

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow Rotarians,

I grew up in a small village, the same village where my family had lived for many generations. I lived close to many members of my extended family, and our family traditions were very strong. In those days, few Koreans ever traveled abroad, and there was very little Western influence. My home, my language, and my culture were all I knew.

When I was in my 20s, I made a decision that would shape the rest of my life. With my father's encouragement, I traveled to the United States to work and to study. I chose San Francisco as my destination and spent nearly two years there, taking classes and learning English. I made my way working at several entry-level jobs.

It is difficult even today to describe what an impact that experience had on me. Everything, and everyone, was different. I was used to seeing only Korean faces; in San Francisco, I saw people from all over the world. I worked hard on my English and in my job. I learned what it was like to be the person who did not understand, who cleaned up after others, who took orders but never gave them. I learned how large the world outside my village really was. And those experiences sent me back to Korea changed.

When I returned to join my father's business in Seoul, I knew what it was like to be a worker at the bottom of an organizational hierarchy – and that affected how I treated my employees. I knew what it was like to do physical labor all day – and that gave me increased respect for those who worked in every kind of job. Perhaps most important, I knew how much of the world lay beyond my own experience. I knew that there were so many different countries and cultures, so many different people in the world. I knew that as much as we are all different, we are all essentially the same. And I knew that everyone, everywhere, sometimes needs help from others.

In Rotary, February is World Understanding Month – a time to focus on the importance of goodwill and understanding for peace. It is a time for all of us to pause and consider how we are pursuing Rotary's fourth Avenue of Service – International Service – because it is our international service, and our international fellowship, that will do the most to help us all build a more peaceful tomorrow.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee
President, Rotary International

The Rotary Club of Clackamas, Oregon, USA, and Rotary International District 5100 (parts of Oregon and Washington, USA) have established memorial funds after two Rotary Youth Exchange students were killed and five others wounded in a shooting outside an underage nightclub on 24 January in Portland.

The two victims, Ashley Lauren Wilks, 16, of Happy Valley, Oregon, and Martha Paz De Noboa, 17, of Arequipa, Peru, were at the club to celebrate a birthday with nine fellow exchange students when the incident took place. The five injured students have all been released from the hospital.

District 5100 Fund:

Portland Rotary Charitable Trust for Youth Exchange
Attn: January 24 Fund
619 SW 11th Avenue, Suite 123
Portland, OR 97205

The Ashley Wilks Scholarship :

The Clackamas Rotary Foundation
c/o Thomas Joseph
PO Box 601
Clackamas, OR 97015



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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FEBRUARY IS WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

INVOCATION

Feb. 3	Debbie MacRae	Feb. 10	Kevin Nosworthy
Feb. 17	Patrick O'Brien	Feb. 24	Brett Paskar



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 5: Robert Goodrick Feb. 7: Brett Paskar

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Lorie Mueller – Athletes in Kind

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Katrina Elliot –
Rotary Youth Exchange & Ambassadorial Scholar

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Feb. 21	8am / 4pm	Rotary Leadership Institute - Pt. 1 only	Burlington, Wa.
Apr. 4	8am / 2pm	District 5050 Assembly	Kwantlen University, Surrey

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$639.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 34 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

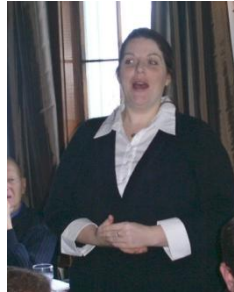
Our Guests today were Deb Nosworthy, Dave Burrows, Nico, Kathleen Goodin and Tiffany Parton.

Robert spoke briefly about the Visioning Session held last Tuesday, and Bob Shantz gave a summary of the evening. The Rotary Team Facilitation Members worked with our club members in attendance to create a long range visioning plan for the next five years. Robert, Bob and Marco are currently working on an Assembly, an Elevator Speech, and formation of a Presidents' Council (current Executive and past Presidents) to provide consistency and continuity. The recommendation is that every committee should have a Chair, Vice Chair and Assistant Vice Chair. The three level structure allows for easier long term planning (3 - 5 years).

Fundraising recommendations include continuing with the Sports Banquet (to raise \$50T/year), holding a major concert and continuation of Winefest. There will be a major international project planned and implemented over this period. The goal of the Shelterbox committee is to provide 12 boxes per year. More information to come.

Marco spoke briefly on the Rotary Leadership Institute program that was held recently. He encouraged club members to attend future sessions.

Kathleen Goodin, a registered nurse in Abbotsford who lives in Maple Ridge, approached us to sponsor her for the upcoming GSE trip to Ecuador. One of the team had to drop out and Kathleen is the alternate. The trip will take place in April '09.



Bob Shantz and Mike Davies installed new member, Rustam Yazdgerdian, owner of two locations of Meadows Dry Cleaners. Rustam was proposed by Matt.

Welcome Rustam to our Rotary Family.

Dave Rempel introduced our Guest Speaker, Chris Wilson of the Esteem Team. Chris was born in Winnipeg and graduated in 1985. 8 times National Winner for wrestling. He participated in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. Chris has won gold, silver and bronze medals as a National Champion.

Chris founded the Esteem Team program in BC in 1993. 100 athletes participate in the program which is aimed at Grades 4 - 8. They visit 60 schools a year speaking on peer pressure and setting goals. To-date they have made presentations to 1,000 schools speaking with over 250,000 students. Their philosophy is "What is the best thing for the Kids?" The program is to find that positive spark of passion in the youth and to help them set future goals and become productive members of society.

This was a provincial program until 2001 when the head office moved to Ottawa, which is where they receive federal government funding. Some mistakes have been made with the growth of the program, the BC program has been neglected and the Regional Representative in BC has been eliminated this year. Chris advises that

through restructuring, they are becoming more streamlined and efficient. They have a great CEO based back east.

When questioned on their budget (personnel cost and administration costs are 65% of their budget), Chris advised that it's very labour intensive work booking schools, co-ordinating athletes and sending out the confirmation packages to the schools which include T-shirts, posters and other promotional materials. These costs also cover the national office costs, National Manager and consultants. Chris also advised that there are other programs aside from the Esteem Role Model program including an Aboriginal Program, Youth Conference Leadership Program and they are currently trying to co-ordinate all groups that work with the aboriginal community.

Chris advised that they are a national non-profit association which has applied for registered charitable status. Kevin raised the concern that the quality of athletes has decreased over the past 5 years to the point where we are getting the same athletes each year. Chris noted that it's difficult getting the more contemporary athletes (snowboarders, skateboarders, etc.) with there now being at least 10 different Athletes programs ran by various large corporations that are attracting the higher profile athletes.

The athletes get \$140 for each presentation which costs \$685. In most instances, the schools pay a portion of this cost amounting to \$350. There are currently 16 presentations within School District 42. SD 42 has not been paying any user fees for this program.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM JENN

Well I have recovered from car sickness...I sit in the front now...No parasite for me so far... We have finished our teaching and there was a closing ceremony yesterday...what a great experience, although I really wish I could leave them with a bunch of new first aid equipment. We gave them 2 old FR bags but no restocking supplies. The firefighters do amazing with what they have but there is not much monetary support from the government. Incredible that they use the things we would throw away...

Today we are off to see Jeffreys families coffee plantation..It is the largest in the country and YES we are bringing tonnes of coffee back and will be selling it as a fundraising effort. Then this afternoon the firefighters are taking us to see some lake... not sure details but sure to be awesome.

Tomorrow 2/3 of the group are flying home and I am off to some place in the mountains with a couple others... so no computer after tomorrow am.

I cannot believe the spread btm the poor and those with money. It is like nothing I have seen before. Min wage is \$6 per DAY! (but sure there are those that make less because it is not likely monitored) Yet you can go to a North American mall and pay \$50 for a shirt. Incredible!!

And the guns!!! Wow!! EVERY store, restaurant...and yes our hotel has an armed guard. I am trying to take a lot of photos of the life here since I am sitting in the front seat of the van ...although it is through the dirty windshield...oh well.

Anyhow hope all is well back home.

Cheers

Jenn

