

THE VALE NEWS

Sept. 1, 2010

Vol. 35 Issue No. 9

New Generations Youth Services - A time to highlight Rotary's commitment to youth.

Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

Sept. 8 Joe Klimek – Jen McDermott - "Locavore"

15 Ralph Walker - Restaurant Raffle kickoff

22 Karen Winchell - Hal Cohen (CVCAC)

29 Dave Ellison – 'Shelter Box' Presentation

Oct. 6 Open

13 Open

20 Open

27 Vickie Walluck - Classification speech

Dec 8 Restaurant Raffle Drawing

Editor's Note: I will schedule the members responsible for speakers during Oct. and Nov. by next meeting. If anyone has a speaker (or event) in mind for the near future, please let me know by Sept 8th. Believe it or not, I do have a selection system, I don't just pick numbers out of a hat.

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.

Birthdays: none

Anniversaries: Mike & Ronda Kelley 9/1/10

Speakers - District Governor

Meeting News

We had a delightful morning to welcome our District

Governor, Bill Thompson and his party (Fran Thompson, A.G. Stephen Dates, Elaine Dates and past Governor, Marilyn Beckell). All the tables at the Pub were filled today with two people seated in a booth.

Announcements

Audrey welcomed our guests and then announced the donations made by the last BOD meeting were : \$300 to go for assistance to the Vermont families of soldiers serving in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and \$1,000 for the Relief Fund in Pakistan.

Leo BFD:

Sales

Sponsorships	3,250
Members	5,040
Tickets	6,588
Grand Total	14,878
Expenses	3,261
Projected Net	11,617

Several people needed at Kenyon's for clean up and race preparation Sunday- 2nd truck needed to transport ducks. Big Duck must be blown up for display at Kenyon's and set up by Sat. AM. Lots of bodies needed for both Farmers' Mkt. and Craft Fair on the weekend.

Mega Bucks \$911 to the winner. Al Molnar - the usual \$5

Happy Bucks

(So noisy today, even with 2 assistants could not get all remarks)

Art Conway somebody sold his 1st QuackPack and forgot to

get the money

Caryn Crump - Happy guests are here.

John Crump - Happy in-laws have come and gone

Dave Ellison - Len Rubin helping him with golf swing.

Jim Leyton - Glad to be in such distinguished company.

Ralph - Forgot why he's happy

Stan - Happy fall is coming

Al Barillaro - Pleased 1st Sat. that Art is not coming to help take stuff to the Farmers' Mkt.

Manny - trip to Glacier and Yellowstone Parks

Monk - going with Jane on a trip to Patagonia in Nov.

Joe Klimek – grand-daughter getting married in Klimeks' vineyard

Happy Thought for the Day

School Daze - One mother to another: "I never realized the value of an education until the children went back to school". quote from the Saturday Evening Post July/August edition 2010

PROGRAM (address by Dist Gov. Bill Thompson)

My Dear Friends in Rotary,

How many of you remember the film "Schindler's List"? If you do, you'll recall how Schindler started off as a self-serving playboy, but gradually changed to the courageous man who saved hundreds of Jews from the Nazi extermination camps. If you recall, there was no single, defining moment when this transformation took place - it was rather a gradual process. I hope that like me you found it a positive, affirming story. It shows that people can undergo moral growth - that we can become better people as we grow older. I hope that I have, and if I have, I like to think that my experience in Rotary has played a significant role in the process.

Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians can and often do undergo the same evolutionary growth as has Rotary itself.

Paul Harris founded Rotary because he was lonesome in the big city and sought fellowship, camaraderie. Perhaps he was also looking for what we today call networking. Only later did the idea of service come into play, and that was service to the local community. Then, after the founding of the first Rotary club outside of the United States. In Winnipeg, Canada, in 1910, Rotary became the International Association of Rotary Clubs, and international service followed shortly thereafter.

When new Rotary clubs are chartered, they often put their first emphasis on community service. This is normal and to be expected. They are, after all, formed to address needs in the local community, and it is from that community that they draw their members. Community projects and their results are often immediately visible, and it is usually to our local communities that we look for support.

But as the club matures and participates in activities such as Youth Exchange, Group Study Exchange, Friendship Exchange, Ambassadorial Scholars, World Peace Fellows, etc., they often (but not always) begin to see the internationality, the world view, of Rotary. This view is also enhanced by participation in district events, President-Elect training, etc.

Also, District 7850 is particularly blessed by being an international district. I also believe that Rotary has a role in informing the local community of the needs of the world outside. For example, many are probably not aware that Polio still exists in four countries.

The question, then, is one of balance. As we grow from our need for companionship and friendship to service to our community and service to the greater community - our world- one does not supplant the other - all are worthy and valid. RI President Ray Klinginsmith has chosen for our theme "Building Communities - Bridging Continents" because that is what Rotary does. And President Ray goes on to say, "Rotarians need Rotary for its fellowship. The world needs Rotary for its service."

Now let's move on to talk about our goals for the year. I

say 'our' goals, because we can't possibly reach them without your help. And frankly, you won't help much if you don't share them.

First, membership. After many years of steady growth, membership in Rotary has leveled off and begun to decline. This decline is most prevalent in the US and Canada, but was offset for a time by strong growth in Asia and former communist bloc countries. But now the decline has become worldwide. District 7850 is no exception. Despite growth in some clubs we have shrunk by over 150 members, nearly ten percent, over the last five years. It's not just that this decline in members indicates a sickness in our organization, but we can't sustain the important work of Rotary without members. In response to this challenge, I have proposed the aggressive goal of not only stopping this decline but to recover our losses of the last five years and return us to a pattern of steady, sustainable growth. Our goal is a net increase of 10% for existing clubs, plus the chartering of at least 2 new clubs with a minimum of 20 members each. This will result in an increase of 200 members, bringing us to 1800, or a little over where we were 5 years ago. I am gratified that our Club Presidents have signed on to this goal. While a very few clubs have for various legitimate reasons felt that they could not reach it, in total the club goals slightly exceed 10% net growth. But wishing won't make it so. Every year we've talked about membership growth, and every year the decline has continued. Business as usual won't work. At the District level, I have appointed an aggressive and innovative Membership Chair, Gilles Gravel, Past President of the Drummondville, Quebec Rotary Club. We will hold 'mini-conferences' this Fall in 3 locations, in Vermont, New Hampshire, and in Quebec. These conferences will cover membership, public relations, and the Rotary Foundation. In addition, we will try to help clubs who are having problems sustaining their membership. However, we've had good Membership Chairs and mini-conferences in the past. Membership growth has to happen at the club level. We have asked each club president to

appoint a Membership Chair who can enthusiastically support our goal. However, when we ask who are the members of your club's Membership Committee, there is only one correct answer - every single Rotarian! We recently attended a meeting of the Sherbrooke Quebec Rotary club where 3 new members were inducted. During the induction ceremony, each was charged with bringing in one new member within the next 6 months. Imagine if we could all do that!

Our second goal is increased support of the Rotary Foundation. Our Foundation is the crown jewel of Rotary. It's what supports our wonderful programs such as World Peace Scholars, Ambassadorial Scholars, Youth Exchange, Friendship exchange, Humanitarian Grants, etc., as well as supporting our goals of clean water, education for women, disease prevention, disaster relief, and so on. Charitable giving is a personal choice, and it is not appropriate for me or anyone else to tell an individual how much to give. I think it is appropriate, though, to suggest that if you are a Rotarian, the Rotary Foundation should be high on your list. Some clubs do not encourage, or indeed discourage, gifts by individual Rotarians to the Foundation. They feel that when a Rotarian gives \$1000 to the Foundation and is named a Paul Harris Fellow, he or she is 'buying' the honor. Unfortunately, RI is partially responsible for this attitude. I wish instead we could see the Paul Harris Fellowship as recognition of a generous contribution. It's been said that \$1000 to the Rotary Foundation saves, on average, 8 human lives! Isn't that something any of us could be proud of? We should also be aware of other levels of support to the Foundation. A Rotarian who puts the Foundation as his or her will for a minimum of \$1000 is recognized as a Benefactor. Just think - it doesn't cost you anything - our kids have to pay! Another well-kept secret in our District is the Paul Harris Society. Its members pledge to give \$1000 or more per year to the Foundation. As of now, our District has only 7 or 8 members. Some clubs in other districts have more than that. At the extreme, a gift of a quarter million

or more will make you a member of the Arch Klump Society - you'll have your portrait hung at RI Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois!

Finally, I'm going to ask all of us, especially the marginal Rotarian, to "kick it up a notch". This wonderful organization to which we belong needs and deserves our very best effort. Rotary is not just another social club -we are different. The more you put into it, the more you'll get out. Catch the Rotary fever - attend a District Conference, take a class at the Rotary Leadership Institute. Host a Youth Exchange student or a GSE team member. Take the opportunity to do make-ups at other clubs when you travel or are forced to miss a meeting. Wear your Rotary pin every day with pride, and welcome the chance to tell those you meet about Rotary. Join with me in keeping Rotary International the greatest service organization of all! You'll be glad you did. Thank you.

The Vale News
PO Box 267, Waitsfield, VT 05673

Club Officers

President	Audrey Witschi
Pres. Elect	Lorraine Keener
V. Pres.,	Doug Stoehr
Treasurer	Dave Ellison
Secretary	Bob Grant

Committee Chairmen

Community	Heli Hietzker
Vocational	Ken Friedman
International	Al Molnar
Club	Al Barillaro
Foundation Chair	Jim Leyton
Sgt. at Arms	Gene Scarpato
Public Relations	Karen Winchell
Editor	Wini Thorsen
Assistant editors	Karen Winchell, Judy Reed