

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

July 12 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting



Rotarian Art Blitz
Art was selected for inclusion in the 2007 Maryland Super Lawyers magazine and the 2007 Washington DC Super Lawyers magazine featuring the top 5% of attorneys in the Washington, D.C. Area.

July 19- 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting

Jan Pottker, Author of Janet & Jackie:

The Story of a Mother and Her Daughter, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis;
Sara and Eleanor: The Story of Sara Delano Roosevelt and Her Daughter-in-law, Eleanor Roosevelt



July 26 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting

Jim Lawrence, Department of State Weapons Removal and Abatement

"Pulling the Dragons Teeth – Clearing a Path to a Safer World"

August 2- 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting

Barry Anderson

Head of the Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) based in Paris

Potomac-Bethesda International Rotary Club

2006-07 Membership Goal Reached:

President Jerry Gross Undergoes Barber's Clipper at Club Meeting

President Jerry promised that he would cut his beard and hair if our membership goal of eight new members was reached. The club saw the transformation "live" as the Potomac barber made a "house call" at Hunter's Inn to perform the clipping as part of the Rotary Club meeting. President Jerry thanks all the members for stopping the slide in membership – the trend is moving up! Congratulations, Jerry, on meeting this important goal and having a very successful Rotary year!



Rotary Club Membership Statistics:

1998 & 1999 - 32 members

2001 & 2002 - 25 members

2004 & 2005 - 24 members

2006 - 26 members

This year immediate Past President Peter McWhite passed away; Smiljka Soretic is moving to Florida and Dr. Juvenal Goicochea left the club. – Jerry Gross

Inside: Three pages of photos from the June 24 Club Officer Installation at Don & Nancy's

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Potomac-Bethesda
Rotary Club
Officers Installation
June 24, 2007
at the Home of
Don & Nancy Smith







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Greetings from Our Past Club President Ahmet Yucel in Turkey

I congratulate Jerry for a very successful Rotary Year during his presidency. I wish I were there to watch the hair & beard shaving ceremony!

I have been reading about all the new members who joined our club and the club activities through Bob's meticulously written wonderful newsletters...

It is a very uplifting feeling to see that Rotary Club of Potomac-Bethesda has been growing and contributing to the society and the world.

I wish my best to you all... *Ahmet Yucel*

President Wilkinson Shows The World That Rotary Shares

Wilfrid J. Wilkinson, 2007-08 RI president, has launched the new Rotary year as the year to "say yes to Rotary." The RI theme, *Rotary Shares*, is a reflection of his commitment to share Rotary with others through service and recruiting new members.

Wilkinson, a member of the Rotary Club of Trenton, Ontario, Canada, sees the concept of sharing as a motivating force behind Rotary work. "In choosing this theme, I thought about how much of Rotary is about sharing. We share our time, we share our talents, we share our money with others who need our help," he told incoming district governors at the 2007 International Assembly in February.

"In Rotary, sharing doesn't mean giving away what you have to spare, what you don't need for yourself," he explained. "Sharing means giving of yourself, selflessly, for the good of others."

Wilkinson has chosen to continue immediate past president Bill Boyd's emphases of water, health and hunger, literacy, and family of Rotary. "These basic needs have been at the forefront of Rotary's efforts for several years now," he says. "And I hope that they will continue, because with clean water, good health, and the ability to read and write, so many of the people who need help will find the ability to help themselves."

In a time of dwindling participation in service organizations worldwide, Wilkinson emphasizes the importance of commitment to

RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson receives Award from Pakistani President



Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf presents Wilkinson with the Sitara-e-Eisaar (Star of Sacrifice) in Islamabad in February to honor Rotary's swift relief efforts after the earthquake in Kashmir. The Rotary Foundation, clubs, and districts contributed cash, food, clothing, medicine, and other supplies totaling more than US\$5 million to survivors of the October 2005 quake. The award, which recognizes organizations for their earthquake relief work, is one of the highest honors bestowed in Pakistan.

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membership expansion. "It's not always an easy thing to invite someone into Rotary. Too often, we hear no. And no one likes to hear no. It's easy to get discouraged. But you have to expect those no's, and know when to ask again – and when to move on to find a yes somewhere else."

Equally important to Rotary's future, says Wilkinson, is attention to programs for youth. "Working to strengthen our programs for youth helps ensure a new generation of responsible, ethical, and volunteer-minded people. They are our link to the future of Rotary which we ourselves will not see."



Recognizing the role that core values play in driving the direction of the organization and the actions of members, the Board approved the following values as Rotary's guiding principles: Service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership.

"These core values are all reflected in The Four Way Test," said 2007-08 RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson. "By adopting a specific set of core values in the strategic plan, we can provide Rotarians with more explicit standards to guide

and evaluate their actions."

In addition, the Board approved the following seven priorities as recommended by the RI Strategic Planning Committee:

- Eradicate polio
- Advance the internal and external recognition and public image of Rotary
- Increase Rotary's capacity to provide service to others
- Expand membership globally in both numbers and quality
- Emphasize Rotary's unique vocational service commitment
- Optimize the use and development of leadership talents within RI
- Fully implement the strategic planning process to ensure continuity and consistency throughout the organization.

Each priority is supported by a set of goals and success indicators to measure progress being made.

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Rotarians' Selflessness Sorely Needed

By Marjorie Cortez Salt Lake City Deseret Morning News

I felt my grandpa's spirit today.

How could I not, in the midst of so many service-minded men and women from all over the world. The Rotary International is in town for its annual gathering, which is the largest convention ever hosted in Salt Lake City.

For my grandfather, Nicholas Medina, Rotary International was a natural extension of a life of service. He was a Navy man, having served his country in World War II and Korea. He worked for the local office of Colorado's state employment service. At one point, he recruited seasonal agricultural laborers to work the farms in southern Colorado.

He enjoyed helping people find employment because he believed in the dignity of work.

He also believed in giving back to his community so he became a Rotarian. He took a lot of pride in that, particularly when he became president of his local club.

I regret, now, that I didn't pay more attention to that aspect of his life. He was always a larger-than-life character in my mind. He was playful and funny, prone to breaking into song on long car trips. It took forever to run errands with him because he seemed to know every single person in Walsenburg, Colo. These outings sometimes tested my patience, but I was always proud to tag along.

Monday, as I walked through the Salt Palace Convention Center, I couldn't help but notice the many silver-topped men and women in attendance. Many service organizations are graying, meaning the membership is growing

older, and there aren't as many members joining to sustain the groups.

It's not surprising, really. The Rotarian motto is "Service above Self." My generation seems to have flipped that sensibility on its head with the "It's all about me" way of living.

It makes me wonder about the future of service organizations in general. What happens when these organizations that help to create a sense of community become extinct? Who will construct parks, host Fourth of July pancake breakfasts or provide college scholarships? Who will conduct youth events to build up our next generation of leaders? Who, as Rotary International has done, will act globally to help wipe out diseases such as polio through an aggressive immunization program?

Seeing the many faces of Rotarians from across the globe (this convention is the largest international gathering in Salt Lake since the 2002 Winter Games), it's apparent that Rotary International is a long way from joining the ranks of the dinosaurs. I was pleasantly surprised by the rich diversity and relative youth of the convention crowd.

The 17,000 Rotarians visiting Salt Lake this week represent a total membership of some 1.2 million men and women from 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries. Their respective communities should be very proud of the service they render. Perhaps more so, they should be inspired by men and women who, in so many cultures that prize material wealth and self-indulgence, somehow manage to keep their priorities straight.

Marjorie Cortez, is a Deseret Morning News editorial writer. Her e-mail is marjorie@desnews.com.

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