



Mike Johns, Jr.  
Editor

## DISTRICT 6630 NEWS

Stew Buchanan  
District Governor

### January 2011

#### Inside this issue:

January Membership Report	2
Rotary Youth Exchange	2
Holiday Jar Success in Bedford	2
Avid Golfers Go to Extreme	3
Rotary Rose Bowl Float	3
TRC Berea to Hold Fundraiser	4
TRC Andover Turns 85	4
Another Youth Exchange Letter	5
Medina Reports on Build-a-Bear	6
Grants Committee Report	6
More on Rotary Awareness	7

#### Points of Interest:

- *January is Rotary Awareness Month*
- *Presidential Citation deadline Mar 31*
- *Don't be a RINO!!*
- *Just Ask... That's how you find members*
- *14 Youth Exchange Students are here*
- *Today's Exchange Students—Tomorrow's Leaders*
- *TRC Bedford fills Holiday Jar for the needy*
- *Chili Open Feb 5th*
- *TRC Berea Reverse Raffle 3/26*
- *Andover 85th Anniversary Party 2/7*
- *Exchange students not much different than our own*
- *Medina Rotarians and Juvenile offenders team up for foster children*
- *It's the acceptance of diversity that binds Rotarians*

### Governor's Letter

**BIGGER, BETTER, BOLDER**  
Only six more months for us to make 2011, Bigger, Better, & Bolder— more members, great projects and programs and more involvement in both the community and on an International level. I am excited about all of the great work being done around the District.

January is Rotary Awareness Month! This is a great time for your club to have an assembly meeting just to refresh yourselves on all of the fantastic programs and information that are a part of Rotary. From Grants to the Rotary Foundation, Avenues of Service and the History of Rotary, the objects of Rotary, the Four Way test and much much more, Rotary has a lot to offer.

To learn more or to obtain information for your assembly session, just go to the District web site for the link to RI ([www.rotarydistrict6630.com](http://www.rotarydistrict6630.com))

How much is your club growing? Our goal this Rotary year is for each club to grow by a minimum of one new member. I know that some of the clubs in our District have done much better than one new member. Congratulations to you! Let's all keep working on new members and retention of members.

Now is the time to test strengths and weaknesses of our clubs. Perhaps a strange idea for some Rotarians, but how else will we learn how the activities and programs of our respective clubs match up to those of other clubs in our district and around the world? Therefore I encourage all Rotarians -not only the club officers- to become involved in evaluating their clubs during the month of January.

The Presidential Citation program for 2010-2011 has been designed as a score sheet for all the Avenues of Service. It also is a checklist for many of the activities and programs conducted by your clubs. Club presidents are required to complete the score sheets and submit them to me by March 31, 2011 for your club to be eligible for the Presidential Citation awards. The scores should be shared with all club members either as written reports or as presentations at club meetings.

Starting work on the Presidential Citation test in January will provide an opportunity to correct any discovered deficiencies in club activities before the submission deadline of March 31, 2011. It will also help the club officers to notice that a

new Presidential Citation with Distinction award is available this year for clubs with a good balance of activities in all Avenues of Service.

And last but not least, our District is not doing as well as the past couple of years in Foundation giving to date. Review your club goals and let's see if we can all support EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year). A little contribution from all of you will get us to our goals. It is all part of being Bigger, Better, & Bolder.

I again thank all of the clubs for the fine reception Cherie and I have received on our visits. I hope that the information I presented was useful, either to the new members or to stimulate the older members. Four more clubs to visit in the next two weeks. I am disappointed I do not have more; it has been such a great experience. I will be coming back soon to talk about the District Conference at the Beachwood Hilton on April 29, 2011 through May 1, 2011. The District web site will be ready for reservations by the end of the month.

Yours in Rotary,  
Stew Buchanan

## January Membership Report

By Jack Miakowski

We hope you had a Blessed Christmas and we wish all a Happy New Year. It was good to see all of my club members after being off for a week. We are heavily into our planning schedules as THE BIG EVENT, OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CHILI OPEN-GOLF CHARITY EVENT is only 6 weeks away. Three of our brand new members are on committees and that is part of our success in keeping new members, get them involved early.

Hopefully all of us Rotarians have made a New Year's Resolution to talk with someone about becoming a member. If your Club isn't growing, who is responsible? Every member needs to share in the process of getting new members. I will ask again, "when was the last time you asked someone to consider joining your club?" There must be some good you see in remaining a member or are you a RINO?

I am asking every Rotarian in District 6630 to pledge to yourself, I will bring a friend to visit my Club in the next 30 days. As most of you know we are losing members for all types of reasons and the only way we change that is get new members. No one is saying it is an easy task but if you don't ask you won't know. I will give you an example from my Club. We have a new member of several months. In talking with him, he told me for 25 years his friends who belong to the Club talked about the Club but no one invited him to join. Finally someone did and he has joined. Simple point is until you ask you don't know how someone feels about Rotary. We do so many good things around the

World that we are known as the Good Guys. Tell your friends about us, Polio Plus, Water Projects, Book Projects, School Projects, Scholarships, the list goes on and on. WE ARE THE BEST AT HELPING PEOPLE! There are no strings attached to the good we all do as Rotarians.

PEOPLE LIKE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH WINNERS AND THAT IS WHAT ROTARY IS ALL ABOUT, WINNING THE BATTLE TO HELP OTHERS!

Look yourself in the eye and make the pledge! I will bring a friend to my Club within 30 days.

For membership issues, HELP IS ONLY A CALL AWAY  
Ask Jack 440-572-4744



By Cal Hunter, Jr

The Rotary Club of Bedford started a new program this year called the Holiday Jar. This is a take-off from the book called "A Christmas Jar". Close to \$300 was given to a local family who had been recently evicted from their home.

The program had several benefits. Obviously, the local family was

## Rotary Youth Exchange 2010-2011 and 2011-2012

By Jack Young

### 2010-2011 Inbound Youth Exchange

The 14 Rotary Youth Exchange young people who are in our district are doing extremely well. Many of them have gone to their second host family and have experienced a great opportunity in their lives. 6 of the students have gone on the Disney Harry Potter trip to Florida several weeks ago and many others are preparing for the Easter and Western Trips. Others have gone to places with their host families like, Arizona, Nevada, New York City, Virginia, Atlanta, Chicago, Washington D. C and many other places. Most of the students are extremely involved in their High School such as dance teams, choir, band, sports and community activities.

At least two of the students have been interviewed by a reporter and had a picture and article appear in the local news paper with their host family. One other student has even been interviewed on a cable television station. I encourage all Rotary clubs to obtain publicity from the local community on their student to help with the publicity for our great Youth Exchange Program. It just may also help the clubs membership initiative. When the publicity does happen, please let me know and send me the article and information.

Thanks for all clubs, Rotarians, friends and host families for supporting this great program. Remember, our youth today will be the leaders of Rotary tomorrow.

### 2011-2012 Inbound Youth Exchange

We have already placed our request for exchange students for the next Rotary Year, (2011-2012) However, because of the processes involved, we need to have the commitments from the Rotary Clubs now. Therefore, the process has started to obtain commitments from the clubs currently hosting students and those who desire to host a student. It is IMPERATIVE that we have all of the needed paperwork completed by the club and school within the next several months prior to the final assignment of students.

Please remember, we now have co-sponsorships available in which one club can help with the financial portion of the exchange and another club can obtain host families. For the past several years, we have had 4 Rotary clubs jointly co-sponsor students.

If your club wants to host a student for next year, please contact Rotary Youth Exchange Inbound Co Chairs, Marsha Pappalardo (cmpappa@aol.com) or Jack Young, PDG (Jack1vill@aol.com) 440-759-4000 for more information. We ask all District 6630 Rotarians and clubs support this great Rotary process. Remember the youth exchange is a District to District process.

Don't forget the other youth programs such as the Youth Outbound Exchange, Short Term, Rebound and New Generations along with our Interact, Rotaract, RYLA and 4 way Speech Contest. All of these programs are great resources for future new members. Best wishes to each and everyone for the new year.

## Holiday Jar a Success in Bedford

By Cal Hunter, Jr

The Rotary Club of Bedford started a new program this year called the Holiday Jar. This is a take-off from the book called "A Christmas Jar". Close to \$300 was given to a local family who had been recently evicted from their home.

The program had several benefits. Obviously, the local family was

helped, but the Bedford Club benefited as well. It really helped reinforce that a little bit of giving each week can really make a big difference in someone's life. "I think it also helped our Students of the Month better see what Rotary is all about" said Cal Hunter, President of the Bedford Club, "We support many organizations in the community, but it

isn't always evident at our meetings. This program showed the students Rotary's community support in a very tangible way." The Students of the Month helped collect the Happy Bucks money each meeting and many of them donated money as well. We look forward to seeing who we can help next year with our Holiday Jar.

## Avid Golfers Go To Extreme

By Dan Reynolds

Increasing number of golf fanatics of all ages battle the elements in the 21st annual Chili Open presented by Wayne Homes

Akron, OH - January 4, 2011 - Golf added to extreme sports like base-jumping, skydiving, swimming with sharks, etc.? Once again the surprisingly invigorating Wayne Homes Chili Open will take place on Saturday, February 5, 2011. The annual event has increasingly drawn more and more devoted fans and adventure seekers each year and expects to host over 500 people of all ages. Proceeds of the Chili Open aid children and adults with disabilities who will attend Rotary Camp next summer.

For twenty-one years, the Chili Open has seen a significant increase in wild and adventurous golfers who desire to wage war against Ohio's winter weather to play 9 holes. Over 500 polar bear golfers will converge on the scenic Hale Farm and Village in Bath, Ohio. On that date, the grounds of the historic location will be transformed into seven 9-hole golf courses.

The Wayne Homes Chili Open extreme sport of winter golf was originally created more than twenty-one years ago on frozen tundra of a lake. Since, the event has moved inland and hosts professional and

hobbyist golfers of all ages, along with individuals attempting to boost their extreme sports resume. Hole distances range from sixty-five to one hundred twenty-five yards and feature fierce and extreme obstacles. Golfers must overcome hurdles like putting across tundra, sliding in the snow and chipping on an ice-laden course. Those who accept the challenge



won't have to read a Bear Grylls ultimate survival book or catch their dinner. Instead, participants heat up and enjoy all-you-can-eat Whitey's famous Chili and beverages inside Hale Farm and Village's Gate House, where they can also develop and polish their own adventure tales and legends while enjoying raffle prizes and games.

Proceeds of the extreme golf outing will help more than five hundred children

and adults with disabilities attend the Rotary Camp next summer. For more than eighty years, the Rotary Club of Akron has sponsored the Rotary Camp. Children with special needs throughout Ohio spend a week at camp, where they enjoy swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, sports and games, team building and more, in a convenient and accessible, natural surrounding.

Entry fee is \$200 per foursome or \$50 for individuals (\$30 per golfer is tax deductible). Tee times are from 8am - 1pm. Most Chili Open golfers prefer irons ranging from seven to wedge and a putter. Extra golf balls are a good idea - orange is recommended, golf bags are optional. For more information on the Wayne Homes Chili Open or the Akron Rotary Camp, please visit [chiliopen.net](http://chiliopen.net) or call the arctic hotline at 330.644.4512.

This year's Chili Open is presented by Wayne Homes. Our partners include: Buckingham, Doolittle, & Burroughs, LLP, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Crystal Clinic, Summa Foundation, OMNOVA Solutions Foundation, Willoughby Supply, House of LaRose, FirstMerit Foundation, Akron Children's Hospital, Whitey's Premium Chili

WAKR, WONE, WQMX, Hale Farm & Village, Leader Publications, Record Publishing



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL®

## Berea Rotary Event Set for Browns Training Facility

By Linda Kramer

The Cleveland Browns Training Facility in Berea is the site for the Rotary Club of Berea's annual reverse raffle and silent auction fundraiser on March 26. Called Kickoff to the Future, this is the club's most important fundraising project of the year, providing funds for scholarships and other community projects. This is the first time the event has been held at the Browns Facility and is the result of negotiations between Browns officials and a special Rotary committee. This is also the first time the team has allowed an outside organization to use the facility.

Advance tickets are \$100. The price includes a four-course catered dinner. There will be sideboards, a 50/50 raffle, silent auction and reverse raffle. To preview and bid on auction items, go to berearotary.org beginning on Feb. 10.

Tickets are limited. Call Rotary President Kathy Olmeda at (440) 234-7174.

Poinsettia Sale: Another major fundraiser for Berea Rotary is the annual Poinsettia Sale. This year, the project raised \$2,000

for scholarships and other programs. Top seller was project chairman Jim Saylor. Rotarians not only took orders from residents and businesses but delivered, too.

Holiday Party: The Berea Rotary Club's annual holiday party was Dec. 7 at J-Bella restaurant in Strongsville. Rotarians and guests dined on salmon and steak. Joining in the festivities were District Governor Stew Buchanan and his wife, Past District Governor Dave Skrzynski and wife Bev, who is executive director of the Cleveland Rotary, and Past President Jay Dzurilla of the Strongsville Rotary.

Upcoming programs: Berea Rotary took some time off, with no meetings on Dec. 21 and Dec. 28. Upcoming programs include a Membership Breakfast on Feb. 2. This is a new project chaired by Rotarian Ken Weber. Berea Rotarians will invite prospective members to breakfast at a local restaurant where they will be treated to a free meal, a local dignitary as a guest speaker and information about the benefits of joining Rotary. Guests will be invited to submit their business cards for a drawing for a gift basket.



### Collaborate to Navigate!

Project YESS 2011  
Leadership and STEM Conference  
for students ages 13 to 16

Saturday, January 22, 2011  
9 am to 4 pm  
John Carroll University, Dolan Science Center

The Cleveland Rotary Foundation's award winning Project YESS (Youth Empowered to Succeed through Sailing) and John Carroll University's Department of Education and Adult Studies have collaborated to create a dynamic curriculum of team building exercises and experiential Science, Technology, Engineering & Math lessons around a theme of "navigation".

Participants will learn how developing team building skills helps us better navigate our social, educational, and professional lives.

This event is an introduction to Project YESS 2011, and an opportunity for participants to determine if they would like to make application to our YESS Class of 2011.

#### Keynote Luncheon Speaker

Michael J. Johns, Rotary International Director 2007-2009  
Lunch will be served to students and their teacher or guidance counselor

Parents are invited to attend an information session from 2:30 to 3:45 pm led by YESS 2010 graduates who will share their experiences as attendees can determine if their son or daughter is a candidate for application to the YESS Class of 2011.

#### PROJECT YESS (Youth Empowered to Succeed through Sailing)

Youth most in need of programming are often left outside the programming circle. Reaching underserved youth is the impetus of Project YESS, a highly program developed by the Rotary Club of Cleveland to provide direction, develop courage, confidence and community, and train students' skills to unlock career opportunities that exist in the Great Lakes region. Our students seek to develop teamwork, leadership, safety and navigational skills during a 5-month, 5-session land-based curriculum. Graduates then sail away on a 4-night, 4-day adventure aboard a sail ship and apply the skills they've gained through our program toward becoming a vital member of a dynamic, on-board community.

### \*\*EDITOR'S NOTE\*\*

BE SURE TO MOVE YOUR CURSOR OVER THE GRAPHICS OR PICTURES FOUND IN THIS DOCUMENT... MANY OF THEM ARE LINKS TO VIDEOS, WEBSITES, PICTURES OR OTHER GOODIES

## TRC ANDOVER TO CELEBRATE 85th

By Richard Mole

On Monday, February 7, 2011, the Andover Rotary Club will be celebrating its 85th Anniversary. Andover Rotary was organized on January 22, 1926 and was chartered on February 1, 1926 with 19 members. The Conneaut Rotary Club, itself chartered in 1922, was the sponsoring club.

The 14 Andover Rotarians will be welcoming District Governor Stewart Buchanan and his wife Cheryl as their special guests. DG Stew will address the gathering with his remarks, "Being a Rotarian: Service Above Self."

Other guests will include local and county government officials and fellow Rotarians from throughout Ashtabula County. Additional special guests will include Instructor Scott Wludyga and his wife as well as various members of the Pymatuning Valley Multi-Media classes who have produced and created a video of the Club's history, highlighting various projects completed over the years by the Club.

Emphasis will be spotlighted on the \$185,000 Recreation Complex designed, developed and entirely funded by Andover Rotary in 1994. Other notable projects include contributing \$3,500 of materials to build a building at Pymatuning Valley High School's all-weather track to house the state of the art timing devices used as well as being the sole \$2,500 local match to bring a \$10,000 Community Reading Garden to fruition next to the Andover Public Library.

The members really take the motto "Service Above Self" to heart", commented current president Richard Mole. "Our Club has tried to be a difference maker in our small community of 2,500." "Judging by the results, we haven't done too bad a job over the past 85 years."

The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. for a "social hour" on that Monday night followed by the regular meeting and anniversary celebration afterwards, beginning at 6:30 p.m. for more info contact Richard Mole at rmole@srsnodgrasscpa.com

# We're Investing In Your Future

Offering a Wide Variety of Investment Service Solutions

- Investment Planning
- Risk Management
- Retirement Planning
- Estate Advantaged Investing

**James D. Lechko, CFP®**

Certified Financial Planner™ professional

Investment Adviser Representative

**(216) 529-5625**

jim.lechko@primevest.com



LOCATED AT FIRST FEDERAL LAKEWOOD

Advisory services may only be offered by Investment Adviser Representatives in connection with an appropriate PrimeVest Advisory Services Agreement and disclosure brochure as provided.

PrimeVest Financial Services, Inc. is an independent, registered broker-dealer. Member SIPC. Securities and Insurance products offered by PrimeVest are:

Not FDIC insured • May lose value • Not bank guaranteed • Not a deposit  
Not insured by any federal government agency.

## A Few Words From a Rotary Youth Exchange Student

By Viktoria Bryk

Hello! –says USA, Cześć! – says Poland, Добрий день! – says Ukraine, Bonjour! – says France and Belgium, Olá! – says Brazil, Hallo! – says Germany and Austria, Hola! – says Mexico, Argentina and Ecuador and Nǐ hǎo (你好) – says Taiwan. These words kids used to say every day to their parents, teachers, friends or just familiar people. But not now! Now they are Rotary International Youth Exchange Students. Every year USA Rotary districts give an amazing opportunity not only to visit but to learn better language, culture, rules, traditions and habits of America which are so different from theirs. After their coming here they reincarnated into adults which need to buy everything by themselves, to control their money and other adult stuff. A few years ago it would have been impossible for kids from Poland, Ukraine, France, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Argentina, Ecuador and Taiwan to fulfill their dreams of coming to America. But now they are here.

“Life is really different...Everything is so different...” explain students. “In the beginning it was hard, I was kind of homesick and my language wasn’t so good, even sometimes I didn’t know how to express myself.” – said few students. “But without Rotary it was impossible!” added Ana Veschi from Brazil. “And I think Rotarians do great job!”



commented Viktoria Bryk. Most part of our exchanges said that after getting off from the plane they were with a wide-eyed look of excitement said “I was happy, I thought wow...I am in America!” for all of it was a start of new way of life. But besides not little part of them were scared because they didn’t know what to expect from the people, who were so different according to those who are all back way home! “I felt good because my host family is really nice, they have two kids, who were exchange students in other countries, so they know how do I feel. As for school kids, they didn’t talk to me that much, so I start talk to them and really a lot and in that way I got a lot of good friends.” Said Abel Venerdini from Argentina. “I

would like it if more students came up to me and got to know me,” said Brenda Amores “I’m normal kid and a good friend!” she said.

Only for being here not so long time they have already learned numerous things about America and American’s way of life. “American’s eat a lot of junk food, even in the morning!” said Coco Mecier from France and Victoria Marques from Brazil with serious expressions on their face. In Poland they eat mostly salads and soups; rarely do they ever eat unhealthy food. But all of them love McDonald’s. “I like anything from McDonald’s!” – said Mateo Saenz from Ecuador.

Mostly part of this kids made good access in different sport clubs. For boys most popular are cross country, swimming club and soccer. For girls: volleyball, dancing club, cheerleaders...

Everybody is different because somebody miss his family most, somebody his friends



and there are some of them who mostly miss their pets. “Of course that’s hard, but then you have more and more activities and bunch of stuff to do, so even sometimes I don’t have time to talk on Skype to my parents or friends every day, because there is big difference in time, like 6-7 hours...” explains Franziska Erwentraut from Germany.

“The style of clothing is really different” said all exchange girls. “I like the style here because you don’t have to think what to wear or that colors are different, the major think you to be comfortable, you don’t have to think what other people think about that!” said Ana from Brazil.



During trips they have an opportunity to meet somebody from their country, to meet a lot of new friends, to talk on their native language. From the first meeting guys loved each other really a lot and nowadays they try to meet each other almost every weekends.

However all of them are trying to do their best in learning language, culture and stuff like that. They plan on making more friends and trying new food and new experiences. Traveling to more places in the U.S. is also something they hope to do while they are here, and they will.



\*NOTE\* "The above is an article for our newsletter was reprinted unedited as submitted by one of your students Viktoria Bryk from the Ukraine who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Lakewood Rocky River. I commend her for putting this together in English so that we are can enjoy her comments."

For those clubs who would like to host a student in this one in a life time opportunity next year, please contact Jack Young (Jack1villa@aol.com) or Marsha Pappalardo (cmpappa@aol.com), Inbound Co Chairs.



# Medina Sunrise Build-A-Bear Project

By Mike Davanzo



The Medina County Juvenile Court developed a program that helps young offenders rebuild their lives while making a difference in the lives of other young people. The program is entitled "Build-A-Bear". In this program the Court has partnered with Build-A-Bear, Wal\*Mart, and Medina Sunrise Rotary along with the Rotary Foundation so that juveniles involved in the Juvenile Court Community Service program will be teamed up with a Medina



Sunrise Rotarian to build teddy bears. The teddy bears will be distributed to less fortunate youth in the county.



On November 17, 2010 nine Sunrise Rotarians participated in a community project in conjunction with the Juvenile Court in Medina. The project was called "Build-A-Bear". Joining the Rotarians were fourteen juveniles who were in the court's community service program, two community service supervisors, four official Build-A-Bear staff and five court and MCBDD staff.

The group made eighty-eight bears (forty-four of each gender). The bears were completely outfitted displaying a variety of occupations. The bears were made for youth who entered into Medina County foster care system this year, youth involved in Me-

dina County Family First's Help Me Grow program and youth who attended the preschool at the MCBDD Achievement Center.

On Wednesday, December 15, another group of Rotarians joined representatives of the above group to deliver the bears.

This was a very successful project in which juveniles who were in trouble were able to work with individuals with special needs. In so doing the juveniles were able to show emotions and feelings that were normally suppressed and share with others in a very positive way.

The Medina Sunrise Rotary thanks the Rotary Foundation for its help in making this project possible.



## District 6630 Grants Committee 2010-2011 Available Funds

## Budget as of 01/03/11

	<u>Grant Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Initial DDF Budget		\$85,085.24
Rollover Amount from 2009-2010		\$20,646.46
<b>Total Combined DDF Budget</b>		<b>\$105,731.70</b>
<b>Less Committed PROJECT FUNDING:</b>		
Ambassadorial Scholarship	\$25,000.00	\$80,731.70
District Simplified Grants (2009-2010)	\$16,959.00	\$ 63,772.70
GSE Team	\$ 6,500.00	\$57,272.70
<hr/>		
<b>International Projects Budget</b>		
Beginning Balance		\$57,272.70
Aurora: Jamaica – laptops/satellite dish	\$3,594.00	
Hudson: Zambia – water wells	\$4,816.00	
Burton-Middlefield: Argentina – info technology	\$3,584.00	
<b>Current Balance</b>		<b>\$45,278.70</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Local Projects DSG</b>		
Beginning Balance		\$16,959.00
Medina Sunrise – Build A Bear – Juvenile Court	\$ 1,000.00	
Lakewood-Rocky River Sunrise – Freezers	\$ 1,200.00	
Geauga Cluster: Pleasant Hill Home	\$2,500.00	
<b>Current Balance</b>		<b>\$12,259.00</b>

## More on Rotary Awareness

By Jack Harig

Rushworth Kidder, founder and president of the Institute for Global Ethics, offers a good deal of advice in an interview in *More than Money* magazine, entitled "Ethical Fitness: Choosing Between Right vs. Right." Kidder asserts that despite differences in religion, philosophy, geographical location, nationality, and race, human beings have a common belief in five core values: **Honesty, Responsibility, Respect, Fairness and Compassion.**

People have a wide range of thought about how they judge right and wrong. The least flexible are those who see every issue as either right or wrong, black or white, there is are no grey areas and no room for value judgment. It is always "My way or the highway".

**Moral Absolutism:** Right is right and wrong is wrong. Actions are inherently good or bad, regardless of the consequences.

At the extreme left of the first group are those people or groups who eliminate values, Every ethics issue is situational. There are no absolutes. Those who believe in Ethical Relativism tend to move the judgment bar in a way that eliminates accountability for personal or group actions.

**Ethical Relativism:** Circumstances alter cases. Everyday standards are good, but exceptions are also right and good. The judgment of good or bad is based upon the result or consequence of the act rather than the act itself.

Where does Rotary stand in the ethics dilemma? The Four Way Test has become the standard for measurement of the things we say and do, the way we are expected to act in our business and personal lives. The MOP (Manual of Procedure) further states, "The sole purpose of any reproduction or use of The Four-Way Test should be the develop-

ment and maintenance of high ethical standards in human relations."

January is Rotary Awareness month, I thought it might be interesting to take a look at how Rotarians deal with tough decisions and how application of The Four Way Test can influence decisions and what we do and how we do it. Rotarians come from many backgrounds. In June of this year I attended an Ethics Panel along with Rotarians from all over the world. Those in attendance represented all major religions, nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. We got into an intense discussion that lead us to a point somewhere between the two positions on ethics mentioned above. I made a statement about the application of the Four Way Test to the group. My statement was based on my Western Christian perspective and the answer seemed very clear to me until an African Rotarian who is a married business man, a Christian, and a tribal prince. "Prince" posed a question to me that attempted to unravel my simplistic understanding of making ethical decisions. Prince ask me to answer an Ethical dilemma he may be faced with. In his country, which is majority Muslim, Prince's government has outlawed polygamy. His Christian faith only permits one wife for one man. So far so good. What could Prince throw in that could complicate a simple situation like this? One husband, one wife, no hanky panky easily done. So what is the problem? Here is the rest of the story. In his country polygamy is still the norm. In the years since the law forbidding polygamy, only one man has been charged by his wife and convicted. The husband received no punishment. If a Prince is tapped by the tribal elders to become chief he is obligated by tradition to accept his selection and become Chief. Tradition also dictates that the Chief should have multiple wives. His wife has indicated that if he be-

came Chief she would not attempt to prevent him taking additional wives (she also said she would not be happy with him if he did). The question to me was how do I apply The Four Way Test to his dilemma? I gave my answer. If you give me yours; I will share with you my reply to Prince.

My second story is much simpler; it is about a Rotarian who was a district Governor in an area in North Eastern India, just South of Kashmir. He is in the plastics importing business. Bodo is a minority among minorities. He is a Sikh, an over 500 year old religion in India & Kashmir, and with his turban on Bodo is still barely more than 5'2". He has a round face with body to match and an olive brown skin. He is proof that Rotarians come in all sizes and shapes. We became friends in a week long Rotary Training program for Governor want-a-bees. He spotted me in the hallway one day on a coffee break, he was with his wife and he started to wave his arm as he grasped his wife with his other hand pulling her towards me and called out, "There is Jack, there is Jack, he is a Christian, but it is OK, he is my friend.

I share these two similar but different stories to help you visualize the diversity and complexity of Rotary. Prince faced conflicts in personal beliefs, cultural practice and the law of the land that presented choices that could not please all yet may have to be made someday. On the other hand my Sikh friend had it easy, I was his friend and a Rotarian and that was enough to bridge all of any differences.

These two Rotarians are examples of what makes Rotary work. Because we are different we are able to develop many different projects doing good and helping our fellow man at home and abroad. We are able to do micro loan programs in Africa, water projects Haiti, historic markers

in Ashtabula, OH, send recycled fire trucks and ambulances to third world countries. We send our kids to other countries as students and in exchange bring kids here opening new avenues of understanding, Rotary clubs all over the world provide scholarships to high schools students. We exchange GSE teams with Brazil, Argentina, Germany, the Philippines, Nigeria, and over 100 other countries. We are the 1st and oldest International Service Organization. Rotary has been responsible for cessation of civil war long enough for our Rotarians partnering with NGO's, Rotary International Foundation, and private organizations like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to fulfill our commitment to eliminate Polio from the face of the earth by raising over 800 million dollars for Polio eradication. This is a commitment we made and because we made it, we will do it. This is the Rotary way; doing what you say you will do. Some of our efforts last for days or weeks, others have lasted over 85 years or more.

Rotary is special because Rotarians are special, Rotarians accomplish projects that have benefited hundreds of thousands of individuals and families at home and abroad. Most all of the good works of Rotarians are the result of a few people in a place somewhere in the world doing extraordinary things together that they could never dream of doing alone. These are some of the reasons we are Rotarians and why we have fun doing good with our friends. Take a look at the following link and see what RI is doing in social networking with U-Tube or just Google "Rotary International U-Tube" and see what large and small Rotary Clubs all over the world are up to. Here is the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/rotaryinternational>