

DENNIS SU
President, 1999-2000

Highlights

One of the memorable moments for any Rotary Club's president is the privilege to attend the International Conference representing the Club. I was very fortunate that in June, 1999 as President-Elect, I attended the one in Singapore, and in June, 2000 as president, I attended the one in Buenos Aires, Argentina. These events not only allowed me to experience the diverse culture of these two distinct countries, but the adrenalin rush during the Opening Ceremonies when over one hundred fifty flags of the countries where Rotary has a presence marched down the aisles. That moment gave me the feeling of truly being a part of the world's humanity.

Another highlight was the joint auction dinner "Light a Star Tonight" with the Rainier Club and Park Hill Club, held at the Atrium of the Seattle Design Center on April 9, 2000. Mardie Rhodes and Sally Schultz of our club together with a team of hard working members volunteered to make this fund raising event a success.

Not to be missed was the one of a kind District Conference held the following month. The District Governor, Duane Ruud, moved the traditionally land-bound conference to the Dawn Princess ship of the Princess Cruise Line sailing from Los Angeles on May 18 to Vancouver, BC, arriving May 22. That made all the work of running the Club for a year worthwhile.

Goals

On a more serious note, the Club was in a period of declining membership, and my plan was to focus more internally to strengthen the core group of members before embarking on an expansion mode. Because of our location and membership classifications, the Club at that time was still heavy on professionals and consultants and lacked representation of local small businesses. That translated into being short on time and commitment from members for hands-on projects. The key was to hold on, conserve, and introduce an element of fun to our lunches.

To achieve that, most of Rotary's national and international activities and programs had to be placed in secondary position and we participated only when our resources allowed. Community programs that were proven to be our members' favorites were maintained. And finally, I strived to shift away from the social service heavy weekly programs of the past few years to more business-related speakers for our members.

I had been collecting jokes a few months before my presidency began, and luckily, only a few were needed to get me off tough spots. And twelve months were over too quickly.