



"Sow the Seeds of Love" throughout the world

Dear fellow Rotarians,
 I am looking forward with great anticipation to our year of service in 2002-03. Rotarians at the grass-roots level are the inspiration and strength behind our distinguished organization. Their dreams and tireless dedication have helped transform communities and countries for nearly a century. I am a firm believer in working from the bottom up, rather than the top down. Rotarians themselves are in the best position to know what is important to their clubs and communities. In the past, too many new programs have been introduced at the beginning of each Rotary year. This year, I will not implement any new programs, goals, or quotas. It is important to focus on those projects and those programs that are already in place, rather than diffuse our efforts. The 2002-03 Presidential Citation reflects this philosophy. I encourage club leaders to set their own goals and initiate their own ideas. Each club should determine how it will carry out activities in all of the four Avenues of Service (Club, Vocational, Community, and International). Similarly, each club will set its own membership and fundraising goals, consistent with the bottom-up approach.



I invite clubs to focus on the following areas:

- Increasing membership based on specific club goals (consistent with RI's overall goal to increase net membership to 1.5 million members by 2005)
- Participating in or financially supporting at least one project or program of The Rotary Foundation
- Initiating or continuing at least one activity within each of the four Avenues of Service

One major focus of the 2002-03 year will be supporting PolioPlus. The Rotary Foundation of RI has launched a new campaign, Fulfilling Our Promise: Eradicate Polio, to raise US\$80 million to help achieve our goal of eradicating polio by the year 2005. The funds raised by Rotarians will be matched or surpassed by the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. We must commit ourselves fully to this noble effort; otherwise, 20 years of progress may be lost.

I also invite Rotarians to begin preparations for Rotary's milestone centennial in 2005. One way to commemorate this historic event is to implement a Rotary Club Centennial Community Project. It might take the form of a park for children, a shelter for the homeless, or a vocational center for the unemployed — whatever is most needed in your community. This project will serve as a lasting reminder of Rotary's contributions and mission of service.

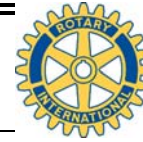
This year's RI theme is *Sow the Seeds of Love*, based on my belief that meaningful service comes from the heart. I encourage all Rotarians to *Sow the Seeds of Love* in their clubs, in their vocations, in their communities, and throughout the world. As Dr. Jonas Salk once said, "The greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more."

I believe we can change the world, one life at a time. No project is too small or insignificant, especially to those it benefits. My hope is that these seeds of service will blossom and live on for countless generations to come.

Bhichai Rattakul

President, Rotary International

Bhichai Rattakul: President RI 2002/2003
Kevin Shaughnessy: District Governor District 5050



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 9 Issue 2
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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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INVOCATION July 9: Chad Reed July 2: Dave Rempel

BINGO SCHEDULE BE ON TIME!

	3:30-5:00	5:00-6:30
July 18:	Debi Pearce	Betty Levens
Aug. 1:	Peter Boekhorst	Dave Reekie

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail pboekhorst@telus.net

We received Bingo proceeds for May, 2002 in the amount of \$2,515.74

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Jeff Haveman will discuss his upcoming involvement with the Canada Youth Exchange

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Business Meeting

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
July 9	5:30pm	Executive Meeting	Kevin's Boardroom
Sept. 3	noon	DG Kevin Shaughnessy's visit	Regular meeting
Dec. 16	noon	Executive 2003/04 Elections	Regular meeting

For the Executive meeting this afternoon, current Executive and as many as possible past Executive members should be present.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 11: Debora Nosworthy

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$756 + 1/2 of today's sales, 15 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!





RI CONVENTION 2002, BARCELONA

This is proof, your Past President Ineke went to Barcelona, pictured here with RI Past President Richard King

LAST WEEKS PROGRAM

Mike McKone, Assistant District (5050) Governor was our guest last week. He brought his well-behaved guide "Friend" in training and her behaviour showed real class.

Mike brought a gallon jar of pickles to the meeting and I believe most of us wondered what he had in mind – was he in a pickle or did he want to give us a pickle? Mike proceeded to give us a micro version of a speech that Bob Farrell from Farrell's Ice-cream Palors made famous.

The story begins with a customer who came into one of the outlets and wanted an extra pickle with his order. After much discussion the customer was given the pickle and charged for it. This did not sit well with the customer and the complaint went straight to Mr. Farrell.

The Farrell philosophy is that customers come into the store to be happy. They come there to be fulfilled. If it takes a pickle to make them happy, GIVE THEM A PICKLE. Over the years this has become a rallying cry for the chain and the basis of their customer service model.

It is now our esteemed President Stan's duty to tell us toe "give them a pickle" to keep all and sundry happy. However, it is a two way street and we have all been charged with handing out the pickles for the rest of this year. Doing what is at hand and passing the pickles can fulfil the Rotary experience.

Woman Spends 51 Years in Iron Lung

Bill Poovey
Associated Press Writer
(Posted on Sun, Feb. 17, 2002)

JACKSON, Tenn. - For most of her 54 years, Dianne Odell has lived lying flat on her back in a 7-foot-long, 750-pound iron lung that breathes for her.

Her lungs, along with the rest of her body, were paralyzed by polio at age 3. But her confinement to the massive respirator hasn't stopped her from graduating from high school, attending college and writing a book.

And, she doesn't complain unless pressed for an answer for what it is like to live in an iron lung. Odell will quickly say she is "always in pain," but then changes the subject.

Dr. Walton Harrison, Odell's pediatrician just after she was diagnosed with polio, said she has beaten all the odds. "I didn't think she would last through puberty because her lung capacity was so limited," he said. Odell was afflicted with "bulbo-spinal" polio - three years before a polio vaccine was discovered and largely stopped the spread of the crippling childhood disease. There were no more than 3,500 cases of polio worldwide last year compared with 350,000 in 1988, according to the World Health Organization. Iron lungs were first used to sustain life in 1928. They were largely replaced by positive-pressure airway

ventilators in the late 1950s, and only about 75 to 100 are still in use in today, said Cheryl Needham, product manager for home ventilators at Respironics, a Pittsburgh company that makes and maintain respiratory equipment. In some cases they are not used all the time.

About 200 iron lungs exist that can be recirculated among people who need them, but production of iron lungs ended about a decade ago.

Frank McMeen, president West Tennessee Health Care Foundation, said he has tried to find out how many polio survivors still rely on iron lungs and he believes Odell is the oldest.

The iron lung used by Odell "produces a positive and negative pressure on her lungs" that make the lungs expand and contract, like bellows. "She can speak when she is breathing out," Harrison said.

An angled mirror rigged above Odell's face allows her to make eye contact with visitors at her parents' home about half way between Memphis and Nashville.

She has mastered "sip and blow switches" that allow her to control a television set. A voice-activated computer allowed her to write a children's book, "Less Light," about Blinky, a tiny star who dreams of becoming a wishing star.

Odell, who is now writing her autobiography, said she wanted to show children, especially those with physical disabilities, that they should never give up. "It's amazing what you can accomplish if you see someone do the same thing," she said in a halting, high-pitched voice.

Her father, Freeman Odell, recalls that after his daughter was stricken with polio, doctors insisted that he not touch her for fear that he or someone else would contract the disease. He said they predicted she would soon die, but he and his wife decided to take the risk and bring her home.

He installed a generator in a yard building as a backup power system, and many times has sat with his daughter overnight, fearful the machine would shut down.

Odell said the dedication of her parents is what gave her such a long life.

"I think God just looked at me and said, 'She is going to have a rough time. I better pick good parents,'" she said.

With the help of loving, generous teachers, Odell said she earned a diploma from Jackson High School as a home-bound student, and an honorary degree from Freed-Hardeman College.

Odell's dependence on the iron lung has meant holiday dinners and vacations at home for her family, but her mother, Geneva Odell, said that hasn't interfered with them sharing good times and laughter. "We always have had a lot of parties and Christmas parties here," Geneva Odell said. "Our life has been just really nice."

Freeman Odell, a telephone company retiree, and his wife, both in their late 70s, said they get help caring for their daughter from her two married younger sisters, their church and their neighbors.

But they know their time caring for their daughter is limited and they worry about her future. Friends and neighbors shared their concern so they recently held a gala that raised more than \$110,000 for Odell.

More than 1,100 people attended, including actor David Keith, singer Gary Morris and former Vice President Al Gore. Some people knew her well, others had only heard about her determination and spirit, and wanted to meet her. Odell was rolled onto an ambulance for her ride to the gala.

"She wasn't unplugged more than a couple of minutes," her father said. "She said, 'I'm going if it kills me.'"

Odell wore a sequined gown designed for her by a local seamstress and a tiara. When she was wheeled into the room with an American flag draped over the machine, she receive a standing ovation.

"Dianne has a way of bringing you into her life and you are better for it," said Libby Murphy, chief organizer of the gala.

McMeen said his non-profit foundation will take care of Odell when her parents are no longer able to do so and the money will be set aside for that care.

Odell said some people might feel sorry for her, but she feels she has been blessed with good friends and a good family, and she is thankful. "I've had a good life," she said.