

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My fellow Rotarians,

At any given time, every one of Rotary's 33,000-plus clubs is carrying out some form of vital service in its local community and often internationally as well. Under Rotary's structure, each club works autonomously within a broader network that supports and inspires our efforts. An important piece of that network is the Rotary World Magazine Press, made up of *The Rotarian* and 31 regional magazines in 25 languages.

That is why a subscription to either *The Rotarian* or one of the regional magazines is mandatory for all Rotary club members. These publications bring us news of other clubs and districts, offer ideas for our own projects, and help us feel a greater bond with our fellow Rotarians. And the RI-mandated content printed in each issue creates a direct connection between our headquarters in Evanston and every Rotarian, everywhere in the world.

Your experience at this moment – of simply reading this message in a Rotary publication – is one that is common to every one of your fellow Rotarians, wherever they may be. RI-mandated content is consistent in every publication. It is a single, shared message – a single, shared experience. That is invaluable and irreplaceable.

When I sit down to write a monthly president's message, destined for the pages of all of Rotary's magazines, I know that I have an opportunity that will come only once a month, for only the one year that I will be in office. It is an opportunity to speak directly, in my own words, to every one of our 1.2 million members. No matter how much I travel, or how often I speak, or how hard I work to bring my message to clubs and districts, nothing I can do will have the reach of the 400 words I am privileged to put on this page. Because I know that every Rotary magazine, everywhere in the world, carries forth that message just as I wrote it, or in its own local language.

I value that opportunity tremendously, as I value the publications that make it possible. April is Magazine Month, a good time to consider how this important member benefit can help your club's service efforts and to share the useful information in its pages with others.

John Kenny - President, Rotary International

RI FOUNDATION CHAIR'S MESSAGE

According to one recent study, charitable giving is at its lowest level in 50 years when adjusted for inflation. Eight-six percent of nonprofits reported a decline in giving in 2009. At a time when humanitarian needs are escalating rapidly, the resources to meet those needs are diminishing.

Fortunately, Rotarians are by nature a very generous group. Despite a worldwide economic recession, donations to the Annual Programs Fund in 2008-09 were the third highest in our history.

Rotarians continue to support the Annual Programs Fund as well as the goal of meeting Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge to ensure polio eradication. In addition, we are working to secure The Rotary Foundation's future by building up our Permanent Fund, and we are striving to strengthen our peace efforts through our Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution.

It may seem like a lot to ask, and I wish I could tell you that your contributions to these efforts will cure all the world's ills. What I can tell you is what will happen if our Foundation does not have sufficient resources to support your worthy projects: Polio will continue to cripple far too many children. Disease will spread more rapidly as fewer people have access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Countless women and girls will never learn how to read. And poverty, disease, and illiteracy will persist in undermining our work toward peace in the world.

The Rotary Foundation belongs to all of us. It is our greatest resource for doing good, and it is our responsibility to maintain its strength. I hope every Rotarian will join us by making a contribution to support the Foundation's programs this year.

Glenn E. Estess Sr. - Foundation Trustee Chair



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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March is Literacy Month



INVOCATION

Mar. 30	Mary Robson	April 6	James Rogers
April 13	Michael Serry	April 20	Alphonse Seward

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 1: Terry & Valerie Spurrell

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 30: David Riddell

April 1: Peter Fry

TODAY'S PROGRAM: ADG Darrell Burnham - Homelessness

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Sandy Blue - Business Development

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
April 10	7:00 pm	Wine Festival	Rotunda – Thomas Haney S.S.
April 20		New Members Meeting	
May 14-16		District 5050 Conference	Tulalip Resort Casino, USA
June 20-23		Rotary International Convention	Montreal
June 29		Executive 2010/2011 Installation	Heather Hills Farm

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$775.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 25 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

