

THE VALE NEWS

July 25, 2012

Vol. 37 Issue No. 3

Literacy-International Service - A time to highlight and emphasize World Community Projects

Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

August 1 Jim Leyton- Marilyn Bedell - Rot. Foundation Presentation
8 Sal Spinoso - Deb. Spinoso - Defense for seniors
15 ? (Speaker needed)
22 Doug Stoehr - Michael Wood-Lewis; Front Porch Forum
29 Jack Miner - Membership Program

Sept 5 John Straub
12 Put Putnam
19 Judy Reed
26 Larry Ryan

Editor's Note: Please inform Wini (496-6710) of the name of your speaker at least 2 weeks in advance. If you can't get a speaker for that date, please try to trade with another person on the list. Wini

Birthdays: none this week

Anniversaries: Art & Barbara Conway 7/29/91

Meeting News

Even though it was a cool morning, our club gave a warm reception to our District governor, Sonny Holt and his wife Deb from Randolph. We also welcomed Eric Denu, the assistant governor from Middlesex, and Andy Bargerstock, a Rotarian from Fairfield, Iowa,

Announcements

Doug started the meeting with a log story joke, then told us we received a thank-you from the Green Mountain Cultural Center for our \$500 donation to the Opera Festival.

Our new committees have been working on both short and long term plans for the future of our club. We now have 25 members serving on committees.

*Karen Nevin- Festival of the Arts has informed our club that if we help park cars at their Community Picnic at the Lareau Farm on Sunday, August 5th, they will allow us to sell Duck Race tickets at the event. We can do it in 1.25 hr. shifts from 6 PM until dark. Doug told us a few more volunteers are needed at the end of the event to direct the exit of all the participants.

*Community Service

There is a new arrival to our community who has only one leg and needs to have a ramp built so he can enter his trailer. He also wants a small shed to store all his stuff that doesn't fit into his trailer. Volunteers needed to sign up for this community service during the next 2 weeks.

*Duck Race Sales last week \$590. (We are ahead of last year)

Same schedule as last week - sign-up sheet passed around

Gary displayed a large poster (identical to the full page ad in the Valley Reporter.) The ad cost \$500. The posters will be put up around the Valley the last 2 weeks before the race.

* BOD (with dist. Gov. Sonny Holt) follows regular meeting today.

*Megabucks \$245 - John Mansfield blew his opportunity by pulling the 10 of diamonds from the deck

*Happy Bucks:

Jim Leyton- Pleased to have Dist. Gov. Sonny Holt here today

Eric - happy to be a guest- enjoyed the ride over from Middlesex

Monk- Had fun going to Canada

Dave Koepele - Enjoying the GED weather

Tom Byrne - Glad to be here another week

Al Barillaro -1)we need a joke committee! 2)Looking forward to a lot of company 3) daughter in last week of pregnancy

Dinsmore – Brother's wife interesting

Leo - Neckties owned by others

Joe Klimek - 18 people visiting at present

Art Conway - ? beats me!

Betty - visited N.J. last week - Penn. next week

Bob Holden - furnished with pen (for others) to write down Happy Bucks comments

Jim Groom - Great trip to UK - 18 days. Duck Race tickets were here when we returned

Doug Stoehr -1) Helped daughter & boyfriend move into new place in N.H.

2)District \$1,000 grant that we can apply for as part of our community Rotary service

Andy Bargerstock - Happy to visit from Iowa, local daughter got engaged

Rosemarie - Relieved we had only one song to start meeting.

PROGRAM

Sonny's Talk to Clubs

INTRODUCTION:

I was born in the 30's during the great depression. We were poor along with many other families in New England. My Dad worked in a Textile mill until he retired. My sisters and I were expected to find work to help support the family. When I was 16, it was my turn to leave school and get a full time job. One day I applied for work at

a cardboard factory. The foreman said, "You know, son, you look like you'd be a good worker, and I am hiring but I'm not gonna give you a job. Because you look like you have promise – but not here. Not in this factory". And then, in a stern voice he said "Go back to school". Initially, I was really disappointed, because some of my friends had found work there. But I guess this is what you would call a life changing experience. This man saw something in me that I didn't know I had. So I worked out a compromise with my parents and went back to school. I eventually found a full time job, working nights in a textile mill and attended school during the day. It wasn't easy, but I made it through and was the first in my family to graduate from High School.

I joined the Air Force after High School, picked up a bachelors degree and a masters degree going to night school and eventually rose to the rank of Colonel. I was a wing commander worked at the Pentagon and served 3 years in Japan as Director of Operations for US Forces in Japan.

I retired from the AF and started a software company which ran for 11 years. Now I am finally retiring and dedicating my entire time to Rotary. This is now my full time job. My passion. In February I had the opportunity to meet with our current Rotary International President, Sakuji Tanaka, at the Rotary International Convention in San Diego, along with thousands of Rotarians from around the world. What a wonderful time of learning and fellowship. I met people from places I had never heard of before! It was at this meeting that he announced this year's theme, "Peace Through Service".

Mr. Tanaka would also like us to focus the energies of our clubs on the three priorities of the Rotary International Strategic Plan: Which are:

- To support and strengthen clubs,
- To enhance public image and awareness, and
- To focus and increase humanitarian service

When I first heard the theme, "Peace Through Service" all that came to mind was just the absence of war. Of course, Rotary helps us to build peace in its most traditional sense, by understanding and reducing the causes of conflict. It builds bridges of friendship and tolerance among people and nations.

But after thinking about the theme and hearing Mr. Tanaka speak, I realized that there was much more to the word "Peace". On a personal level it can mean that you are not worried about hunger or where your next meal is coming from, or that you are free from abuse, or domestic violence.

On an International level, it can mean a well in the village with clean drinking water, a shelter to sleep in, good sanitation. These are all things we can help with. After Hurricane Irene, these were actual problems in our own communities, and we are still working with some people today who have not recovered from that storm. In fact, we have received a matching grant from Rotary International to help flood victims with things that might not have been covered by FEMA or other sources. We will need your manpower in the coming year to do what is needed in the community.

Also In our own community I have talked with local teachers who have said some children in our own local schools dread summer vacations or weekends because there is not enough food at home. They qualify for free or reduced price lunch at school, but when these vacations occur the family is stressed with more mouths to

feed. Sometimes that can lead to family turmoil. If we could somehow alleviate that child's or parent's worry about his or her next meal then they would be at peace.

I heard of a group of Rotarians who had travelled to Haiti to help create sources of clean water. In one village they installed a well - Before the well had been installed, women and children walked for hours to bring back water from a source that was probably contaminated - typhoid was rampant especially among the young. Six months after the well was installed three Rotarians returned to the village. Men, women and children greeted them and as they stood around the well, A Rotarian asked. "What difference has this clean water made in your village?" An elderly Haitian woman stepped forward and said "Since the well has come, the children have stopped dying."

This one simple sentence made people understand why clean water was so important. It put a human face on the issue. It wasn't about the facts and figures of why clean water was important. It got right to the core of the issue: "When the well was built, the children stopped dying." Children, who once carried water will now be able to attend school. Water will get them through the day, education will get them through life.

A Youth exchange student from our District spent a year in San Juan, Argentina. While there she became involved in a school that was supposed to teach young children English, but they had only a few English language children's books and they were very expensive to buy. When she came home to Vermont, she asked the Club that sent her if she could start a project to collect and ship used children's books for this school's library. She contacted other clubs in the district and soon had a load of children's books to ship. She filled 15 canvas postal bags and sent each one to a different member of the local Rotary club in Argentina. 14 of the bags made it through. At 16 she already had the "Peace through Service" spirit and I'm sure she'll become a Rotarian some day. Sometimes what gives you peace is serving others.

My wife Deb and I travelled to India to provide the Polio oral vaccine to children. It was in a small Muslim village south of New Delhi, called Punahana. I saw a young frail looking teenage boy pulling himself across the road on his hands with legs dragging behind. There was no doubt in my mind that this village had been hit with the Polio virus. At our post, many women and even young girls brought their babies and siblings to be inoculated but never a man showed up. I thought that was odd, but Muslim villages like this were a challenge because rumors had spread that if a boy baby was inoculated he would become sterile. The Indian govt. had done much to dispel that rumor. But still, never a man showed up with a child. Toward the end of the day I noticed that Lynn, a Rotarian from Canada in our group was using the purple pinky pen on a boy's toe, while he was being held by one of our co-workers. I said "Lynn you're supposed to paint their little finger not their toe!" She didn't reply; she couldn't reply she was choked up and just motioned me to look at the boy. I'll never forget that moment. He was about 2 years old with a smile on his face but he had no left arm, just a stump for his right arm and only four toes on each foot. Not from Polio but birth defects. And then I looked over at the entrance

to the courtyard and saw a man standing at the gate he was the boy's father. A slight smile on his face - knowing that now his son would not contract Polio. He was the first and only man to show up that day.

On the 13 hour flight back to Boston, Deb and I didn't say much. We were both deep in thought about our experience in India. We both knew that this trip was our life changing experience.

Share the Joy

If Rotary can offer Life changing experiences through the opportunity to serve, it's hard to understand why we don't have people knocking down our doors trying to join Rotary, especially the younger generation who believe that "service" is a noble endeavor. Maybe there is a need at a local college or university near you that could start a Rotaract club. There are also many non-traditional ways to have a club now. E-clubs are forming, as well.

To increase awareness and public image

The district applied for and received a Public Relations grant for \$13,100.

Soon you will be seeing Rotary signs at Burlington airport, advertising on busses in key cities, even adds on Facebook.

We also have (10) \$1,000 Simplified grants that clubs can apply for to use on local projects. One of my goals for this year is to award all 10 grants. Can you think of a project in your town that needs funding? This will help public image and awareness, but there is a much better way of doing it.

Every member in the district has the key.

You know, we have a wonderful story to tell Let's take every opportunity to tell our story. When people see your Rotary pin and ask "What does Rotary do?" Tell them that "Rotary is a worldwide network of local clubs, dedicated to making life better for people." And then brag about all the good things your club is doing to make life better for people. After a while, you may be surprised to find them asking to come to a meeting to see what Rotary is like. One club, Central Vermont Rotary was down to 11 people, when two of their members decided to spend some time each day visiting local businesses and talking up Rotary. Today they are approaching a membership of 20 people.

There are many people out there looking for the opportunity to do more with their lives seeking that life changing experience. We just need to find them and welcome them with open arms.

And please encourage the younger generation. These are the young adults that can breathe new life into our clubs. Our District is already blessed with a number of these young adults ready to take Rotary to that next level. Drummondville, Quebec just received a charter for a new club. With an average age of 41, they have 30 members and half are young professional women. We have a young president in the district that has made it his goal for this year to form a "New Generations" club for young adults like himself.

I've established a district-level committee to increase Rotarians' awareness of Rotary's new "New Generations Avenue of Service" I've asked the district's New Generations team to create an event focusing on this new avenue. It looks like a one-day seminar/conference is beginning to take shape for a day in late spring, 2013. We'll include Rotary Youth Leadership participants, Speech Contestants, as well as Interact and Rotaract participants.

FINALLY, HAVE FUN and FELLOWSHIP: Strive to make your club the friendliest place in town and welcome visitors to the warmth of Rotary fellowship. I hope you'll join me in a team approach toward the ideal of service. Service, above all else service above self and in so doing, help to build that pathway to peace through service.

I would like to share this quote by Mitch Albom.

"The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning".

In closing, I congratulate you on becoming a part of the greatest service organization in the world: Rotary. All I ask of each of you is to share the joy with others. Bring them into the fold. Let them find that rewarding life changing experience of peace through service.

I look forward to helping you and your club in any way I can. I'm honored to be your District Governor and hope that I will serve you well.

Thank you

THE FOUR WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the Truth?
- 2) Is it Fair to All Concerned
- 3) Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- 4) Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

The Vale News

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Club Officers

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