



DISTRICT GOVERNOR, SONNY HOLT

“If you truly want to give back to the community – and to the world at large – you join Rotary. It has an arm that reaches across all barriers. To be part of that is very powerful.” Aruna Koushik

The Wrath of Sandy:



Sandy spared our District, but wreaked havoc on millions along the eastern seaboard. It will take months to recover from this disaster. You may want to check in periodically to www.rotary.org/projectlink an on-line, searchable database which lists Rotary club and district projects in need of funding, volunteers, donated goods, etc.

I just received this from one of my District Governor classmates: “Up here in NJ, we were very hard-hit. We had six towns under water. Most of the rest of us will not have power until Monday. Our Districts to the south, particularly 7500 and 7640, were devastated. I still haven't heard from the DG of 7500, and I worry about her safety. The Rotarians in our District have asked for clothing, bedding, appliances, pumps, cleaning supplies. I am venturing out now to the first Rotary meeting to be held in the District, and will find out about transportation. What has been wonderful is the support and prayers from Rotarians all over the world. Bonnie Sirower, DG, 7490. (Bergen/Passaic/Hudson Counties, NJ)”

Translation Committee Formed:

This will be a district level committee responsible for implementing and maintaining a French/English translation capability. Rotary International has just awarded our district with three year funding to get us started. A large portion of the funding will be used for various document/ briefing translations. We will also have translation equipment for seminars and conferences of various types. **We will be recruiting a Rotarian from our district to Chair this committee. If anyone has an interest in this important position please contact District Governor, Sonny Holt.** I will be travelling to Montreal on 10 Nov where I will be given a demonstration of the type of equipment we will need.

Membership Seminars Scheduled:

Mark your calendars for the 1st and 8th of December to attend one of two seminars that will ‘knock your socks off’ by providing you with all of the best tools for retaining and increasing membership. Club Presidents, Club Membership Chairs, Assistant Governors, and District Leadership should attend. We are looking at a location in southern NH and another in northern VT.

‘New Club’ Charter Celebration Night: An invitation was sent to all 41 Clubs in the district to participate at the Charter Celebration Night, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, for the new Club Rotary Drummondville Malouin. It has come to our attention that the mail from the US to Canada is often delayed, so the check for the event might not arrive on time. Therefore, if you email the Drummondville-Malouin President Isabelle Graton at igraton@jutrass.ca giving your full name and club you may bring a check or cash to the event. But please let her know as soon as possible.

Help Sought for Shelterbox:

Rotary District 7850 is looking for a person who would enjoy a trip or two per month to a Rotary



Club in their own District 7850, to do Shelterbox presentations. These meetings count as make-ups, speakers are treated to a meal, and sometimes there is a one of a kind, speaker gift. There is a very informative 6 minute DVD, a complete box, and many helpful resources online to get up to date deployment information,

tips on good presentations, and a step by step power point with speaking points.

If you are interested in more information, please contact current District 7850 Ambassador, Anne Silloway, at asilloway@gmail.com or 802-522-2694. Anne is interested in getting someone to do programs for the next six months, now through the end of April 2013. She will be happy to assist in identifying clubs to make contact with and give you contact information to arrange speaking dates, always a new place to enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner with Rotarians, custom planned to fit your calendar.

Steve Dates completes Governor Elect Training Seminar:

At the training seminar in Vancouver, BC preceding the Zone Institute, District Governor-elect Steve and wife Elaine are congratulated by RI President Tanaka.



Past District Governor, Bill Thompson leads Zone Singers:

At the Zone Institute in Vancouver, Past District Governor, Bill conducts the Zone Singers in a spirited rendition of the French national anthem, “La Marseillaise”. The French islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence are part of Zone 24, our partner Zone.

Other Zone Happenings:



Past District Governor Marilyn Bedell receives award for work on the Hurricane Irene Flood Recovery Grant. Zone Director Bryn Stiles presented both Marilyn and Past District Governor, Jan McElroy with the awards.

District 7850 receives Membership Award. Of the 38 Districts in Bermuda, Canada, France, Russia, and the USA, our district was cited as the best district for having the most increase in members for the 2011-2012 year – Marilyn Bedell’s year. Congratulations Marilyn!

Past District Governor, Rene Laporte and wife Nicole

Both attended the Zone Institute in Vancouver. District Governor Sonny and wife Deb were delighted to have Rene and Nicole sit at the Governor’s table along with Past District Governor Bill Thompson and wife Fran and both Past District Governors Ron and Marilyn Bedell.



District Conference 2013:

Good News about the Cruise:

Leadership Seminar Breakout Sessions:

Roger St-Aubin is a charismatic, motivating and exciting speaker with a wealth of expertise in the field of leadership. He is driven by the desire to inspire people and to be an example for future generations. Roger is bilingual and will be conducting two seminars – one in English and another in French for our Quebec Rotarians.

Service Project in Bermuda:

The four Rotary Clubs in Bermuda have agreed to a combined service project with our two districts during our stay in Bermuda.

Yes, the sand really is pink:

Three days in port will give you more time to explore beautiful Bermuda. That's more time to tee it up on the world class links, more time to dive the dozens of shipwrecks around the island, more time to shop, and more time to grab some fish and chips in a pub on this very British island. Bask in the swimming pool-clear waters, and soak up some much needed sun on a pink-sand beach.



There is one drawing to go. If you register by November 15th you will be eligible to win \$100

For Information or Reservations Call AAA: In VT 802-878-8233; In NH 603-889-0165

After making reservation with AAA, then go to the [District 7850 Website](#) to register for the monthly drawings. Click on ‘Attending’ – you will not be double billed. For further assistance or information, contact: Roy Somaini, Conference Chairman, 802-371-8642 roylizz@charter.net

CLUB SERVICE CHAIR



District Governor Elect, Steve Dates

Service Projects Database (Linda Gilbert, chair)

This database continues to grow as more and more clubs send in their updates. For clubs that are looking for new and different local service projects, international service projects or fundraiser projects just go to the District's homepage, at the top 'click' on Club Services, select Project Database and select for access to the appropriate database.

Club Visioning (Andy Milligan, PDG)

Is your club looking to become reinvigorated? Club Visioning may be just what you are looking for. Those clubs who have completed this program have generally grown in membership and attendance. You will find more information on the District Website...at the top 'click' on Club Services and select Club Visioning.

Awards Database (Peter Pelletier, Chair)

New to the District Website was the Awards Database that Peter completed last month. It contains Word Documents that contain the multiple Rotary International, Zone and District Awards available to all clubs. Don't miss out on the opportunity to receive the recognition your club deserves.

Two award deadlines are coming up soon:

1. November 15, 2012 – The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award
2. January, 31, 2013 – Rotary International Significant Achievement Award



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



District Governor, Sonny Holt

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Rotary International (RI) is very concerned about the loss of members in our North American clubs. In 1996 we had 445,000 members, today we have 385,000 members. More startling are the statistics over the past 4 years. On average we have been bringing in 40,000 members per year but we have been losing 50,000 members per year for a net loss of 10,000 members per year.

RI is encouraging us to think "outside the box" to turn the tide on membership. In a recent survey to determine why members are leaving, one district found the following major reasons:

1. Lack of Activity
2. Money
3. Conflict(s)

Our District has been holding its own on membership due to the efforts of our past District Governors. This year at the Zone Institute our District was cited as having the best membership retainment among all clubs in the zone. Well done, Marilyn, and other past District Governors who have made membership a priority during their watch. I was chosen to sit on a membership panel at the Zone Institute for two breakout sessions. Many of the attendees asked for copies of our district's Membership Development Plan

In preparation for our two Membership Seminars on the 1st and 8th of December, the membership committee and the district leadership have been "Thinking Outside the Box." to see how we can further improve the district's plan. We've been discussing such ideas as:

1. How can we make it more attractive for spouses to join Rotary? Some clubs already allow a discount for the spouse. At the district level, what impact would it have on our district finances if we charged district dues for only one spouse?
2. If we have outstanding club presidents why not let them serve 2 years instead of just 1. One club in our district recently changed their bylaws to allow for a second term for their president if he/she requested it. There is a lot to be said for this if it corrects items 1 and 3 above.

I ask all members to send me any ideas you'd like to share.

FOUNDATION CHAIR



Past District Governor, Marilyn Bedell

November is Rotary Foundation Month:

November is Rotary Foundation month! It's a good time to reflect on the great Rotary Foundation sponsored programs we support. These programs are the lifeblood of Rotary, creating world peace and understanding through the lives touched by the programs. Ask any past Group Study Exchange team leader or any Rotarian who has visited/worked on an international project about the difference made by these programs . . . there are many wonderful stories of saved and changed lives around the world.

Our contributions to The Rotary Foundation fund these Rotary programs as well as local community programs through District Simplified Grants. While our Foundation is quite healthy (one of the largest Foundations in the world), there is so much more we can do. Your annual contribution and/or a contribution to the Foundation permanent fund (through a major gift or benefactor contribution) fuels our Rotary programs. A contribution to the Foundation is one of the best investments you can make with nearly 100% going to Rotary programs that make life better for people.

I encourage each of you to learn more about The Rotary Foundation and make a contribution to continue saving and changing lives. These programs work and are a great investment for a better and safer world."

District Simplified Grants:

Opportunities continue for district clubs to apply for district simplified grants. At least \$3,000 remains to be allocated from the funds received from The Rotary Foundation for humanitarian projects designed by district clubs. The maximum allocation for any single grant is \$1,000. Application forms may be accessed at http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/153en.pdf and more detailed information about the guidelines to follow can be located on the last page of this newsletter.

Contact Bill Secord, chairperson of the DSG subcommittee, if you have further questions: (wsecord@comcast.com or 603.298.9429.)

CLUB NEWS

Barre Rotarians are pictured with their "Rotary At Work" T-shirts after painting "Labor Hall" on the bottom of all the new chairs and tables recently acquired by the Barre Labor Hall from a flood relief grant.. Picture are (l to r) George Milne, Jack Barnes, Linda Milne, Chet Briggs, President of the Barre Labor Hall, and Sonny Holt (from Randolph), the current District Governor for Rotary District 7850. Also working on the project, but not pictured, were Tom Babic, Dick Shadroui and Karen Lane.



Essex Rotarian Father John delivers ambulance to Boston port:

The Colchester-Milton Rotary Club, with cooperation from the Essex club, has arranged to ship an ambulance donated by Fletcher Allen Health Care to Nigeria. Father John drove it to Boston



Rotary Club of Lebanon holds 33rd Benefit Auction and Gala:

How can one person possibly help the world? The Rotary Club of Lebanon, NH, knows how, and here is what we did: “Make a Difference Day” was Saturday, October 27th – a day set aside to volunteer to do something to help “change the world, change our communities, and change lives”. This was also the day the Rotary Club of Lebanon held its 33rd Annual Benefit Auction.

This year, the beneficiary of the Auction’s success was the Red Logan Dental Clinic in White River Junction, Vermont, which provides free dental care to residents of the Upper Valley who are in need, but have neither dental insurance nor the means to pay. Since costs of day-to-day operations and supplies are high, help with funding these needs is crucial to their operation.

An Online Auction was held starting about three weeks prior to the 27th and ending at noon, for people to bid on approximately 159 of the items that were generously donated to this cause.

We also held an Auction Gala on the same day at the Enfield Community Building in Enfield, New Hampshire, with a Silent Auction from 6-7:30 and a Live Auction at 7:30 with Paul and Peter Roberts, Auctioneers. We also offered a Wine Tasting, Specialty Beer Tasting, and Gourmet Finger-Foods donated by five area restaurants.

About 120 people attended, and \$10,000 will be donated to the Red Logan Dental Clinic. The remainder of the funds raised is going to fund other Rotary Club of Lebanon’s philanthropic giving.

Chairman of this event was Don MacMeekin.

There will now be many more bright smiles in the Upper Valley, thanks to all who supported this year’s benefit auction.



Charlotte-Shelburne Halloween Parade

On October 28, 2012, the Charlotte-Shelburne Rotary Club held its 38th annual Halloween Parade. The unofficial attendance figure was about 8-9,000 people. The day's events included a Float Contest and the Parade followed by music and free hot dogs, popcorn and beverages at the Fire House.



Piper Steve Dates followed by the Club Banner



One of several golf carts & clowns w/candy



Clowns passing out balloons before the parade



Rotarian "Hot Dog Team"



Beverage and Popcorn Team



Winning Float "Alice in Shelburneland"



Vergennes Rotary “Booked for Bikes” Program



In 1998, Vergennes Rotary President Scott Gaines initiated a summer literacy project called “Booked for Bikes” in response to Rotary International’s literacy priority. The goal of Booked for Bikes was to motivate children ages 6-13 to read in the summer time. The club collected \$200 from local businesses, and the program became a reality.

Booked for Bikes is based on a simple raffle concept. For every book read in the summer, a student fills out a raffle ticket to win a bicycle.

Over the years, Booked for Bikes has become a household brand name for the kids of Vergennes. The number of bicycles awarded has increased from one to seven. To date, the Vergennes Rotary has provided 58 winners with a new Trek mountain bike, a bike helmet, and a sense of pride and accomplishment in reading books during the summer months. The participation numbers are incredible. There are consistently over 200 participants annually. Since the beginning of the program, they have read over 6,500 books.

Booked for Bikes is an outstanding example of what a Rotary club can accomplish when it works with other community partners to promote literacy. Without them the club would not be able to make this program such a success. The Bixby Library enthusiastically promotes the program. Bike vendor Earl’s Cyclery of South Burlington offers discounts and assists the kids in choosing their bikes, and Kids Safe provides bike helmets. It is a very rewarding program all the way around and one the Vergennes Rotary is especially proud to offer in the community.

Literary and Visual Arts Section

This section is reserved for members who wish to display some of their art or writings. Please keep it limited to no more than a page.

Two poems: Here are two poems about a dog. When I wrote the first I was asked if I could change it so it wasn't so sad. Hence the second one on the right.

The Dog and the Hunter

*Four PM, and winter's golden sun
Casts long shadows o'er snowy fields.
And across the brook where swallows run.*

*Then from the wood a dog appears
And ambles to our cabin door.
"Get" my wife yells, and claps her hands.
He turns in fear and appears no more.*

*Funny, I'd never seen that dog before
What's he doing at our cabin door?
Where will he go? Where will he sleep
Is he injured or hungry?
Will he chase the sheep?*

*With my jacket on, I walk outside
And see a trail of red against the white.
I follow the path and find the dog
Lying on its side, with eyes afright.
Then I spot the hunter's arrow
Through its side--an ugly sight.*

*I walk back home, carrying him
Against my jacket now stained red
I'll remove the arrow and give him food
And wrap him warm beside our bed.
But then a whimper and his head hangs
limp.
I know what's happened--the dog is dead.*

*Five PM, the snow's now gray
Could we have saved that dog
On this cold winter's day
By bringing him in
Instead of chasing him away?*

Sonny Holt

The Dog, (second write)

*Four PM, and winter's golden sun
Casts long shadows o'er snowy fields,
Along the barn where swallows run.*

*From the barn a dog appears,
With matted hair, an obvious stray,
He ambles to our cabin door.
Don't let him in. Scare him away.
"Get", I yell and stomp the floor.
He runs in fear, and is seen no more.*

*Funny, I've never seen that dog before.
What's he doing at our cabin door?
Where will he go? The snow's so deep.
Was he hurt or hungry?
It's cold. Where will he sleep?*

*With jacket on, I walk outside,
And follow his tracks toward the barn.
There he's cowering under a log.
With eyes afright, this pitiful dog*

Looks at me, just looks at me.

*Tucked in my jacket,
I carry him home.
It's much too cold,
To leave him alone.*

*Five PM, I've fed him bread.
This stray dog, not too old,
Is sleeping now, beside my bed.*

Sonny Holt

Book Recommendation: Your editor, Secretary Bill Thompson, recently completed reading a biography of Paul Harris entitled “Paul Harris and the Birth of Rotary”. It is a meticulously researched work of nearly 600 pages. It is fascinating to read how the first Rotarians grappled with some of the same issues as we do today. After reading it, I am even more committed to our wonderful organization. This labor of love is the creation of District 7190 PDG Fred Carvin from Queensbury, NY. It is available from Amazon.com.

District Grants

A District Grant is a tool Rotary Districts utilize to support short-term, humanitarian projects that benefit the community.

Program Requirements: Projects must be initiated by a Rotary club in the project location. Grant funds cannot be used for: Reimbursement of existing projects; Construction or renovation; Salaries, stipends, or honorariums; Operating expenses of another organization; and Personal or professional development.

District Grants require the direct involvement of Rotarians by: Assessment of community needs and development of a project plan; Establishment of a committee of at least three Rotarians to oversee the expenditure of funds;

Oversight of grant funds requires; Involvement in the implementation of projects; Provision of evidence of community involvement and ownership; Organization of meetings with local service providers, local officials, and/or recipients; Promotion of projects in the local media.

Reporting Requirements: Interim reports are required four months after receipt of the grant, and every six months for the duration of the project. A final report is required within two months of full expenditure of grant funds. The final report must include: A detailed and clearly organized report of all expenses; Copies of receipts for items purchased with a cumulative value of US \$1,000 or more; An Independent Financial Review, if amount received is more than US \$25,000; A detailed account of Rotarian participation in the implementation of the grant, which reflects the required Rotarian activities; and A narrative that includes information on the implementation of the project and how experience gained from it will inform/guide the club and the district for the next rotary year.

NOTE: Failure to comply with The Rotary Foundation policies and guidelines will result in the club returning misused grant funds in their entirety and being barred from receipt of future grants for a period of up to five years. Failure to fully comply with these policies may also jeopardize District 7850's ability to participate in this program in the future.

If there are applications for funds in excess of the total available, and the applications are otherwise in order, the following criteria will be used by the District 7850 grant committee to determine grant awards;

1. Club creativity and involvement of Rotarians in the project.
2. Per capita Foundation giving by club members.
3. Does the project relate to the District Governor's theme?
4. Club dollar contributions to the project.
5. Was the club a previous DSG recipient?
6. Are the club's reports all current from any previous grant?
7. Geographic diversity/balance within the district