



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER – March 2012

Greeting District 7850 Rotarians:

March is Literacy Month

In 1985, Rotary declared basic literacy to be a pre-condition to the development of peace. Through this organizational emphasis, more than half the world's Rotary clubs address the full range of literacy and mathematical challenges for primary, vocational, and adult learners as well as teacher training. (From http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/pr_rotary_peace_en.pdf)

As Rotarians we know that literacy is an essential ingredient for reducing poverty, improving health, encouraging community and economic development, and promoting peace. Are you or have you thought about:

- Providing books and educational materials for schools?
- Building and supporting schools?
- Mentoring students?
- Helping an adult learn how to read?
- Establishing literacy programs for children and adults?

I hope your club has qualified for a Rotary Zone Literacy Award.

Mark Your Calendars:

April 21st, 2012: District Assembly. Location to be announced in a few days.

May 18, 19, 20, 2012: District Conference at The Mountain Club on Loon, Lincoln, New Hampshire. Registration will be starting soon. Meet us on the Mountain. Early registrations are due on 31 March 2012. Registration info can be found at: <http://www.rotary7850.org/>

July 5, 2012: District Change Over at Grant Camp in Randolph Vermont

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1. **Message from DG Marilyn Bedell**

My message will be short this month. Key points:

- Plan on registering and coming for all or part of the **District Conference** on May 18, 19 & 20, 2012 at the Mountain Club on Loon.
- Consider supporting the District Conference with an **advertisement** for your Club or Business in the District Conference Program book. Information has been sent to club presidents. If you want information about our sponsorship and advertisement opportunities, contact our sponsorship chair Chris Christopoulos at: cchristopoulosjr@comcast.net
- **Awards:** Encourage your club to apply for Rotary International's Presidential Citation, District Governor's Crystal Award, and Rotary Zone Awards for Water and Sanitation, Literacy, New Generations, Leadership, Community Service, Health and Hunger.
- I'm looking forward to seeing our 2012/2013 Presidents-elect and our Assistant Governors at the **President's Elect Training Seminar** in Framingham MA.

2. **2012 District Conference - Embracing Humanity: Touching Lives, Moving Mountains, Inspiring New Generations, Mountain Club on Loon, Lincoln NH.**

Our theme, *Embracing Humanity: Touching Lives, Moving Mountains, Engaging New Generations*, builds upon Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee's theme, *Reach Within to Embrace Humanity*. From my visits to our District Clubs this year, I can assure you that there is no shortage of Rotarians who are indeed living this theme every day within their communities, at the district level and internationally.

President Kalyan has assigned PDG Satish Saluja from District 3080 in India to represent him at our conference. I'm sure he will be able to give us a first hand report of the efforts to eradicate polio in India. In addition, he will bring us news from Rotary International and from President Kalyan too.

The conference will begin at 1 PM (13h00) with the District Business meeting. The First Plenary begins at 2:10 PM (14h10). The last session on Sunday will end by noon. Dinner, Friday evening will be on the Café Lafayette Dinner, with a Moose Tour to follow. We will leave the resort at 5:15 PM (17h15). The train will leave the station at 5:30 (17:30 PM). Program details will be posted on the District Web page once we are a little closer to finalizing the program.

See you at Loon.

3. **Help Wanted:**

We believe we have all District Positions filled for 2012/2013. Thanks to the Rotarians who stepped up to the plate to help the District!

4. Polio Update – From District Polio Chair Louisa Tripp (thanks for the French translation too!)

Polio Update – What Now?

"Rotary Celebrates India's First Polio-free Year!"

This was the headline last month which caused celebration around the world and encouraged Rotarians that their efforts were making progress. We have met the Gates Challenge six months early, "Rotarian's \$1.2 billion represents 14% of all global contributions to the global budget through 2010 and represents approximately 66% of private sector contributions to the initiative"¹, and India will be removed from the endemic list as soon as all 2010 samples are cleared as negative. These are great milestones, but "what next"?

As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high. Canada and the UK have pledged over \$100 million and the US has increased its annual giving from \$133 million to \$140 million. Additional efforts around the world include¹:

- The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta (CDC) has moved all staff involved to its Emergency Operating Center (EOC) for at least 18 months.
- At the recent Executive board meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) the decision was made to request the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May to agree to polio eradication as "a programmatic emergency for global public health".
- The UNICEF Executive Director, established an inter-divisional Polio Emergency Coordinating Committee and the polio division is being markedly strengthened both in the field and centrally
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation continues to state unequivocally that polio eradication is their number one project.

We are "this close", but we still have a little way to go!

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Polio Mise à jour - Que faire maintenant?

Tout d'abord Rotary célèbre de l'Inde de la poliomyélite-libre Année!

Ce fut le titre le mois dernier qui a causé la célébration partout dans le monde et a encouragé les Rotariens que leurs efforts ont été des progrès. Nous avons relevé le Défi Portes six mois plus tôt, «Rotarien de 1,2 milliards de dollars représente 14% de toutes les contributions globales du budget global en 2010 et représente environ 66% des contributions du secteur privé à l'initiative" 1, et l'Inde seront retirés de l'endémie liste dès que tous les échantillons de 2010 sont apurés comme négative. Ce sont des grandes étapes, mais "ce que la prochaine"?

Tant que la polio menace même un enfant partout dans le monde, tous les enfants restent exposés au risque. Les enjeux sont si élevés. Canada et au Royaume-Uni ont promis plus de 100 millions de dollars aux États-Unis a augmenté sa dons annuels de 133 millions de dollars à 140 millions. Des efforts supplémentaires dans le monde entier notamment¹:

Les Centers for Disease Control à Atlanta (CDC) a déplacé tout le personnel impliqué à son centre d'exploitation d'urgence (COU) pendant au moins 18 mois.

Lors de la réunion du conseil exécutif récente de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) a pris la décision de demander à l'Assemblée mondiale de la Santé (WHA) en mai pour convenir d'éradication de la poliomyélite comme « une urgence de programmation pour la santé publique mondiale ».

Le Directeur exécutif de l'UNICEF, a créé un inter-divisions de la poliomyélite d'urgence du Comité de coordination et de la division de la poliomyélite est nettement renforcée à la fois sur le terrain et au centre.

La Fondation Bill et Melinda Gates Foundation continue d'affirmer sans équivoque que l'éradication est leur projet d'un certain nombre.

<http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/foundation/newsletter/2012/2012.0229.Polio.What.Now.pdf>

Nous sommes "cette proximité", mais nous avons encore un peu pour aller!

Also see *How India has had remarkable success in polio fight* at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-17072769> -

5. **Rotary Night at the Fisher Cats Baseball Game**

Friday, July 20, 2012 7:05 PM (19h05)

New Hampshire Fisher Cats vs. Portland Sea Dogs (AA-Boston Red Sox)

Ticket \$10 with \$4/per ticket going to support Rotary International's efforts to eradicate polio around the world.

For details and copies of the flyer for the game, contact DG Marilyn Bedell at

m.k.bedell@comcast.net

Orders for tickets will be due by 1 June 2012; the flyer has information about how to do this.

- Before the game, the North Country Chordsmen Barbershop Chorus will sing the National Anthem. (Our 2014/2015 District Governor Bruce Pacht is a member of this group)
- After the game, stick around for an explosive Atlas Fireworks Show!

6. **Disaster Recovery Grant**

Here is the latest news from The Rotary Foundation on our Matching Grant application for Flood Recovery projects in Vermont.

On March 12, 13 and 14, 2012 we will be hosting Laura Bradley, member of the Rotary Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisers. She will begin her tour of Vermont on Monday in Waterbury and end her visit in Brattleboro. While in Waterbury she will be meeting with Eric Smith, President of the Rotary Club of Waterbury, Assistant Governor Marsha Hoffman (a member of Northfield's Long Term Recovery Committee), and Doug Stoehr, president-elect for the Rotary Club of The Mad River Valley. In addition, she will meet with several Vermont State Officials. In addition to a "sit down" meeting in Waterbury, with the help of Rotarians, DG Jan McElroy and I will tour her through communities dealing with flood recovery issues.

Laura will meet with Vermont Community Action officials on Tuesday, and Wednesday we will tour Laura through Southern Vermont.

Again, DG Jan and I are optimistic that the grant will be approved. We do not believe the Rotary Foundation would be sending the technical adviser if they weren't interested in funding our grant. So stay tuned for the outcome of this visit.

7. **Group Study Exchange (GSE) Group Study Exchange Welcoming Teams from South Africa and France**

Planning is underway for the Group Study Exchange teams visit from South Africa. I want to thank Louisa Tripp and her GSE Club Liaisons in our Clubs who are helping to plan their visit. The Team will be visiting our various Clubs in May. They will be joining us at the District Conference. At the conference, they will be hosting a wine tasting!

8. **Membership Minute – Have you asked someone to join your Rotary Club this week?**

As of 5 March, our membership in the District stands at 1607 (this is up from 1599 on 4 February 2012). We started this Rotary year with 1579 on 1 July 2012. Congratulations to those clubs

and members that have made this increase possible. Have you asked someone to join your Club?



From Rotary Leader, “What would our clubs look like if we invited every former [Rotaractor](#), [Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar](#), and [Rotary Youth Exchange](#) student to join Rotary? Hundreds of talented dedicated, and energetic young men and women participate in these Rotary programs annually. Yet, less than 3 percent of program alumni are Rotary members. We recognized them as exceptional young people — even spent time and money to educate and send them to other countries as Rotary ambassadors. Aren’t these the very people we want as Rotarians?” Read more at <http://www.rotaryleader-en.org/rotaryleader-en/en201201#pg3>

9. **Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) 2011/2012 Dates**

IT’S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO ATTEND RLI

Must Register by 15 March!

Hello District 7850 Rotarians,

Lebanon, NH, Saturday, March 31, 2012

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Parts I, II, III -- Tuition = \$65

Each course day begins with registration at 7:30 AM. Classes run from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM with breakfast, lunch and coffee break included in the tuition. Most participants' tuition is paid by their home Rotary club as an investment in the club's future leadership.

RLI sessions present you with the opportunity to deepen your understanding of how Rotary works, of our organization's capacity to improve lives around the world, and about how to enhance the satisfaction of service accomplishment among local Rotary club members.

Registration is simple at this web site: <http://www.rlinea.com/Registration>

If you come to RLI-Lebanon, please stop by and introduce yourself to me. I hope to make YOUR acquaintance.

Bruce Pacht

RLI District 7850 Chair 2011-12

10. Youth Exchange First Hand Report

Here's another first hand report from one of our Youth Exchange Students.

This report is from one of our Exchange Students who participated in our Reveal Day. Reveal is the event where country assignments are given to our students.

Hello Tom, Hi everybody, (Merhaba– is Turkish for “Hello”)

February... in New Hampshire - this month for me usually means alternating between yet more slushy snow, and or hail, and mud, or sleet, and yes... muddy sleet. I love living here, and I am a country girl, but if I could I would pull this month and about half of March off the calendar until the weather decides that yes, it is in fact spring.

This year however I feel the new hope of spring and new starts, and that excitement comes from the Reveal. The Reveal was incredible. I admit I was nervous, even though all I had to do was wait to find out where I would be having adventures next year. Joking, and talking with the other students, Inbounds, and Outbounds, quickly cured my case of nerves. I had a great time listening to stories about how our country is perceived, and what the journey towards the Reveal, and acceptance had been like for everyone else. The experience of sitting around a table speaking about how we made our hopes reality was rather surreal. It felt like a good dream, in the back of my mind I kept expecting to hear my alarm, calling me to get ready for school.

It was the Reveal, which brought reality and realization to this incredible, incomprehensible journey. When I pulled my map out of the envelope and read “Turkey”, I was (and am) so proud. I cannot stop daydreaming about how my perspective on life will be altered during and after my stay, and I keep my Rotary pin with me to remind me of what a student can achieve, and what I and my acquaintances from the Reveal have achieved for now, and the possibilities of the future.

I have been thinking a lot since the Reveal. I have had to make some changes in my life in order to achieve this objective. I have given up the school Spring Musical, Crew, and many weekends with friends so that I can study extra hard and prepare for this step. I have, however, come to realize that I am not giving up anything after all. I will have a long life, with plenty of time for sports and theater, but I may never have a chance like this again. I will miss my friends and family, but I know that my family loves me, and that my friends are good, and they will be patient and wait for my return. I am not giving up part of my life. I am making a trade, for each experience I forgo now I will have a new one next year, for each time I cannot see a friend, I will make a new one next year, and my old friends and I will make up for lost time. This leap will not deny me memories and experiences, I am not shutting myself out from my world, I am opening the doors, and I will be twice as rich in life, when the new light streams in to pattern the familiar shadows.

This weekend my mother, sister and I went down to New York City and spent some time with my grandparents. They took us up to the top of the Empire State Building, and with freezing winds my sister and I joined the Americans and tourists from all over the world on top of America. (There was an Islamic woman taking pictures in the wind, she was wearing a burka and a veil. I felt so badly because she needed both hands for the picture and the wind kept blowing her veil off her mouth. For a non-Islamic girl this is probably like having your shirt blow open every few seconds. You could tell she felt very exposed.) I stood taking pictures of my country, paralyzed by the cold and the beauty of the vibrantly vast life-force surrounding me, and I thought “Here I am a tourist in my own country. It is a wonder to see things so differently, from another new angle. I'll soon feel this wonder in a new world.”

Nor-Easter

I am a New England girl it's in my bones
Deep and hard as the granite stones
Wherever the wandering wind blows
However far I fly, or where I go
However strange and alone
I know in my heart, I have my home
In my bones
Hard and deep
As the granite stones
(Phoebe Cullen)

11. Rotary Foundation

Every Club in the District made a commitment to have members and clubs donate to the Rotary Foundation in 2011/2012. I just received an update on our giving as of March 1, 2012. **This Month we are 14% closer to achieving our District goal of \$118,000. Currently, our Rotarians have given 47% of our goal or close to \$55,783.75.** Again if your Club is hoping to achieve Kalyan Banerjee's Presidential Citation this year, every member needs to make a donation and the Club needs to average \$100/member by 1 April 2012. I know that some of our Clubs won't make this goal but still will support the foundation in a way that works for them, but there are clubs that are well on their way to doing this. Thanks in advance for helping us meet our commitment to The Rotary Foundation.

Please remember, the dollars we give this year will be available for us to spend on Foundation projects and programs in 3 years. Help us have the money to "do good in the world"... and here at home too.

One more announcement: **Michael McGovern** from the Rotary Club of South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Maine and a friend of District 7850 has been **named to be a Trustee of the Rotary Foundation** starting 1 July 2012. Congratulations Michael! This is good news!

12. Vermont's Operation Polar Express – A Thank you From Tom Raub, Rotary Club of Colchester-Milton

Operation Polar Express #2 was a resounding success both from a fund raising standpoint and also for the Vermont Guard families that were able to participate on Sunday December 11th. Similar to last year we were very fortunate in convincing the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation to sell us one complete train load of tickets, 230 tickets @ \$20 each for a total cost of \$4,600. Like last year, the demand for tickets was more than we were able to accommodate and those Guard families will get first chance at the tickets next year. I rode on the train with the Guard and was very impressed with the great job done by the VCTF and all of their volunteers in running this event. Especially satisfying to me was to see how much the Guard families were enjoying the adventure. As in the story, most of the children came dressed in their pajamas. As several parents commented to me, this will be something the children remember for a very long time.

Since Guard members are from all over the state and besides serving in overseas deployments they have also been very active throughout the state assisting after tropical Storm Irene, I reached out to other Vermont Rotary Clubs for support in covering the cost of this event.

I am very pleased to report that in the true spirit of Rotary 10 other clubs in our district contributed funds to this event.

The clubs in our district that contributed were:

1. Burlington Sunrise
2. Burlington
3. Charlotte
4. Randolph
5. South Burlington
6. The Valley Club
7. Newport
8. Waterbury
9. Vergennes
10. Cambridge

And of course also Colchester-Milton. Most clubs donated \$200. Of special note was the Waterbury Club. With all the post Irene problems they are having I was surprised by their response. They passed the hat at a meeting and collected \$350!

13. Rotary International President-elect Elect Sakugi Tanaka – Coming to New Hampshire

Saturday, June 30, 2012 is a big day for the northern New England Rotary Districts. Rotary President- Elect Sakugi Tanaka will be coming to our area. A gala celebration is being planned in Concord, NH for him. At that time we hope we will be celebrating our \$400,000 hurricane Irene recovery Matching Grant with him too. DG Marilyn and DGE Sonny will share more information about this as we get details about the visit. Stay tuned for more details about his visit.

14. ShelterBox

Rich Rodriguez is a proud member of the Rotary Club of St. Albans, Vermont and a representative for Shelter Box USA. If you would like him to do a presentation for you club, you can contact him at: "rich rodriguez" rrodriguez1738@gmail.com. Read more about ShelterBox at <http://www.shelterboxusa.org/>

15. Update from our Ambassadorial Scholar, Emily Dubie

Emily has set up a blog so you can read about her year as our Ambassadorial Scholar in Tanzania. Follow her at: <http://rotaryscholarindar.posterous.com/>

22 February

Last night, I heard Jane Goodall speak at the international school here in Dar. The event was a fundraiser for Roots and Shoots, the Jane Goodall Institute's global environmental and humanitarian program for students. It has chapters in over 130 countries.

Although she is approaching 80, Dr. Goodall is an ageless lady, still with her signature ponytail. She shared her story, starting from her childhood dream of living in Africa and writing books about animals. Growing up in the shadow of WWII and without resources to study at university, her mother encouraged her to become a secretary, so she could perhaps find work in Africa.

Against all the odds, Jane ended up in the remote forests of Tanzania, studying chimpanzees without any formal training. She astounded the world with her discovery that chimps use tools, previously thought to be an attribute of humans alone. Later, she completed a Phd from Cambridge without even having a BA, and her professors told her she did everything wrong-- naming animals, believing they have personalities, etc.

Dr. Goodall continues to be a tireless advocate for the wellbeing of animals, the environment, and human communities. She told the audience that since 1986, she has not spent more than three weeks in any one place, travelling around the world to share her story of the chimpanzees of Gombe

16. Club News:

I'm continuing to post Club News on our District's Facebook page. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/RotaryDistrict7850>

In February I posted about:

- The Rotary Club of Morrisville's Polar Splash....Burrrrrrr
- Harley Jordan's Arch C. Klump Society Dinner at the Rotary Club of Central Vermont... congratulations Harley.
- Eric Denu posted about the National Immunization Day trip made by Middlebury Rotarian Jason Schnoor. This trip also included Deb Holt, DGE Sonny Holt's wife. Eric also posted about Rotarian Tim Hollanders trip to Honduras, and David Clark's work with GSE.
- Williston-Richmond's 17th annual Ski Challenge is coming up in 9 March at Bolton Valley.

Please send me information and pictures you want posted on the District's *facebook* page.

**Yours in Rotary Service,
DG Marilyn Bedell**