

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Calendar

May 29 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Paul A. Samakow - "Identity Theft"



Identity Theft is now the single biggest crime in the world, surpassing drug trafficking. Individuals and businesses are at substantial risk of having their private information stolen and used illegally. Most people are familiar with "Financial" or "Credit" Identity. There are actually five areas of an individual's identity profile; the others are "Social Security"; "Criminal/Character"; "Driver's License"; and "Medical".

Statistics reflect that the average identity theft victim will spend approximately 600 hours (15 forty-hour work weeks), mainly during business hours, to resolve the problem and that companies on average spend 1600 work hours per incident at a cost of \$40,000.00 to \$92,000.00 per victim. It appears that the newest wave of class action lawsuits is against businesses on behalf of victims whose personal information was compromised. Predictions are that within the next two years 1 in 3 people will be a victim of identity theft. Paul A. Samakow has had an active law practice in the Washington, D.C. area since 1980. He is a Certified Identity Theft Risk Management Specialist by The Institute of Fraud Risk Management, Inc.

June 5 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

June 10 - 7pm Manna Food Center

Need volunteers for about one hour to pack food boxes at 614 Lofstrand Lane, Rockville

June 12 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Eolia Sibila and Ann Dorough

"Improve Literacy in our Community."

June 19 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

June 26 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Dr. Peter Rumm, "Rotary Involvement in Disaster Preparedness"

July 3 - No meeting

May 22 Meeting Report

Featured speaker John Derrick spoke on electricity and energy issues from his more than forty years in the industry retiring as Chairman of the Board for Pepco. John told of some early conservation efforts in the 1970s when Pepco encouraged major savings of electric power through incentive programs to install more efficient air conditioning equipment in area buildings. When deregulation made customers no



longer captive to the power companies, larger developments such as the Washington REIT that has nearly 100 buildings achieved savings, but the residential customers have not really benefited. Government action

keeping electrical rates frozen for about six years have now expired and customers are experiencing significant increases. With



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May 29, 2008 - Page 1

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

energy costs rising, the forces are no longer present to keep moderate electricity prices. Possible rolling blackouts may be on the horizon if more power plants and transmission lines cannot be built to meet the increasing demand. Thanks so much, John, for your very timely talk, and pardon the Rotarians who took the opportunity to come out with numerous electrical-related puns while contributing \$50 happy dollars.

Steve Naron reported that his son **Will** has purchased a "Budget Blinds" franchise and is off to a great start with some help from **Phil Meade**. President Elect **Todd Nitkin** reported that **Noel Howard's** son-in-law is doing well following his heart operation.



Art Blitz read the following humorous commentary on the pros and cons of whiskey:

"If when you say whiskey you mean the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster, that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, destroys the home, creates misery and poverty, yea, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children; if

you mean the evil drink that topples the Christian man and woman from the pinnacle of righteous, gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation and despair, and shame, and helplessness, and hopelessness, then certainly I am against it."

"But if when you say whiskey you mean the oil of conversation, the philosophic wine, the ale that puts a song in their hearts and laughter on their lips, and the warm glow of

contentment in their eyes; if you mean 'Christmas Cheer'; if you mean the stimulating drink that puts the spring into the ole gentleman's step on a frosty morning; if you mean the drink which enables a man to magnify his joy, and his happiness, and to forget, if only for a little while, life's great tragedies, and heartaches, and sorrows; if you mean the drink, the sale of which pours into our treasuries untold millions of dollars, which are used to provide tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf, our dumb, our pitiful aged and infirm; to build highways and hospitals; then certainly I am for it."

"This is my stand, I will not retreat from it. I will not compromise."

Shelterbox And Rotarians Reaching Out To Aid Chinese Earthquake Victims

By Susie O. Ma RI News - 23 May 2008

Four hundred ShelterBox containers will reach China's Sichuan Province this weekend to help alleviate the acute housing shortage after a 12 May earthquake there left 50,000 people dead and more than five million homeless. Another 400 containers are en route to the area.

Each container provides a tent, stove, water purification kit, blankets, tools, and other necessities to help a family of 10 survive for six months. ShelterBox is a UK-based disaster relief organization supported by Rotary clubs around the world.

At the request of the Chinese government, ShelterBox will also provide an additional 1,700 tents. Chinese officials have made urgent appeals to the international community

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

May 29, 2008 - Page 2

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

for tents. News agencies are reporting that refugees flocking to the cities are sleeping in any spot they can find, many in sports stadiums and in makeshift tents.

Three ShelterBox response team members are in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan, to help distribute the aid. "The enormity of it is far bigger than anything I have seen before," Tom Lay, ShelterBox team member, told BBC News.



Gong Jianzhong, the Chinese Consul General in Manchester, England, visited the LifeBox warehouse to accept 100 LifeBoxes and 1,200 LifeStraws for earthquake relief in the Sichuan province. Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Denton and Audenshaw.

LifeBox, a charitable project of the Rotary Club of Denton and Audenshaw in Manchester, England, is also contributing to disaster relief in Sichuan. One hundred LifeBox containers, which include tools, clothes, blankets, and baby items as well as a water purification tool called LifeStraw, have been sent to the province, along with 1,200 additional LifeStraws.

At the receiving end, Rotary clubs in China are helping pave the way for organizations like ShelterBox and LifeBox to enter the disaster area, securing permits for the boxes. The Rotary Club of Beijing, located more than 900 miles away from the disaster area, is discussing earthquake relief projects. They plan to purchase US\$4,000 of baby formula to distribute in the affected area. They are also fundraising. Beijing club members contributed more than \$1,000 to earthquake relief at their meeting the day after the earthquake hit. Club president Mike Ma also said some funds from an annual charity ball next week, which will be attended by RI President-elect Dong Kurn Lee, will be redirected for earthquake relief.

"There are already discussions about an after-earthquake mental health consultation project working with China Red Cross and disaster area reconstruction projects," said Ma. "We are also studying the more long-term, significant reconstruction project possibilities to take on."

Rotarians, Health Care Providers Rise To Rotary's Challenge

By Dan Nixon RI News - 22 May 2008
Two Chicago-area health care providers joined the Rotary Club of Elgin, Illinois, USA, in helping to meet Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge. The Elgin club raised \$40,000, and Provena Saint Joseph Hospital and Sherman Health each contributed \$5,000. Elgin club president Michael McKay presented a check for \$50,000 to RI President

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Wilfrid Wilkinson at the club's 10 March meeting.

"While Provena Saint Joseph Hospital is deeply committed to the communities we are privileged to serve as a faith-based, mission-driven health care organization, our commitment to provide healing and hope transcends far beyond the Elgin area," said Bill Brown, president and CEO of Provena Health's northern Illinois region. "It is an honor to partner with highly regarded organizations like Rotary International and Sherman Health on such a worthy cause."



From left: McKay; Sherman Health Board Chair Rick Jakle; Sherman Hospital Board Chair Terry Dunning; Wilkinson; and Provena Saint Joseph Hospital Foundation Board Member Jim Flahaven, Executive Director Bonnie Emberton, and Development Associate Sister June Does

"Rotary International's polio eradication effort has been one of the great success stories in world health," said Rick Floyd, president of Sherman Health, a network of suburban Chicago medical facilities. "We are pleased to join with Provena Saint Joseph

Hospital in contributing to complete victory over polio."

Earlier this year, McKay approached Brown and Floyd with the objective of creating a partnership to help support Rotary's challenge. RI is matching the joint contribution at 50 cents on the dollar through PolioPlus Partners for a total of \$75,000.

"The Elgin partnership that has formed to assist this global objective is a true testimony of the concern and compassion of both Provena Saint Joseph Hospital and Sherman Health for the health of individuals worldwide," McKay said.

Wilkinson thanked the Elgin club and the health care providers for their generous support, and he vowed that Rotary is committed to the fight against polio, adding, "I think the end is getting very close."

Bone Marrow Testing Program to be Featured at RI Convention

By Doug Grose, Rotary Club of Mentor, Ohio, USA, District 6630

Our Rotary Club of Mentor, Ohio, is making a presentation at the LA Convention on our bone marrow testing program to add people to the National Bone Marrow Registry. The session is titled "Life, It's in You. Why not Share?" and it is scheduled for Monday, June 16th, 14:00 - 15:00 (2 -3 P.M.) in Room 403A.

In 1992 Carolyn Shandle-Cobb, the daughter of Mentor Rotarian Cliff Shandle, was

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

diagnosed with Leukemia and told she would need a bone marrow transplant. There were two possible sources of bone marrow: First from a family member, where the odds of finding a match were one in four, or secondly from an unrelated donor who had registered with the National Marrow Donor Program. At the beginning of 1993 there were 912,851 potential donors registered and the odds of finding a match from this source were said to be one in twenty thousand!

When a match within the family was not found for Carolyn, Cliff and his wife Shirley did some research on marrow transplants in general and the National Marrow Donor Program in particular. What they found was that the registry was essentially a numbers game. The more potential donors registered, the better the chance of finding a match. At that point Cliff turned to his fellow Rotarians for help.

The Mentor Rotary Club had its first well-publicized drive to find a potential match for Carolyn in May of 1993. That initial drive typed an overwhelming 800 people! Sadly, Cliff's daughter passed away in July, before she was able to get a transplant, but our organization vowed to make recruitment and testing an annual event.

Today the Mentor Rotary Club continues to make Bone Marrow Testing our core Community Service Project. However, the nature of our project continues to evolve as we create new ways to expand the National Bone Marrow Program's Registry. Therefore, we have begun to share our time by showing other clubs how to begin their own recruitment drives. To date we have several

clubs in District 6630 holding their own successful drives. Furthermore, today's technology for collecting a sample is as simple as a cheek swab that can be administered by non-medical personnel.

The Mentor Rotary Club has continued to do this same service project year after year by following a simple step-by-step formula that works to save lives. We know based on our experience that other clubs can easily call this project their own. We want to show other clubs that they too can adopt and adapt this as their own community service focus. The chance of finding a match is still a numbers game, but the circle of influence of Rotary can make it a winning game.

Today there are more than 6 million registered donors, more than 6 times the total in 1993. The Mentor Rotary Club has added more than 3600 names to the list of potential donors and from that, 32 have been called upon to donate marrow or blood stem cells to a patient waiting for a miracle match. These statistics bear witness to the fact that our work is just beginning.

As one small club we have demonstrated that by working together for a greater good, lives can be changed forever. If we are able to share our project on a National and International level there is no doubt that many more lives will be saved!

*Let us know what's happening with you!
Send your article and photos to
Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov
for inclusion in the newsletter!*

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May 29, 2008 - Page 5