

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

June 26 - No Meeting

June 28 - 5pm Installation of 2008-09 Club Officers at President Elect Todd Nitkin's Home
15008 Whitetail, North Potomac
301-947-6734

Directions from Potomac:

Head northwest on MD-190/River Road

Turn right at Stoney Creek Road

Turn right at Travilah Road

Turn left at Turkey Foot Road

Continue on Jones Lane

Turn left at Doe Lane

Turn right at Whitetail Way

Look for a group of mailboxes on left

Turn left down driveway to 15008 (at end)

July 3 - No Meeting

July 8 - 7pm Manna Food Center

July 10 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

District Governor Bette Lewis

July 17 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Robbi Cohen, Solar Cookers for Darfur

July 24 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

July 31 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn



Congratulations to **Jason and Sarah Hamel** on the announcement of their first child to be born in January 2009.

Thanks to All Members from Outgoing President Don Smith



I want to express my sincere thanks to all members who contributed to make the past year a very successful one for our Rotary. I want to specifically thank the following members (in alphabetical order):

Nabil Bedewi: thanks for hosting the Banquet and for microfinance. **Art Blitz:** thanks for drafting By-law changes, and for happy dollars. **John Call:** thanks for scholarships for Montgomery College. **Neil Cohen:** thanks for being MC at the Banquet, and for 2 speakers. **Alan Cookson:** thanks for being an excellent Treasurer. **Dick Gordon:** thanks for hosting the terrific Charter Night event. **Alan Grant:** thanks for the worthwhile Dictionary project. **Jerry Gross:** thanks for the JFGH project and serving on Board. **Bernard Henry:** thanks for your excellent culinary contributions. **Noel Howard:** thanks for Sophia's House events. **Todd Nitkin:** thanks for the Ethiopia orphanage support. **Tom Leuchtenburg:** thanks for serving as Secretary. **Phil Meade:** thanks for the Budget and tax return. **Steve Naron:** thanks for Manna, website and scholars. **Bob Nelson:** thanks for the best newsletter of any Rotary! Thanks to new members **Jason Hamel, George Mattamal, Don Hiruo, Anil Alpaya Scott Janco, and Klaus Ordemann,** the club's future leaders. Also thanks for the continued support of **Lou Fettig, Nadim Salti, Joe Jennette, Bill Johncox, and Caesar Kavadoy.**

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At Los Angeles Convention, Stars Become Aligned To End Polio

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 19 June 2008

Rotary's goals to eradicate polio and improve health and literacy seemed to become more attainable after the 2008 RI Convention in Los Angeles drew to a close on 18 June.



More than 19,000 Rotarians from around the world celebrated fellowship, commemorated Rotary's history, focused on the future, and along the way set a Guinness world record.

The convention, which began on Sunday, 15 June, marked the official launch of Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge, a three-year fundraising effort to match a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In concert with the launch were two tremendous boosts from the World Health Organization and the government of Canada.

On 17 June, Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, announced that WHO is making polio eradication the organization's top operational commitment "on a most urgent, if not an emergency, basis." Chan praised Rotary's conviction and big thinking attitude for the reason polio eradication is within reach.

RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson announced on 18 June that he just received a commitment of US\$60 million from the Canadian government toward polio eradication.

In a keynote speech on 16 June, Dr. Tadataka Yamada, president of the Bill



and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Health Program, warned Rotarians that they must not stop too soon in their efforts to eradicate polio.

"If we conquer polio, no goal is beyond our reach, and no disease is beyond our capacity," said Yamada. "This is a battle we can't afford to lose."

Stephen Lewis, co-director of the advocacy organization AIDS-Free World, spoke passionately on HIV/AIDS at the fourth plenary session on 18 June and encouraged Rotarians to take action.



Literacy was also highlighted during the fourth plenary session, with a video message from Dolly Parton, country music star and founder of the Imagination Library, and an address from Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.

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Throughout the week, Rotary's Wide World of Books, a global literacy initiative, also put the spotlight on literacy. Rotarians from around the world were asked to donate a book. Exactly 242,624 books were collected for public elementary schools in Southern California and Southern Nevada. The response resulted in setting a Guinness world record for the most books collected in seven days.

Inside the Los Angeles Convention Center, the House of Friendship provided a forum for Rotary Fellowships, Rotarian Action Groups, and club and district projects. Outside, the beautiful Southern California summer served as a scenic backdrop to the Concert under the Stars entertainment event at the Hollywood Bowl.

RI President-elect Dong Kurn Lee concluded the 2008 RI Convention by motivating Rotarians to take action in decreasing the world's child mortality rate. More than 26,000 children die each day from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, measles, and malaria, he said. Lee told the assembled Rotarians that they are the ones who can make the difference by providing clean water to communities and delivering basic medicines and vaccines to sick children. "I will ask you all to Make



Dreams Real for the world's children," Lee said. "This will be our theme, and my challenge to all of you. We will Make Dreams Real by giving children hope and a chance at a future. "

Drive To End Polio Gets Huge Boost From WHO

By Jenny Llakmani RI News – 18 June 2008

WHO Director-General Margaret Chan told cheering Rotarians at the RI Convention: "I am making polio eradication the organization's top operational priority on a most urgent, if not an emergency, basis. "
Alyce Henson/Rotary Images



The drive to eradicate polio will have the full operational power of the World Health Organization behind it, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan announced at the RI Convention in Los Angeles on Tuesday. Rotarians in the plenary hall cheered as Chan continued: "I am making polio eradication the organization's top operational priority on a most urgent, if not an emergency, basis. "

In a historic moment, Chan was joined at the plenary session by the heads of the other spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative: Julie Gerberding, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease

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Control and Prevention; Ann Veneman, executive director of UNICEF; and Robert S. Scott, chair of The Rotary Foundation's Board of Trustees and Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee. It was the first time leaders of all four partners have appeared together on stage and given a joint address.



US\$100 Million Challenge

In introducing Chan, Gerberding, and Veneman, Scott officially launched Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge, a three-year fundraising effort to match a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Scott emphasized that polio eradication will remain Rotary's top goal until the job is finished. After outlining the dramatic reduction in the number of polio cases and polio-endemic countries since 1988, Scott challenged the assembled Rotarians: "Who says we can't eradicate polio? "

Calling the Gates Foundation grant a "tremendous honor," he asked each Rotary club to commit to an annual donation of \$1,000 for the next three years.

"I heard of one club yesterday that's going to give \$10,000 a year," he said. "That's what we need! "

Why 1,313 is more than a number

Gerberding described Rotary as an extraordinary pillar of a dream partnership

that brings out the best in all four organizations. Stating that 1,313 children were infected with polio in 2007, she called on Rotarians to take that number and turn it into something positive.

"Those children aren't just numbers," she said. "They're sentinels of responsibility. We have not just a health responsibility, but a moral responsibility to protect future generations from this disease."

Gerberding asked those who can to contribute \$1,313 to the eradication initiative. "If you can't contribute money," she continued, "then contribute 1,313 minutes of your time to volunteer in the effort to eradicate polio. If you don't have time, give 1,313 words to motivate others and help inspire the commitment we need to get this job done."

All three of the global health leaders stressed Rotarians' unique part in the eradication initiative. Veneman praised Rotary for playing a crucial role in the immunizations of two billion children since 1988. "UNICEF is proud to be your partner," she said.

Rotarians urged to continue the fight

Chan noted that Rotary is famous in polio circles for its steadfast commitment and determination. Through the respect and trust they have earned, she said, "Rotarians can open doors at the highest political levels, and you can open the doors of homes at the grassroots level."

Stressing that polio is in retreat, Chan assured Rotarians of her personal commitment to eradication, and urged them to continue the fight. To wild applause, she said, "I ask those of you representing Rotary in Afghanistan,

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India, Nigeria, and Pakistan to do even more. You have been the engines of polio eradication in your countries, and I thank you. But I need you to do more. I challenge you to raise the political stakes even higher, as I am doing with heads of state and political leaders. Political leaders must be mobilized and held fully accountable."

Chan ended her passionate address by thanking Rotarians for "your steadfast commitment to ridding the world of an ancient disease that has destroyed so many childhoods and broken so many hearts. Together," she said, "we will bring this to an end, forever."

Convention Book Drive Sets Guinness World Record

By Ryan Hyland RI News - 19 June 2008



From left: Danny Girton Jr., adjudicator for Guinness World Records, RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson, and Ingo Werk, of the Rotary Club of Wilmington, California. Monika Lee/Rotary Images

Rotarians at the 2008 RI Convention demonstrated their commitment to literacy by setting a Guinness world record for the most

books donated during a seven-day period. Exactly 242,624 books were collected this week for public school students in Southern California and Southern Nevada.

Danny Girton Jr., an adjudicator for Guinness World Records, confirmed that Rotary now owns the record for Most Books Donated in Seven Days at the final plenary session on Wednesday.

"This record demonstrated careful planning, creativity, and a true commitment from the heart," Girton told the audience. "We applaud your efforts and welcome you to the Guinness World Records family."

Ingo Werk, of the Rotary Club of Wilmington, California, who chaired the project, joined Girton on stage to thank and congratulate Rotarians for achieving such a meaningful record. "Rotary's commitment to literacy is a commitment with love, not only for our society at large but especially for our children. Love is all you need - to read."

The book drive, cosponsored by the *Los Angeles Times* Reading by 9 program, will benefit public school students in kindergarten through grade 3 in the region, where studies show too many children read below grade level.

At the convention, a symbolic "mountain of books" display provided a backdrop for reading sessions allowing Rotarians, celebrities, and other notables to read to students visiting on field trips.

Project organizers set a goal of collecting a quarter of a million books. Convention registrants from more than 140 countries brought books representing their home cultures and languages.

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"Everyone here embraced this book drive, and I could not be more proud of our Rotary clubs and more grateful for the support we received from the public," said Werk.

Guinness World Records receives more than 60,000 applications a year from people hoping for recognition. Of those, only 3 percent set world records.

John Kenny Elected As 2009-10 RI President

By Jenny Llakmani RI News – 19 June 2008

John Kenny, elected as the 2009-10 RI president, told Rotarians at the convention that it was special honor to be the first Rotarian from Scotland to be president in the history of Rotary. Rotary Images/Monika Lee



John Kenny, a member of the Rotary Club of Grangemouth, Central, Scotland, was elected as the 2009-10 president of Rotary International at the fourth plenary session of the RI Convention in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

In his acceptance remarks, Kenny expressed his gratitude for the support and encouragement that he and his wife, June, have received.

"We have come from a small country of five million people with three Rotary districts," he said, "and it is therefore a special honor to be the first Rotarian from Scotland to be president in the history of Rotary – and only the fifth from the British Isles."

Kenny reminded the audience that Rotary's connections with Scotland go back to the start, noting that Rotary founder Paul Harris's wife, Jean, was from Edinburgh, which in 1921 was also the location of the first Rotary convention to be held outside North America.

"I am conscious of the tradition of Rotary and that I am following in the footsteps of illustrious predecessors in the office of president," Kenny said in his remarks, "and I shall endeavor to uphold the dignity of the office to the best of my ability."

Rotarians responded with applause as he said, "I believe that high ethical standards in our business and private life are as important today as they were in the early days of Rotary."

"I am here today because someone invited me to become a member of the Rotary Club of Grangemouth, a club whose membership I have enjoyed for 37 years," he said. "Indeed, one of the things I shall miss these next two years is attending the meetings of my club each Thursday at lunchtime."

"Communications may make our world seem a smaller place, but there are still too many who are vulnerable, homeless, starving, even without hope," Kenny concluded. "With your help and dedication, I am sure we can try to help alleviate their plight. Do not let us fail to try."