



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

District 5130 Conference – Fortuna, CA



Date: June 15th through 17th, 2012
Volume: 2011/12—Issue E10-47
Scribe: Bob Rogers
Photography: Aleia Coate, Edwin Wilson, Bob Rogers
Editor: Tom Boag
Club President 2011/2012: Aleia Coate



"All the News that Fits We Print"



Before the Bell



The first official event of the District Conference (besides the BBQ lunch) is the arrival of the Rotarian Motorcycle Group at 12:30 p.m., led by **Big Bob Hirsch** on his yellow Harley.



At the Bell



After downing two helpings of lunch, **Bob** hustles into the conference room in time for the opening ceremonies with the rest of the Sebastopol Rotary group, which includes **President Aleia** and **First Dude**



Matt Munson, President-Elect Edwin Wilson, Treasurer Ron Puccinelli, Secretary Jack Blasco, Past RI Director John Blount, Barbara Beedon, Mike and Carlene Ferguson, and your humble Scribe, **Bob Rogers**.



🍎 Future Programs 🍎

June 22nd
Speaker: Dr. Alan Bernstein
Program: Stroke – Every Minute Counts
Host: Harry Simms

**Note that there is a regular meeting
 (President Aleia's last presiding
 meeting) on Friday, June 22nd
 -AND-
 there will also be the Debunking of
 President Aleia on Saturday, June 23rd.**

June 29th
Speaker: Sheriff Dept. Personnel
Program: So.Co. Sheriff Rescue Helicopter
Host: Mike Ferguson

🍎 Future Events 🍎

Saturday, June 23rd 6:00 p.m.
The Debunking of President Aleia

Location: Holy Ghost Hall
Subject: Who Else?...**President Aleia**
Contact: **Pauline Pellini** [See Attached Page](#)
Tickets: Only \$10 per person

Rotary Club of Santa Rosa **Giro Bello Rides**
July 7, 2012

🍎 Miscellany 🍎

Next Board Meeting (Incoming Board)
Location: TBD by President-Elect Edwin
Date/Time: **Wednesday July 18th, 5:30 p.m.**
(It's traditionally the 3rd Wednesday of the month.)

[Web Site for Make-Up Locations](http://www.rotary5130.org/meeting_locations.shtml)
www.rotary5130.org/meeting_locations.shtml

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS – Send to JOHN BLASCO at
jbblasco@comcast.net

On-line Make-Ups: www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Interact Make-Ups
 Analy High: 12:35 Wed. In the Choir Room
 Brook Haven: 12:40, 1st & 3rd Thurs., Rm. 4
 (Check-in @ Front Office first)
 Hillcrest: 12:20, Every 3rd Tues., Rm. 6
 CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM MEETINGS



Welcoming Speech, Greetings of RI President:

After introduction of dignitaries and a brief welcoming speech by District Governor Maureen Merrill, RI President's Representative Sunny Sharma from the Rotary Club of Fort Bend, TX, conveyed the greetings of RI President Kalyan Banerjee to the members of District 5130. During his talk he mentioned some interesting statistics...for instance, did you know that in all of District 5130 there are 5,800 Paul Harris Fellows...and that since 1917 our district has contributed over 9 million dollars to the Foundation (Try and guess what that figure would be adjusted for inflation in today's dollars). [According to www.inflationdata.com, CPI Inflation makes 6¢ in 1917 have the "same buying power" as \$1 today. **-Ed.]**

Sunny's final message was "Become involved!"...and he gave an interesting personal example. He joined the Sugar Creek Rotary Club in Texas (now known as Ft. Bend Rotary) as a charter member in 1985. And for the next ten years sent his dues in annually, but attended minimally and was otherwise a non-active Rotarian. In 1996 he received a message that the club was being disbanded. Alarmed, he asked why, and was told that the club was in debt to the tune of \$4,000 and was down to 8 members. When he asked what he could do to help prevent this from happening, he was told, "Become the President...get involved...we will back you." And so, he did. One year later the club had grown to 26 members and had \$20,000 in the bank, and Sunny earned an award for membership growth.

Sunny has since become more involved, serving on various Rotary District committees and eventually served as District Governor in 2010-2011. This Rotarian became involved!!!



Awards

Throughout the weekend, awards were announced, and I'm happy to say that Sebastopol Rotary received their share of the recognitions, 15 in all. Categories and methods were changed somewhat this year from previous years. For example there were no small, medium or large categories for clubs...all were thrown into the same pot, so to speak. And except where noted, there was no first, second or third places. Instead, if your club did well in a category, you were given an "award". If your club stood out from the others, you received an "award, with honors". So that being said, here's how our club fared in the competition. We received awards in the following categories:

Public Image
Vocational Service
Community Service
Club Service - with **Honors**
Changemaker Award (Aleia Coate/Sebastopol Rotary)
International - with **Honors**
Paul Harris Fellowships - **First Place**
Benefactors - **Third Place**
Membership Retention
5 Year Growth & Retention - **Third Place**
3 Year Net Membership Growth
Youth Service
Meritorious Youth Service Recognition (Individual) - **David Schreibman**
Distinguished Rotary Club President
Distinguished Rotary Club

Rotarian of the Year went to a well deserving Dale Ann Knight and Club of the Year went to Petaluma Sunrise. Congratulations to all.

A special thank you went out to those who worked on the Awards Committee, our own **Richard Power** being one of those volunteers. Thanks **Richard**.



Announcements

Polio Update:

PolioPlus District Chair Larry Meyers (South Ukiah) gave us a brief update on our fight against polio. 67...that's the number of paralytic polio cases to date, worldwide. Compare that to the 350,000 cases that were occurring annually when we began this battle in 1985 in over 120 countries worldwide. In India, which was declared Polio free earlier this year, not only has no child contracted the virus in over a year, but soil samples taken from previously infected areas show no trace of the polio virus at all. Extremely good news!

This year our district has contributed \$84,000 toward the cause, with another 15 to 20,000 last minute contributions en-route. That will put us close to the \$100,000 mark, if not over it, by June 30th. {Scribe's Note: That's equivalent to 167,000 doses of the bivalent polio vaccine. Way to go 5130!!!} To date, the Rotary world has contributed \$220.4 million dollars towards the Gates Challenge, surpassing the \$200 million number by over 10%. WE WILL WIN THIS BATTLE!!!

GSE Team Updates:



We heard presentations from our outbound teams to France and Turkey, both of which had experiences they will never forget, according to their presentations. We also heard from the inbound team from Turkey, who are now wrapping up their trip and leaving shortly, although it was rumored that one member was trying to lose his passport so he could stay longer. Speaking of rumors, he said, "If you heard rumors about me...if they're good, they're true...and if they're bad...they may be true."

They were all dressed in native costumes associated with the marriage ceremony, and they all looked wonderful. They wrapped up their presentation by dancing, and in the process, got at least half of the audience to stand up and join in...a good time was had by all.



Honor Flight Project:

We heard a presentation about The Honor Flight Project, a brain child of the Eureka Rotary Club, designed to honor the veterans of WWII by arranging to fly them to Washington D.C. to visit the WWII Memorial, as a way to honor these veterans and thank them for their service. To date, they have raised over \$246,000 in this endeavor. One of the recipients of the trip was 90 year old Lt. Col. Gordon (sorry, I missed his last name), who told the story of his B-17 being shot down over Germany and spending the rest of the war in POW camp, both the humorous and not so humorous sides of his experience. He expressed how much this trip to D.C. meant to him and how grateful he was to Rotary for this opportunity. He received a heartfelt standing ovation at the end of his talk. The Eureka Club would be happy to help any club in pursuing a similar project.

Pathway Home Project:

On a similar note, the Rotary Clubs of Napa have started the Pathway Home Program, to help rehabilitate current war vets returning with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD). A shocking statistic is that for every soldier killed in action, 25 more commit suicide. To learn more about this worthwhile project, go to www.pathwayhome1.org.

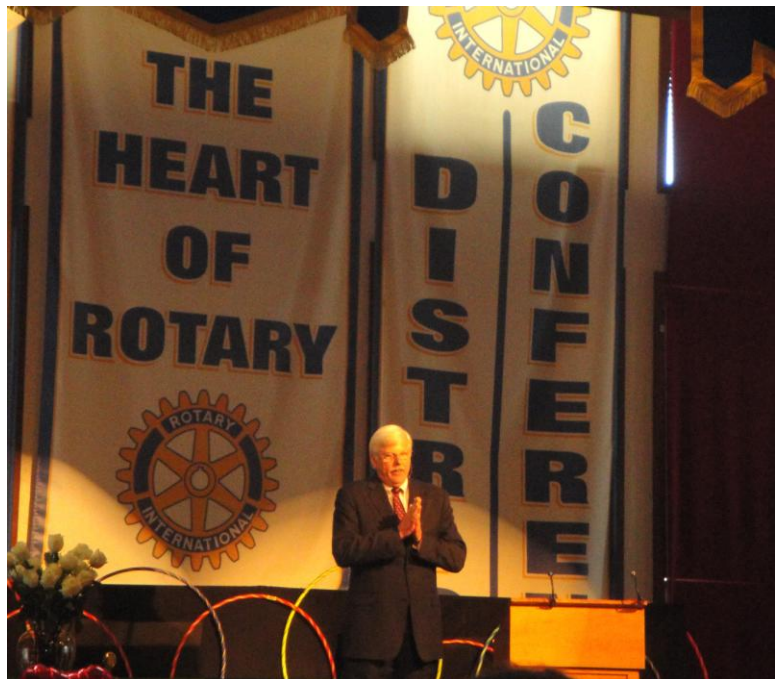


Keynote Speaker – John Blount_



Our own **John Blount** was the keynote speaker for the Saturday afternoon session. Emcee Tom Boylan of the Windsor Club said trying to write a brief intro about **John** was like "pulling teeth"...ba-da-boom!!!

John spoke about his current Rotary passions, the branding of RI, membership retention, core values, and leadership. He compared one of V.P. Dan Quayle's famous quotes with Rotary..."The course we're on is irreversible, but that could change", which elicited a few chuckles, until the comparison sank in...Much like Kodak, who thought they were invincible...Roughly paraphrased, they thought "selling film is like making gold". Then why did they recently declare bankruptcy? Because they didn't know their core value...they thought they were selling film...but in reality, they were selling memories.



When John asked how many of us had heard him speak before, almost the whole room raised their hands. After another few chuckles, John pointed out that that may be part of the problem, and challenged each and every club to bring 20% of their membership to next year's District Conference...who knows, he may get some new faces in the audience who haven't heard his jokes before...and he may also get a chance to inspire new Rotarians to become more involved. And once again, **John** received a standing ovation. Thanks **John**. Shortly after, he was again seen slaving away at the Sebastopol Rotary Audio/Visual control center.



Other Presentations - Sunday



Rotaract and Youth Exchange Presentations:

Sunday morning, the last session of the conference, was all about youth. We heard from the 7 Rotaract Clubs in the district, and they may be small, some with only 4 members, but boy are they powerful. The big projects some of these small clubs have taken on should be an inspiration to all of us.

And of course, the Flag Ceremony of the District's Youth Exchange students was again phenomenal. It gives one great hope for the future.

The Closing Bell

At the end, D.G. Maureen pinned the D.G. Pin on D.G. Elect Michael Juric, but reminded us that she (and we) still have 4% of the year left in which to accomplish great things...so no coasting down the hill allowed...we are still charging up the final crest.

With that, the bell was rung, ending the 2012 District Conference.



After The Bell

Shortly after the bell had rung, the A/V team (**John, Edwin & Pooch**) sprang into action, dismantling the screen, speakers, coiling up the miles of cables, etc. Even with the additional help of **Secretary Jack, Boss** and **yours truly**, it still took close to 2 hours to dismantle and load everything up in the A/V trailer...and setting up I'm sure took longer. And they do this each and every time they are called upon...and with no whining... they do it with smiling faces...so thanks guys, once again, for all you do.



06.16.2012



The ABC's of Rotary

(Taken from "The ABCs of Rotary", a Rotary International publication originally prepared by Dr. Cliff Dochterman who was RI President in 1992-93)

#21: World Understanding Month

The month of February is special in the Rotary calendar since it is designated World Understanding Month. The month also includes the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary held on 23 February 1905, now designated World Understanding and Peace Day.

In designating World Understanding Month, the Rotary International board asks all Rotary clubs to plan programs for their weekly meetings and undertake special activities to emphasize "understanding and goodwill as essential for world peace."

To observe this designated month, many clubs arrange international speakers, invite Youth Exchange students and international scholars from schools and universities to club meetings, plan programs featuring former Group Study Exchange team members, arrange discussions on global issues, present entertainment with an international cultural or artistic theme, and schedule other programs with an international emphasis.

Many clubs take the opportunity to launch an international community service activity or make contact with a Rotary club in another country. It is a good month to initiate a Rotary Friendship Exchange, a 3-H project or encourage support for PolioPlus and other Rotary Foundation programs.

World Understanding Month is a chance for every club to pause, plan and promote the Fourth Avenue of Service—Rotary's continued quest for goodwill, peace and understanding among people of the world.

Saturday, June 23rd 6:00 p.m.
The Debunking of President Aleia

Location: Holy Ghost Hall

Subject: Who Else?...President Aleia

Contact: Pauline Pellini

Tickets: Only \$10 per person



Benefit for The Rotary Club of Santa Rosa... JULY 7, 2012



3 BEAUTIFUL RIDES

CENTURY: 102.2 MI.

METRIC CENTURY: 68.2 MI.

FUN RIDE: 29.2 MI.

**BENEFIT FOR
THE ROTARY CLUB**

of
SANTA ROSA

AND OUR LOCAL & INT'L. CHARITIES

VISIT GIROBELLO.COM TODAY

FOR: ROUTES • REGISTRATION • FUNDRAISING INCENTIVES
VOLUNTEERING & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**REGISTRATION OPENS
JAN. 24 AT 10:00AM**

**JULY 7 2012
SATURDAY**
O'REILLY MEDIA SEBASTOPOL
CALIFORNIA

**REGISTRATION LIMITED
TO FIRST 1500 RIDERS**