, second from right) extended best wishes to District 6000's Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students at the District 6000 Youth Exchange Picnic, held at Newton in July. Students, their sponsoring clubs, and destinations are, front (l-r): Ann Trimble (Decatur County, Italy), Ellen Shank (Dallas Center, Italy), Amanda Hembry (Tipton, Sweden), Ashley Rader (Winterset, Germany), Elini Cade (Des Moines, Brazil), Shari Bender (Waukee, Germany), Cindy Meyer (Manning, Taiwan), Kelsey Campbell-Gegen (Indianola, Equador or Argentina, '07). Back: Joe Kerner (Knoxville, France), Nathan Farmer (Pella, France), Chance Dubuque (Fairfield, Taiwan), Joe Faux (Winterset, Argentina), K. Stallone (Fairfield, Italy), Governor Bluhm, Luke Goddard (Muscatine, France).

A shared heritage: Easter Seals indebted to Rotary

The annual Past District Governor's picnic was hosted by PDG Corliss Klaassen and Jeanne on July 9 at Camp Sunnyside, near Des Moines. At that event, Angela Hilbert, chief development officer for Easter Seals of Iowa, shared this amazing history of the relationship between Rotary and Easter Seals, and the personal friendship of our founders, Paul Harris and Edgar Allen.

By Angela Hilbert, CFRE

Easter Seals of Iowa, Chief Development Officer

At Easter Seals, we are indebted to Rotary. We were founded by Rotarians and, in our early years, grew across the country as Rotary Clubs were formed and services for children with disabilities were developed in their communities.

We also know that many contemporary Rotarians know only bits of the story – and it's my pleasure to share more with you today.

Rotary International is a long-standing member of our donor family. Over the last 17 years, you have raised \$4 million dollars to support Easter Seals services in communities across the country – and for that I thank you.

But our history together predates the era of corporate sponsorships. It begins in 1919, when the Rotary Club was formed in Elyria, Ohio. And it dates back to a friendship between two men who each had a vision for how to change our nation and our world.

Paul Harris and Edgar Allen met because they shared a passion for service and volunteerism—to improve their communities and others like them.

The original Rotary Club, Rotary One, was founded in 1905. It was the model for a volunteer service organization dedicated to “Service Above Self,” organized by Paul Harris and his friends. And, because the meetings rotated from office to office, they named themselves Rotary.

I have the privilege of serving as Iowa director for Easter Seals, which was founded by Edgar Allen, an Ohio Rotarian with his fellow Rotarians, in 1919.

Allen's vision was of a national organization that – and I quote – “aspires to assume responsibility and be instrumental in effecting good, intelligent in the application of help to those who are themselves helpless.

“We hope not only to contribute to the building of brighter souls in sounder bodies, but also to light new glows in the hearts of the parents of the crippled.”

Ours is a shared history. As the Rotary movement grew nationally, and then internationally, during the early 1900s so, too, did Easter Seals.

Paul Harris and Edgar Allen were men of their times who believed that with success comes a responsibility for others. Harris' commitment to service came from his belief that – and I quote – “he profits most who serves best.”

Both men worked to establish their organizations during the early years of the last century and pursued their visions – relentlessly – through the difficult years of World War One and the Great Depression.

Both were born in the 1860s and New Englanders to start.



PDG Corliss Klaassen and DG Del Bluhm with Easter Seals of Iowa CEO Donna Elbrecht and chief development officer Angela Hilbert at the Past District Governor picnic held at Camp Sunnyside.

Both were influenced by a rapidly industrializing American society – that offered opportunities for success in business for many.

Harris grew up with his grandparents in Vermont. His vision for Rotary was of a service organization that would provide a meeting place – and the spirit of friendship and community he remembered from childhood.

As a young man, Harris challenged the status quo. His school history was checkered before he finally graduated from Princeton. While at Princeton, his grandfather died. As Rotary's biographical notes state, it was his grandfather who gave him his road map for life and Harris' most important lesson in life – tolerance.

After Harris graduated from law school at Iowa, he pointedly ignored the advice of a friend. He said he had no intention of going to a small town to “make a fool of himself” before heading to the Big City.

Instead, he took the next five years to see the world – as a reporter, an actor, a cowboy, a seaman, a granite salesman, a fruit picker and hotel clerk. When he arrived in Chicago, he was ready to practice law and soon became one of the city's outstanding attorneys.

His days practicing law were cut short due to ill health in the 1930s, although his law firm continued for many years. But, beginning in 1905, Harris was focused on his vision of creating service clubs throughout the U. S. and internationally, to identify needs and improve community life.

Edgar Allen moved as a child to Cleveland. From his journals we learned that Allen worked for the Bingham Hardware Company at age 16, and saved enough to form the Cleveland Cedar Company when he was 26.

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EASTER SEALS

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He made his fortune when he landed a contract with AT&T to supply telephone poles to the fledgling telephone company. He also supplied railroad ties for the growing railroad industry – all from forests in Canada.

With his success, he moved his family to Elyria, Ohio, and began to involve himself in civic activities.

Edgar Allen's life changed overnight on a Memorial Day weekend in 1907.

His younger son, Homer, and several friends were celebrating their high school graduation and, on their way home from a picnic, were killed in a horrible streetcar accident. Had there been a hospital, he might have been saved. So, Allen, the grieving father, sold his business and gave \$100,000 to build the Elyria Memorial Hospital.

At the time, he wrote: "I had spent all my life with the thought of two things: business success and money making, and my family. This was the turning point in my life." It was at the Elyria Hospital where he first encountered children with disabilities – who were to become his life's work.

Edgar Allen first met Jimmie Bodak in 1909. He was a young orphan at the Elyria hospital getting new crutches and therapy. It was Jimmie who first called him "Daddy" Allen, and moved Allen to commission a survey of children with disabilities in the Cleveland area.

As a member of the Elyria Rotary Club, Allen asked his fellow Rotarians to help.

Allen's work inspired Rotary's commitment to make children with disabilities a major focus of your work.

His friendship with Paul Harris grew out of his passion for helping children with disabilities and Harris' shared concern for serving the needs of young people in need.

Early Rotary history includes mention of several clubs who became involved in helping young people with polio and other disabilities find health care and schools. The club in Syracuse, New York, conducted a survey to discover how many young polio survivors needed services in 1913.

The club in Toledo, Ohio, sponsored a young man with quadriplegia – and drew the attention of Henry Ford, who gave money to help disabled children – a large contribution that was credited to the Rotary Club for engaging Ford's interest.

I think both men would be proud of your international PolioPlus campaign; it carries forward their vision for a better world – and a cure for this deadly, disabling disease.

Easter Seals has always played a significant role in shaping public policy, and assuring adequate funding for disability programs. We learned from the best.

In 1920, Edgar Allen created a committee to craft two pieces of legislation that would fund his Ohio plan for community-based services.

When he heard the bills were stalled in committee, Allen mobilized his fellow Rotarians – starting in Cleveland – and with \$1,000 they telegraphed Ohio's 65 Rotary Clubs to rally their friends and families. As Allen wrote, with bushels of telegrams arriving at the legislature, the bills were passed at 11 p.m. as the legislature adjourned three days later. Within weeks, Allen and his fellow Rotarians had the funding to begin their work.

In the early 1920s, Allen expanded his idea to become an "International Society for Crippled Children." Paul Harris was its first chairman; Edgar Allen was its president. We can track the growth of Easter Seals – as it followed the forming of Rotary clubs throughout the Midwest and into New York. Between 1924 and 1929, there

were 15 new Easter Seals organizations. Most often it was Allen and Harris together, mobilizing Rotary Clubs to organize "Crippled Children's Societies."

A member of the Rotary club in Buffalo, New York, wrote about one such meeting in 1921, that it was: "Truly an auspicious occasion and success could only result in the presence of our great leaders, Edgar and Paul, who had braved the severe weather to be with us and give their support, and to the efforts of these sterling characters may we ascribe the cause of universal success of this movement."

When Harris established the Rotary Foundation in 1928, one of its first grants was to Allen's International Society for Crippled Children. In 1929, at Harris' request, the foundation gave \$500 to support its work – in the first year of the Great Depression. ||

Allen's pragmatic approach set a new standard, and his vision of a nation where children with disabilities would be included with all children – in schools and in their communities – continues with us.

Paul Harris and Edgar Allen were co-authors of the first "Crippled Children's Bill of Rights," adopted in 1930 at the first White House Conference on Child Health and Protection. It led to the first federal funding for children's services, written into The Social Security Act in 1935.

When we opened the boxes of Allen's letters, we found two notes from Paul Harris – on original Rotary letterhead with watermark. They were written to Allen's biographers after Allen's death at age 77 in 1934.

The first: "From time to time, I have written Sketches of Edgar for special purposes. Most if not all have been published in 'The Crippled Child' magazine. Edgar was a great man and the cumulative effect of his efforts will enrich the lives of generations to come." – *Paul Harris, Sept. 15, 1938.*

Harris also responded to a second request: "Yes, by all means use anything you may find anywhere. God Bless Dear Daddy. I can't go any further." – *Paul Harris, Sept. 6, 1944.*

We hope that Paul Harris and Edgar Allen will be side by side as we dedicate our nation's newest memorial – The Extra Mile National Volunteer Pathway – in 2005. It is a tribute to both men. It recognizes their friendship and their extraordinary, complementary visions for how to create a better world.

A few years ago we discovered Edgar Allen's vision statement, in his original, typed onion skin paper – now yellowed. Our staff and volunteers were incredibly moved and inspired.

His writing reads like Winston Churchill's. His passion for the cause and his vision for a world where children, and now adults, have the opportunity to pursue education, employment and be included in our society is what we, at Easter Seals, work toward today.

Our staff and volunteers are inspired by Edgar Allen's vision, and motivated to keep pursuing his mission. This, too, we know was shared by Paul Harris – whose Rotary movement has partnered with Easter Seals to make this possible in many communities in the U.S.

Paul Harris' vision has grown to include 1.2 million Rotarians who belong to 32,000 Rotary Clubs – in 168 countries. Yours is a truly international presence.

Edgar Allen's vision grew to include Easter Seals network of affiliates, providing services for more than 1.3 million children and adults with disabilities and support to their families – throughout the United States, and in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and soon beyond.

So today we honor two wonderful friends, whose visions have changed our world.

MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

“Polio Plus is the most visible global story, but we have another 100,000 success stories to tell through the years by our clubs.”

By Bill Koellner/West Liberty

D-6000, Membership Development Co-Chair

This is the first of a series of articles on Membership that will be in each newsletter during the Rotary year. Rotary’s mission is based on bringing together business and professional leaders who are committed to improving the quality of life in their communities. Experience has shown us that simply bringing in new members is not enough; we need to bring in the right members and work much harder at retaining them.

New members who are not committed to the ideal of service will add little to your club efforts and may even damage its credibility. And they are unlikely to remain Rotarians for very long. Similarly, potentially dedicated Rotarians who are given no direction or role to play will soon find a more satisfying way to serve their communities.

We need to think creatively when it comes to membership – always having the “courage to change” those practices that do not work. If economics are a factor, you might look to ways to cut the cost of being a Rotarian, either in club dues or meeting costs. If your club is viewed as an “old men’s club,” invite a number of women and younger people to join. Give them a role to play immediately, as research tells us that younger people want to feel that their time spent in volunteer activities is meaningful. You might also think about launching service efforts that will engage family members, so that younger Rotarians could serve their communities without sacrificing valuable family time.

Ultimately, however, the most powerful means for attracting and retaining members is the exemplary attitude and behavior of each individual Rotarian. It is the demonstration of these attributes that gives Rotary its credibility and makes it an organization that will attract a quantity of quality men and women dedicated to service.

Take a moment and think about how you were introduced to Rotary. Who invited you to your first rotary meeting? Who invited you to join your club? Now think about all of the great people you’ve met, important projects you’ve contributed to, interesting places you’ve been, and the people you’ve helped throughout your time in Rotary. It’s probably fair to say that, considering all you’ve gained through your membership in Rotary, you appreciate the person who first invited you to your club. If it hadn’t been for that person’s kind invitation, you might not have had the same opportunities for fellowship, service, and international exposure.

For many people, joining Rotary is a life-changing event. So why do so many Rotarians find it difficult to ask others to join? Perhaps members are uncomfortable approaching other people and “selling” Rotary to them. Maybe they don’t know how to explain



Bill Koellner – addressing incoming club presidents about membership development in April 2006.

Rotary to others in a concise and appealing way. Regardless of the reason for their hesitation, a change in perspective may motivate more Rotarians to invite others to come to a Rotary event with them. Perhaps if members focus on all of the benefits of Rotary and think of Rotary membership as a gift to be shared instead of product to be sold, they will be more inspired to invite others to join Rotary.

Because August is Membership and Extension Month, now is the time to challenge your club members to invite someone into Rotary. After all, the fact that membership in Rotary is by invitation only means that the survival of your club depends on members

***Rotary is a gift to be shared;
not a product to be sold!***

sharing Rotary with others.

The following is a sample of how you can approach the topic of recruitment in an upcoming club meeting. Following these steps can help members view recruitment as sharing Rotary instead of selling Rotary and equip them with tools to address their recruitment apprehensions. A process chart is on an insert with this newsletter and is available on the district Web site, www.rotary6000.org, to show all the steps to become a Rotarian.

• First, spend a few minutes facilitating a discussion among club members in which they reflect on the person who proposed each of them for membership. Ask them to consider how much their time in Rotary has meant to them and how much they have gained from Rotary. Suggest that Rotary membership is a gift, and emphasize how important it is to share this gift with others. You may want to point out that someone was once nice enough to share Rotary with each one of them, and so they should all

MEMBERSHIP/continued next page

Membership Development: Step by step

MEMBERSHIP/continued

extend the courtesy and share Rotary with others. Once members are focused on how much they have enjoyed and gained from their time in Rotary and how appreciative they are of the person who proposed them, they may be more open to the idea of sharing the gift of Rotary with others in their lives.

- The next step is for each club member to come up with a list of qualified individuals who might make a good Rotarian: friends, family members, business associates, neighbors, and other acquaintances. Some members may say that they can't think of any good prospective members. To address this issue, hand out index cards and ask your members to use the card to keep a list of every person they meet or speak to in a 24-hour period – surely one of those people is worthy of the gift of Rotary!

- At this point, it's important to discuss how club members should approach these potential Rotarians. It can be intimidating for both the Rotarian and the prospective member if the Rotarian tries to "sell" Rotary and explain everything about its programs in the initial invitation. Therefore, it can be beneficial to keep the initial contact as simple as possible. Remind your members that the initial approach can be very effortless; in many cases, it's simply inviting someone to breakfast or lunch or saying something like, "I'm going to a meeting later this week with a program that I think you'd find interesting. Would you like to join me?"

- When inviting someone to a club meeting or event, Rotarians are often asked, "What is Rotary? What does Rotary do?" Some

of your club members may be unsure about how to respond to these questions. At this point in your program, address this concern by passing out the *What's Rotary?* cards to your club members. ("What's Rotary?" is a small, trifold card that provides an effective and concise explanation of what Rotary is, what Rotarians do, and what Rotary's main objectives are. Encourage your members to give one of these cards to each person they invite to a meeting. Handing prospective members the card is a way of sharing Rotary's mission in a simple, low-pressure way. It also allows the prospective member to take the information home and think about it.

- Finally, spend a few minutes having your club members write down some of the reasons they're in Rotary. Encourage them to discuss these reasons with the next guest they bring to a club event. Sharing the gift of Rotary is more than just inviting someone to a meeting; it also includes sharing personal Rotary experiences with the people around you. When prospective members hear about the great experiences that their hosts have had in Rotary, they can start to visualize the great experiences they might have in Rotary.

How many Rotarians ensure that they talk to others about Rotary; that they always wear their Rotary pin; that finished projects are clearly marked with the Rotary wheel and the name of the club responsible; that there are news stories in the local papers, with, if possible a picture including the Rotary wheel? What is it about my club that will make people want to join it?

We are all proud to be Rotarians. Let's make that pride in our achievements public knowledge!

Major developments in polio campaign

By PDG Don Goering

D-6000, Rotary Foundation Chair

The target date to eradicate polio has passed and polio is still around.

There is some good news, however. The world leaders of the polio eradication program are expressing guarded optimism that Polio can still be eradicated. There were some major developments that occurred during 2005 that give some basis for that optimism.

Those major developments include: The removal of Egypt and Niger from the countries considered polio-endemic, leaving only four countries still considered to be polio endemic: Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nigeria. The poliovirus is generally concentrated in limited geographically areas in each country.

The next major development was the development, licensing and use of two new mono-valiant polio vaccines. Since the beginning of the eradication efforts, a tri-valiant vaccine providing protection from the three strains of poliovirus that had been used. With the type II virus not being identified anywhere in the world since 1999, it is believed that virus type II has been eradicated. In addition, the type III virus is still active in very limited geographical areas and could be eradicated soon.

The two new mono-valiant vaccines are specific for the remaining Type I and Type III poliovirus. The effectiveness of the new mono-valiant vaccines is dramatic, providing an almost 50 percent increase in polio protection after just one dose of the mono-valiant vaccine.

Utilizing these mono-valiant vaccines and new intensive efforts, more children are being protected from the ravages of polio. One of the new strategies includes a "transit strategy" with teams of

vaccinators riding trains and buses throughout India immunizing children they find on the trains and buses. It has been reported that 5 million additional children were reached utilizing this strategy.

The final major development was the removal of 13 countries from the list of polio re-infected areas. This statement is supported by the following:

1. All outbreaks of 2003-04 have been stopped.
2. All outbreaks of 2005 are resolving.
3. All outbreaks of 2006 have had very fast immunization response.

There continues a need to conduct multiple National Immunization Days in the endemic countries. In fact, immunizing must continue for three years after the last case of polio has been identified before the world can be declared polio free. Rotary and Rotarians support these National Immunization Days through the PolioPlus Partners program, providing the resources for the "Social Mobilization" phase of the each immunization effort.

To support the National Immunization Days, Rotary clubs and Rotarians are encouraged to provide additional financial support. Donations of any amount would be sincerely appreciated and should be sent to The Rotary Foundation.

Rotary Clubs interested in a program on Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio or additional information, should contact Past District 6000 Governor Don Goering at 515-232-1736 or via e-mail at donaldgski@aol.com

Rotarians interested in additional information related to the Polio eradication effort should visit the following web sites: www.polioeradication.org or polioplus@rotary.org

Foundation

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District Governor Del Bluhm has issued a challenge to all District 6000 Rotarians. He would like to see this Rotary year be the year that District 6000 exceeds the \$100 per Rotarian giving with a total giving at \$450,000 to the Annual Programs Fund of The Rotary Foundation.

Can we reach that goal? We all need to roll up our sleeves and get busy. Remember, it takes only 28 cents a day to contribute \$100 each year.

News Briefs

Zone Institute: Governor Del Bluhm and Governor-Elect Diana Reed will be among the leaders of District 6000 in attendance at the "Summit at the Falls" Governor-Elect Training Seminar (G.E.T.S.) and Zone Institute, Sept. 4-10 at Niagara Falls. Past, present and future district governors, trainers and other leaders from 25 districts in Zones 27 and 28 will be joined by Rotarians from Zone 22 in Canada and Russia. Zones 27 and 28 represent portions of Canada and the upper Midwest USA, from Nebraska to New York. Convening the meeting is our RI Director Frank Goldberg, of Omaha. Rotary International leaders will be present and the latest about Rotary International programs will be shared.

World Food Prize: Rotarians are invited to the World Food Prize 20th Anniversary Symposium at the downtown Marriott Hotel in Des Moines Oct. 18-20. More than 500 participants are expected from over 65 countries and 30 states. World Food Prize founder Dr. Norman Borlaug will be honored at the opening ceremony at 8:00 a.m. on Oct. 19. "A dazzling array of global experts on biotechnology and food security will travel from China, India, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, Great Britain and across the U.S. These distinguished speakers will be joined by 14 World Food Prize laureates, ensuring that there will be more lifesaving achievement assembled at this

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2006-07 CLUB ATTENDANCE PERCENT AND RANK May, 2006 - July, 2006

CLUB	MAY		JUNE		JULY	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Adel	63.00%	27	56.00%	41	63.00%	29
Albia	60.00%	36	57.00%	39	55.00%	45
Ames	55.92%	43	48.22%	50		
Ames Morning	55.45%	44	53.41%	44	56.57%	42
Ankeny	69.00%	21	67.00%	22	60.00%	35
Atlantic	60.00%	37	60.09%	31	58.93%	38
Bettendorf	84.46%	7	83.91%	5	82.08%	6
Bloomfield					71.00%	18
Boone	57.80%	41	59.13%	34	60.00%	36
Burlington	83.90%	9	78.90%	9	77.41%	10
Carroll					48.64%	50
Centerville	56.93%	42	46.51%	53		
Chariton					57.00%	40
Clinton	60.73%	35	55.38%	43	60.13%	34
Coon Rapids			64.00%	27	64.00%	26
Coralville-North Corrido	77.00%	13	83.00%	6	90.00%	3
Corning	73.71%	17	71.92%	15	74.36%	14
Corydon	51.60%	47				
Creston	62.00%	29			60.00%	37
Dallas Center			48.00%	51	57.00%	41
Davenport			48.95%	49	40.96%	52
Decatur County	61.00%	31	51.00%	47	75.00%	12
Des Moines	62.53%	28	65.48%	24	65.45%	25
Des Moines A.M.	72.00%	19	58.00%	38		
East Polk County	67.00%	24	59.00%	35		
Fairfield	52.74%	45	55.41%	42	49.82%	48
Fort Madison	58.00%	40	59.00%	36	63.28%	28
Grinnell	90.00%	2	80.00%	8		
Indianola	80.92%	11	67.09%	21	78.48%	9
Iowa City			52.00%	45	61.00%	31
Iowa City A.M.	61.00%	32	63.00%	28	61.00%	32
Iowa City Downtowr						
Iowa Quad-Cities	84.43%	8	71.00%	16	60.50%	33
Jefferson	62.00%	30	61.00%	30		
Johnston	74.86%	15	70.63%	19	74.62%	13
Kalona	81.70%	10	73.25%	13	77.19%	11
Keokuk	52.13%	46	51.45%	46	43.81%	51
Keosauque	60.80%	34	59.40%	32	61.10%	30
Knoxville			65.00%	25	70.00%	19
Lenox			66.00%	23	73.00%	16
Manning	86.00%	6	74.00%	12	81.00%	8
Marengc	75.00%	14	83.00%	7	87.00%	4
Marshalltown	59.80%	38	56.13%	40	58.87%	39
Mount Pleasant Noor					55.60%	43
Mt. Pleasant	79.00%	12	73.00%	14		
Muscatine					49.37%	49
Nevada	64.72%	25	59.26%	33	73.56%	15
Newton	69.00%	22	62.00%	29	68.00%	21
North Scott	86.75%	3	87.59%	3	82.49%	5
Northwest Des Moines	86.40%	5	85.10%	4		
Odyssey Rotary Ottumwa	50.00%	48	50.00%	48	50.00%	47
Osceola	73.15%	18	64.81%	26	63.89%	27
Oskaloosa	64.30%	26			66.45%	24
Ottumwa	61.00%	33	58.50%	37	54.00%	46
Pella	74.00%	16	76.00%	11	82.00%	7
Perry			69.00%	20		
Tipton	70.06%	20	70.96%	18	67.41%	22
Washington			46.88%	52	55.60%	44
Waukee			76.68%	10	71.78%	17
Wellman	98.75%	1	96.77%	1	94.35%	2
West Des Moines	59.49%	39			67.15%	23
West Liberty	68.00%	23	71.00%	17	69.00%	20
Winterset	86.67%	4	90.83%	2	97.41%	1

NEWS BRIEFS

continued from p. 22

event than anywhere else around the globe," writes organizer Ambassador Kenneth Quinn. Information: (515) 245-3783, or www.worldfoodprize.org.

* * *

Obituaries: With sadness we observe the deaths of: Carolyn Beran, the wife of Assistant District Governor John Beran, of Lenox; Seeley Lodwick, a 54-year member of the Rotary Club of Ft. Madison; and Willis Shaw, a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Nevada, whose vision and leadership for GSE were instrumental in District 6000.

* * *

NID: If you wish to join a National Immunization Day trip to Nigeria on Dec. 4-13, at a cost of approximately \$2,750, contact PDG Dave Groner, 301 Main St., Dowagiac, MI 49047; ph. (269) 782-2128; e-mail: Groner@locallink.net.

* * *

Vocational Honor: Forty teachers and students honored DGN Cal Litwiller at reception in May upon his designation as "Teacher of the Year" in Mt. Pleasant.

* * *

Sergeant Salute: The Rotary Club of Clinton presented Bill Anderson with a Rotary International tie as a thank you for serving as sergeant-at-arms for 35 years.

* * *

Fund Raiser: PerMar Security, which provides security at Cyclone and Hawkeye football games and at the Newton Speedway, invites Rotarians to serve as volunteer ushers and ticket takers at these events. Your Rotary club will receive payment of \$41.60 per game for Iowa football and \$8 an hour plus free parking for Iowa State. Compensation is comparable at the Speedway. Volunteers get into the football games for free and are usually able to watch more than half of the game. To lend a hand and raise money for your club, contact PerMar at: Des Moines, (515) 244-5660; Cedar Rapids, (319) 365-4800; or Davenport, (563) 326-5222.

* * *

District 6000 News: Thanks to Nancy Pacha (Iowa City AM) and Kathy Skinner (Nevada) for helping procure news for District 6000 News. We truly do want you to submit news of your club. Deadline for the next issue is Nov. 17. Send Word documents and free-standing .jpg photos to: btubbs@northscottpress.com.

*In Memoriam:*

Conley J. Biddle

1907-2006

Governor, Rotary International District 6000, 1978-79



PDG Conley J. Biddle

Rev. Conley J. Biddle, 93, died Wednesday, June 28, 2006, at Kavanagh House. A memorial service was held for Rev. Biddle at West Des Moines Christian Church on Friday, June 30, at 10 a.m. with visitation one hour prior. Burial was at Resthaven Cemetery in West Des Moines.

Conley was born Sept. 6, 1907, in Bondurant, Iowa, to Julius William and Rose Ella Stakey Biddle. Rev. Biddle was an ordained minister of the Christian church, Disciples of Christ. He was a graduate of Drake University and the Drake Divinity School. He served for 45 years in the ministry of Christian churches, Disciples of Christ in Kellerton, Coggon, Marian, Altoona, Guthrie Center, Fort Dodge, Perry and West Des Moines. During his ministry in Perry and West Des Moines, he led in the construction of new church buildings.

Rev. Biddle served the Christian Church of Iowa as a District Secretary and for 25 years he served as a member of the State Board of the Iowa Christian Churches. He served as President of the Iowa Christian Churches Ministers Association and as the President of the Iowa Christian Churches State Conventions. He served for 15 years as the Dean of Summer Youth Conferences for the Christian churches in five Midwestern states. He also served for three years as the president of the Drake University Divinity School National Alumni Association.

Rev. Biddle was the author of four published books. He was a past president of the West Des Moines Rotary Club and a Past District Governor of Rotary International District 600.

He was a 50-year Mason and served in the Blue Lodge, the York Rite, the Consistory and the Shrine.

Rev. Biddle was married to Chloris Fay Keller on Sept. 10, 1927, and together they had a daughter, Alice Elaine Biddle, and a son, Robert Conley Biddle. Conley and Chloris were married 45 years. Their son Robert died Oct. 11, 1972, at the age of 37. His wife, Chloris, died on Oct. 23, 1972, and his daughter, Alice Elaine, died on Sept. 12, 1980. On June 28, 1974, Rev. Biddle was married to Vera Marriott Biddle.

Rev. Biddle was preceded in death by his former wife, Chloris, his two children, Robert and Alice Elaine, his parents, two brothers, Walter and Mark, and two sisters, Alice and Bertha. His wife Vera died on Dec. 21, 2004.

Rev. Biddle is survived by his daughter-in-law, Sharon Biddle of Urbandale, five grandchildren, Mrs. Debbie Winningham and husband Rick, Ms. Marcy Waggoner and Alan Conley Tibbetts of Texas, Ms. Kim Biddle and Mr. David Biddle of California, six great-grandchildren, Nicole and Tiffany Winningham and Jordan Tibbetts of Texas, Brian Johnston of Kansas and Brandon Perry and Randi Heywood of Des Moines.

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District 6000 News is published four times a year, in August, November, February and May, as a supplement to monthly electronic communications. District 6000 News is mailed to District 6000 club presidents, assistant governors, past and future district governors and committee chairs. It is posted in PDF format with the pictures in color at our district website, www.rotary6000.org. We encourage and urge you to share your copies with club leaders and Rotarians in your clubs and to use it as a resource for club newsletters and in any way possible for the advancement of Rotary. Clubs are invited and encouraged to submit news to editor Bill Tubbs at the above address.

Letters:

Dear Rotarians,

Since April 2005, I have had a challenging journey with critical gallstone pancreatitis involving several surgeries, intensive care, and multiple complications. The doctors asked my family to gather two times during the last 14 months. I am very lucky, with God and the professional staff at U of I Hospitals, I am here and writing this note.

I want to thank you for all your prayers, cards and visits as Rotarians supported me through this period. The many cards during my stay and the special cards on my birthday helped me to understand what "real family" means. Rotarians care for others, near and far. Jan and I could not have made it without our faith, family, and Rotary friends.

In grateful appreciation

-s- Bill Koellner
Rotary Club of West Liberty

Dear Rotarians,

It was nice seeing you at District Conference. It was really a great experience at the conference. Thank you again for your interest and the opportunity to be your ambassador as a Rotary Peace Scholar in Japan.

-s- Wendi Boxx



Club leaders' checklist

- Register club members to attend one or more of the six Regional Rotary Foundation/Membership seminars.
- Register students to attend the 2006 D-6000 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) day.
- Ensure that your district dues are paid, including voluntary contributions for FAMSCO and Iowa M.O.S.T.
- Notify district leadership now if you desire to host the GSE team from India next spring.
- Place Rotary billboards in your community and plan public image projects utilizing RI Public Image grants.
- Determine significant community projects that might be aided with District Simplified Grant and apply by the Oct. 1 deadline.
- Plan literacy projects, including support of Iowa Reach Out and Read.
- Submit news of your club's successes or upcoming events by Nov. 17 for the next issue of District 6000 News.