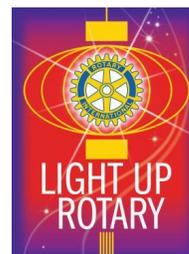


Rotary



District 7910
Central Massachusetts



Rotary7910.org

Newsletter
AUGUST 2014

GOVERNOR VAL CALLAHAN'S MESSAGE



Thank you for making me feel so welcome when visiting your Club. Many of you have asked about my background. So here is my thumbnail sketch:

My now-22-year journey with Rotary began in 1992 in Washingtonville, NY, and in 1994 I became the Club's first female president. My family and I hosted a Rotary exchange student from France. In 2007, I joined the [Rotary Club of Worcester](#), which is proudly celebrating its 102nd anniversary.

As Foundation Committee chair, I spearheaded a successful campaign to make Worcester a 100-percent Paul Harris Fellow Club. In 2010, I was the GSE Team Leader to Korea. Since then, I have hosted the dynamic incoming teams from Korea, India and Brazil.

In 2011, I hosted a delightful Gift of Life girl from the Dominican Republic, Hilda Reyes. The two-year-old child had life-saving cardiac surgery at Children's Hospital Boston. It was one of the most rewarding, exciting experiences of my life. In addition, I have hosted an incoming couple from England in a Rotary Friendship Exchange.

I am a retired school administrator and hold a Bachelor's Degree from Wheelock College in Boston as well as a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Texas at Arlington. I serve on the Board of the Music Guild and at the Mustard Seed Soup Kitchen with the help of my church. Regularly, I donate blood and platelets, which is the easiest way to save lives.

I am most proud of my son, Mark O'Connor, my daughter, Val Oldham, my son-in-law, Mark Oldham, and the newest arrival in our family, Valentine Arabella Oldham, born on June 20. My son, daughter and son-in-law are Paul Harris Fellows and are highly supportive of the work of Rotary.

This year as District Governor has been fascinating so far. As individuals, we can only do so much. But with Rotary's 1.2 million members – more than 1,600 in District 7910 - we can promote world peace, goodwill and understanding. Together, we can light up Rotary.

You may contact me at valentine.callahan@gmail.com.

2014 Rotary International Convention – Sydney, Australia

By Klaus Hachfeld



Each year, Rotary International organizes its four-day convention, typically in early June, with the venue moving to a new location each year. Last year, it was in Lisbon (Portugal) and this year, in Sydney (Australia). Upcoming: 2015 in Sao Paolo (Brazil), 2016 in Seoul (Korea) and 2017 in Atlanta (USA). If ever you get the chance to attend, do it! It brings together a wonderfully diverse assembly of people from all over the world - young and old, all of them friendly.

This year, the attendance was typical - more than 18,000 Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and Rotary Foundation Alumni. Besides the core convention program, there were additional events such as the Rotaract pre-convention, the Rotary Alumni Celebration, the World Water Summit, and fun events that included the breaking of the Guinness Book of Records for the most people standing at the top of the Sydney Harbor Bridge, and a fundraiser to help end polio world-wide.

My wife, Glenys Hachfeld, and I had attended six previous conventions and can tell you that this one was outstanding as much for its location as the program content. Sydney is one of the friendliest of places, with phenomenal train, light-rail and ferry service to all parts of the city. The river system dominates the city, with superb tourist attractions at Circular Quay, where Sydney Opera House is located, and Darling Harbor, where the musical fountains and restaurants are a big draw.

Sydney is *alive*, and showed us its imagination with the month-long Vivid Festival while we were there. At that time the Opera House and many major buildings were dynamically illuminated with exotic designs and laser projections. As a laser junky, I was impressed with the laser-projected 3D ballet dancers cavorting in the spray from a water fountain in Darling Harbor. You get the picture - it was pure magic!



Opening Plenary Session welcome & entertainment with multiple screens

Oh yes, the convention. Hmmm. All the Rotary programs were in buildings in Olympic Park, built for the 2000 Olympic Games. One day, the Olympic flame was lit, which tempted a few Rotarians to jump into the space below the flame while surrounded by waterfalls. Okay, I know, you need to have been there at the time!

The plenary sessions, particularly the opening and closing sessions, made your hair stand on end. Think in terms of 18,000+ Rotarians filling the many levels of a major arena, with huge state-of-the-art audio/visual multiple screens making visible all the action on the stage.

You could also spend time at the House of Friendship and cuddle a live koala bear, check out the wombat, watch great live musical entertainment, eat, relax and talk with Rotarians from everywhere, then spend your money on Australian opals and endless "Rotary stuff" at the hundreds of booths showing product and displaying Rotary projects. It also proved to be a good place to talk with attendees about [Rotary Alumni Association of Greater New England](#), give them the RAAGNE contact cards and encourage their District leaders to get engaged with us.

There, we met and talked with Evan Burrell, who runs an e-club in Australia. Specifically, we explored the opportunities to expand the RAAGNE website so as to also provide alumni the opportunity to participate in webinar meetings from anywhere in the world, as per a visitor to an e-club. He is willing to work with us.

We attended the Alumni Celebration, a morning of presentations including one by Ms. Maya Ajmera, an Ambassadorial Scholar Alum and recipient of the 2013-'14 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award. I talked with Maya because she created an organization that guides and supplies funds to small self-help communities, so she is willing to give us some guidance as well. I mentioned RAAGNE's first project supporting a girls' school in Afghanistan. This Celebration gave us another opportunity to promote RAAGNE as we distributed cards and talked with attendees.

Dr. Bruce Aylward of the World Health Organization presented the latest progress report on the Eradication of Polio, as he does at each Rotary Convention. We had heard him speak several times over the years and found it fascinating as he told of the twists and turns the three types of polio have taken. Rotary has been spearheading eradication for 25 years and the effort is clearly coming to an end - provided political and religious factions will allow the immunizations to continue.



Rotary Youth Exchange Students at the convention

Prior to and during the convention, we were generously hosted in the home of a Rotary Club president. What a super way to get to know Rotarians from the other side of the world and compare notes! Also one evening, in common with many other clubs, his club hosted several convention attendees for dinner. You have to experience this to realize what an amazing organization Rotary is.

Would we go to another Rotary Convention, or is seven enough? Well we are really not convention junkies, but I can see myself saving pennies to go some other time. Where else can you find such a positive spirit of cooperation and meet so many people doing extraordinary things to help others?



Klaus Hachfeld is a past governor of [District 7910](#) and a member of the [Rotary Club of Sturbridge](#). You may contact him at laserklaus@gmail.com.

Rotary Alumni Association reports first-year successes

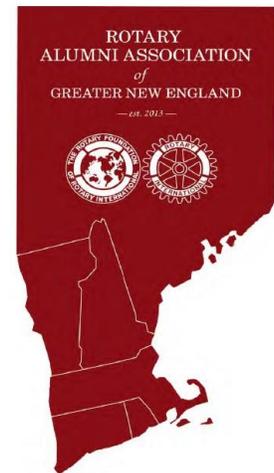
By Ron Goodenow

The [Rotary Alumni Association of Greater New England](#) has posted recent successes as it goes into its second year of growth. RAAGNE is the only electronic e-Alumni Association within Rotary that welcomes alumni, Rotarians and Rotaractors from all over the world. Its principal Rotary Supporting Members are [Klaus Hachfeld](#) (PDG), who has played a key role in organizational development, and [Ron Goodenow](#) (PP), who provides editorial support and prepared this announcement. Both from District 7910. As of this month, RAAGNE has 170 members in more than 30 countries.

Members of the Association were participants in these Rotary Foundation programs:

- Ambassadorial Scholarships
- Group Study Exchange (GSE)
- Rotary Peace Fellowships
- Grants for University Teachers
- Foundation Program Volunteers

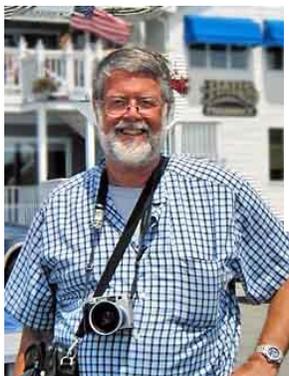
Rotarians who are not Foundation Alumni can also participate as Supporting Members. But the organization is operated by the alumni. Recent successes include RAAGNE's first Association General Meeting, held on May 10 in Baltimore, in cooperation with the District 7620 Conference. Services to a local homeless shelter, including the preparation of sandwiches, were provided by members. Bill Boyd, past president of [Rotary International](#), spent considerable time discussing the virtues of virtual organizations with members, and there was fun fellowship time. [Here's a special newsletter on the occasion.](#)



RAAGNE's first project, the [Zabuli Education Center](#), was launched in early June. Its goals to help fund computer equipment were achieved within a few days. The school opened its doors in March 2008, and now provides free education to more than 400 Afghan girls who were previously denied educational opportunities. The curriculum is both academic and practical, taught by experienced, native teachers. The school was founded by Afghan native Razia Jan through the [Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation](#). Projects now include support of the [Rotaract Club Warzawa Zamek](#) (Warsaw Castle) in the [Shelterbox Challenge](#).

[Club Warzawa Zamek](#) (Warsaw Castle) in the [Shelterbox Challenge](#).

For additional information, contact RAAGNE President Christopher Ushnig at christopher.uschnig@gmail.com, view the [RAAGNE Home Page](#), check out and "like" the [RAAGNE Facebook Page](#), and read the [RAAGNE June-July Newsletter](#).



Ron Goodenow is a member of the [Rotary Club of Westborough](#) and past president of the [Rotary Club of Northborough](#). You may contact him at ron.goodenow@gmail.com.

RLI is coming again soon to our neighborhood

By Doug Detweiler

The [Rotary Leadership Institute](#) is set for Saturday, November 1 at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough. This is an opportunity for all Rotarians, young and old, new and long-term, to get acquainted with what Rotary is and does locally and around the world.



Come and learn new ideas and approaches for a more effective club, for incredible fund-raisers and service projects and ways to build membership. This is the place to find out about them.

Register early and save! The registration site is now open. [Click here](#) to register.

Every Club in the District, regardless of size, should have at least five people attending every year. If you can't make it this year, there are more than a dozen other convenient locations and days to choose from. [Click here](#) for other options.



Doug Detweiler is chair of District 7910's Rotary Leadership Institute and immediate past governor of District 7910. You may contact him at rotary@detweiler.org.

Shown in 2012, was Doug (far right) being pinned by Past District Governor Richard Dietz as District 7910 Governor for 2013-2014 while Doug's wife, Ingrid Detweiler, watched proudly.

Join us at District's Membership Forum

By Satya Mitra

We look forward to all of you attending our annual [District Membership Forum](#) on September 18 at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough. The purpose of the Forum is to share the best practices for generating and retaining membership.

As chair of our Membership Committee, I have invited John S. Hall II, immediate past governor of [District 7930](#) who hails from Beverly, as keynote speaker. Our present governor, Val Callahan, is asking each Club in our District to send at least four members each to this Forum - and to pay for their admission tickets. The cost is \$25 per person and includes dinner and the two panel discussions.

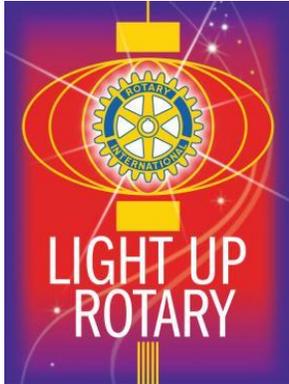
At our annual District Conference next May, *Light Up Rotary Awards* will be presented to the three members who sponsor the most number of new members in their respective Clubs within our District.



Satya Mitra is chair of District 7910's Membership Committee and immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Worcester. You may contact him at satya@thetaxguru.com.

Satya Mitra and his wife, Sheema Mitra, pose in Sydney, Australia, during the 2014 Rotary International Conference.

Save the Dates



- **Sept. 18:** [Membership Forum](#), Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough
- **Oct. 24 & 25:** [Purple Pinky for Polio](#)
- **Nov. 1:** [Rotary Leadership Institute](#), Holiday Inn, Boxborough
- **Nov. 1:** [Rotary UN Day](#)
- **Nov. 5:** [Foundation Forum](#), Beechwood Hotel, Worcester
- **Dec. 7:** Holiday Party, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston

For more information

Rotary



Questions? Have something you want to share? Contact Governor **Val Callahan** at valentine.callahan@gmail.com.

To learn more about District 7910, visit our [website](#), and join us online at [Facebook](#), [Google+](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).



Visit District 7930's brand new [YouTube page](#).



Visit [My Rotary](#), Rotary International's website for Rotarians



Learn how Rotary International got 119,350 supporters from 173 countries to join in the fight to [End Polio Now](#) by making the world's largest commercial.