

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

November is Rotary Foundation Month

- November 13 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
Zoltán Fehér, JD, Chief Creative Officer
Press and Media Attaché, Embassy of Hungary
Dr. Zoltán Fehér will provide an overview of the relationship between Hungary and the USA, the political and economic conditions in Hungary, and business, trade and tourism opportunities. Dr. Fehér will also share his perspective of an embassy official on the United States political system including having attended a national political convention.
- November 15 – Anti-Hunger Summit at BWI Ramada
Steve Naron speaking on the Manna Food Center
[See article below, “The Cupboards are Bare”]
- November 20 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
“Set America Free” – Anne Korin
- November 21 – 2pm - Dictionary Project at
Poolesville Elementary School
- November 25 – 2pm - Dictionary Project at
Bells Mill Elementary School
- November 27 – No meeting
- December 4 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
- December 10 – 6pm Feeding the Homeless
at Sophia House
- December 11 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
Hilltop Micro-finance Initiative
- December 18 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
- December 25 – No meeting

The Cupboards Are Bare By District Anti-Hunger Resource Committee Chair Joe Slett

Dear Fellow Rotarians,
The food banks and related agencies in our District are in dire need of our help. The shelves at the food banks are almost bare. We all know about the down turn in the economy, higher energy costs and related problems our country is experiencing. Unfortunately, these problems disproportionately hit the poor and compound the problems of persons who were already struggling to survive. The majority of the needy in the community are women and children. The Anti-Hunger
(continued on page 5)

The Power of Rotary by Governor Bette Lewis

You and I belong to one of the most powerful organizations in the World. When we wear this symbol, we are telling the World that we are human beings who place “Service Above Self” and live with integrity in our daily lives. We need to truly understand that with the power we have through Rotary comes a kind of potential that carries tremendous responsibility.



We are powerful because we have strength in our numbers – 1.2M Rotarians and growing. We operate in over 200 countries and principalities in the world. We are structured and organized around 532 Districts and almost 33,000 clubs. We have a network of volunteer man and now womanpower all over the world, enabling us to accomplish more than almost all other volunteer organizations.

We have made a difference in the lives of countless individuals, particularly children as we have all but eliminated a most dreadful disease that affects mostly children. We have immunized countless children against other preventable childhood diseases, as well. A conservative estimate is that over the past ten years alone Rotary has directly affected the lives of 20 to 30 million people. Then consider the ripple effect of two billion children having been immunized against polio. Think about that – we are 1.2 million strong out of a world population of 6 billion and we have protected one-third of the world’s population against childhood diseases.

We have won the respect of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, countless governments throughout the world, and now, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. We rank along with the Red Cross

Rotarians have requested a copy of the Governor’s Official Visit Speech presented at our club meeting on July 10. Governor Bette has just released the text of the speech and it is featured in this newsletter issue.

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in importance to the World, being the only other NGO to hold a seat at the United Nations. That, in itself, attests to the powerful organization to which you and I belong. However, I need to clarify what that means. Eighty per cent of the UN's work is Humanitarian and twenty percent is political. Rotary, of course, does not become involved in the political, but holds a seat on every panel discussing a humanitarian issue in which Rotary is involved. But hear this, on June 18, 2008 the Canadian government gave Rotary an unprecedented \$60M U.S. dollars to continue our fight against polio.

Twenty years ago, the World Health Assembly voted to eradicate polio. Four organizations have created the ideal partnership in this endeavor: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control, UNICEF and Rotary International. Rotarians have contributed tens of thousands of volunteer hours to this effort. The Rotary Foundation has already contributed \$700M. 500M people are walking today who have been saved from polio. In 2007, 1313 children developed polio. We have a moral imperative to stop this from happening. Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the CDC has challenged you to give \$1313 or donate 1313 minutes of your time to help raise \$1313 or speak 1313 words to motivate others. We can reach the number 0!

In the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." This brings me to the real **"Power of Rotary."**

In the words of our RI President, D. K. Lee, "the responsibility for successful service projects lies with each individual club." "How does each club come up with successful service projects?" This is where the true **"Power of Rotary"** begins." Not with the club itself, but

rather with the dream of an individual Rotarian. In the words of PRIP Bill Boyd, every successful Rotary project began with the dream of an individual Rotarian. This is what enables this year's theme "Make Dreams Real" to be so appropriate to what we do in Rotary throughout the World. Rotary began with the dream of an individual, Paul Harris.



The Four-Way Test was conceived by Herbert Taylor in 1932. The motto, "Service, Not Self" by Ben Collins was changed in 1987 by RIP Charles Keller to "Service Above Self." And, indeed, Rotary's finest hour began with the dream of D7620 Rotarian, Dr. John Sever, when The New Horizons Committee selected his proposal that Rotary should immunize

every child on earth against vaccine preventable diseases-by the end of the Century. His suggestion was modified slightly to "immunize all of the world's children against polio by the time of the 100th anniversary of Rotary International in the year 2005. The name would change to "PolioPlus" in support of a global health initiative to combat additional preventable diseases.



This dream of an individual Rotarian has affirmed the power of a 1.2m service organization that puts "Service Above Self!"

But in order to "Make Dreams Real" an individual Rotarian must have a dream, supported by a passion for achieving that dream and a club(s) who will support the dream, as well as, a District who will support the dream. The potential for outstanding service lies with every individual Rotarian in this room. The Basra Prosthesis Project began with the dream of Linda Smythe, supported by her club and 14 other clubs and agencies. Thirty-four International Projects sponsored by the Charlotte Hall Club were a response to Dr. Ila Shah's dream of many health initiatives to aid

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impoverished humanity in India. A coveted 3-H Grant to combat River Blindness in Tanzania was the dream of a Rotarian – of the Bonds Meadow Club. These are all merely some of the examples of the dreams of District 7620 Rotarians. Every club in the District has the potential to create an outstanding project to Make Dreams Real.

Rotarians need only realize how much untapped potential there is in the District and how much more we could achieve if we all focus together on our common goal, "Service Above Self."

Next year, the United States will lose two Districts – one will merge with another District in Canada and one will merge with one in Mexico. Last year, District 7620 lost three clubs. In North America, Rotary's very survival depends upon membership growth. An organization either grows or dies. This is especially true for clubs and a district. While District 7620 has been growing, some individual clubs have not and it is my responsibility as District Governor to help them grow. Rotary grows when we seek out qualified, committed members from all the sources we have at our fingertips to tap. This year, my dream is to sponsor a number of recruitment events throughout the district with multiple clubs participating.

Our aim will be to identify quality individuals in our communities who would make good Rotarians. We will invite those individuals to an event where leadership will inform about Rotary and give interested individuals an opportunity to join a Rotary club whose schedule and meeting venue meets their needs. The District will fund these events for the invitees. To reach my dream, we will grow as a district by 270 or more members! We have a top rated resource to help us "Make Dreams Real" - The Rotary Foundation. Annual giving is the cornerstone of the Foundation's funding efforts.



Annual Giving has been rising world wide in recent years as more and more Rotarians witness the results of how our money is spent. Our Foundation is top rated amongst other non-profits because our administrative costs are low – we are a fellowship of volunteers. Annual Giving provides the fuel for our common projects.

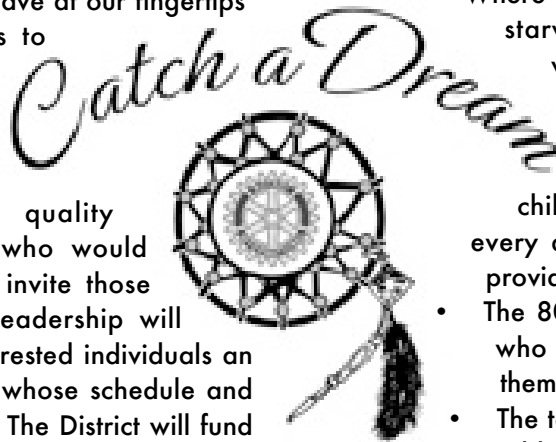
We are on the crest of eradicating polio everywhere. PolioPlus shall accomplish this within the next three – five years. This has been a massive moral challenge and we still need your support. This year I am asking you to "Catch a Dream" and meet our promise to the world to eradicate polio.

In the words of Robert Frost:

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.*

Who needs Rotary? There are millions of individuals who are waiting for the potential in all of us:

- Where there are the hollow, sunken eyes of a starving child and the soft sob of a weeping mother (**Hunger**);
- Where there is an orphan who lost his mother to AIDS;
- Where there are 26,000 children under the age of five who die every day from want for the things we can provide (**Health - Water**);
- The 800,000,000 people around the world who can neither read nor write, 64% of them women and girls (**Literacy**);
- The tens of thousands of people around the world who will suffer from a natural disaster;
- Business men and women who need to improve standards of conduct in their professions in all countries (**Ethics**);



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- Millions of people who still live with conflict and turmoil every day of their lives, greatly shortened by violence (**Peace**).

These are all issues Rotary can and is doing something about!

And what about our local communities?

Who needs Rotary in affluent Maryland?
(ranks 7th in nation)

A child:

- Is born into poverty every hour;
- Dies before his first birthday every 14 hours;
- Is abused or neglected every 31 minutes;
- Is killed by gunfire every 4 days.

A Maryland child needs Rotary!

Maryland is:

- 41st among states in infant mortality rate and;
- 20 % of preschoolers are not fully immunized;
- 67% of fourth graders read below grade level; and
- 62% of fourth graders are working below grade level in math.

Someone in this room has the potential to fulfill a dream to do something about these horrific statistics.

Who needs Rotary? Maryland needs Rotary! We need to let Marylanders know what Rotary is doing in Maryland to improve these issues!

Peace is possible. Rotarians all share this goal around the world. Europe is celebrating 50 years of near peace. Imagine, if you will, a day of tranquility brokered by Rotarians, working together as no one could have ever imagined. Our Peace Centers have graduated over three hundred fellows who will disperse to various regions of the world. Rotary is powerful because we can do so much

with the networks we establish. Our strength lies in these connections, in being able to ask each other for help, in forming partnerships with other clubs, to give help when it is needed. This is why we can achieve great things on a large scale. The **Power of Rotary** must be harnessed together to be effective. If every club or every district goes in its own direction, we would lessen our power.

From the words of John Lennon:

*"You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one"*

Who needs Rotary? You and I need Rotary. Because we are Rotarians, we care about humanity. We harness our collective power to "Make Dreams Real!"

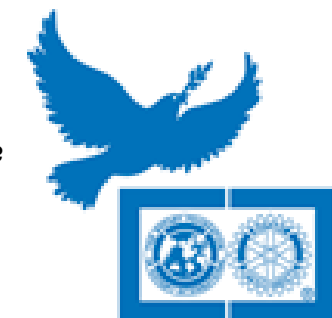
The District would be nothing without the efforts of the individual clubs and their projects. But a club would be nothing without the talent, dedication, resources, commitment and energy that each club member brings to the collective group!

Ladies and gentlemen, you, as individual Rotarians are the **Power of Rotary**.

I end this official visit by saying ,

*"I thank you for all the good you have done;
I thank you for all the good you are doing; and,
I thank you for all the good you will do in the future, because you are Rotarians who place Service Above Self!"*

(See page 5 for statistics on DC children)



**Please send news articles and photos to
Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov
for inclusion in the newsletter**

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What about children in the District of Columbia?

- a child is abused or neglected every 3 hours;
- a child is born into poverty every 4 hours;
- a child dies before his first birthday every 5 days;
- a child is killed by gunfire every 2 weeks;
- DC ranks 47th among states in the % of babies born to mothers who received prenatal care;
- DC ranks 50 among states in % of babies born with low birth rate; and
- DC ranks 51st among states in the % of children who are poor (33.9%) (worst state in the country).

(from the Children's Defense Fund)

The Cupboards Are Bare

(continued from page 1)

Resource Committee hopes that each club will try to undertake projects this year to help alleviate these. The Committee will run specific campaigns this year just before Thanksgiving and during the month of March to encourage clubs to give support for the needy in their communities. There are also plans for a food collection program for the RYLA participants. (Last year it was a big success!)

On November 15, 2008, there are plans to hold our second annual Anti-Hunger Mini Summit at the BWI Ramada Inn. Emphasis this year will be on the needs of our local food banks and related organization. We are also planning to have several presentations from clubs in the District about their projects to help the hunger. This will be under a best practices format. If your club is doing something innovative, please contact us to receive consideration for placement on the program. Please also plan to attend the summit and bring your friends.

The Anti-Hunger Resource Committee is always standing by to help the clubs develop projects. Our committee members have significant experience in this area and are always willing to help. We can also arrange speakers for your club from local food banks, help you arrange tours of the various facilities and make suggestions for various fundraisers. Remember that the District has a matching grant program that can help your club magnify the impact of your club's anti-hunger projects.

Last year, the committee started a data base to compile the various anti-hunger activities undertaken by our clubs. It is very impressive when you look at the efforts of our clubs in a cumulative manner. It also helps to share ideas between our clubs and to promote best practices. We are asking each club to keep us informed as to their anti-hunger activities to be added to this database.

To contact the District Anti-Hunger Resource Committee, please either email Chairperson Joe Slert at JoeOsFan@verizon.net or call him at 1-301-725-2928. He will refer you to the proper committee member. Please remember that your help is badly needed!

Give us your best shot

27 October 2008 – Rotary International News

Do you have a great shot from a fundraiser, international project, the RI Convention, or local club event? The deadline for The Rotarian's annual photo contest is 28 February, and we're looking for anything that illustrates Service Above Self.

In addition, Rotarians will be able to vote for their favorite photo in the People's Choice Award category. Online voting will open 15 April and run through 15 May. So submit your photos now, and tell your friends and fellow club members to visit the Web site starting in April to cast their votes!



Richard S. Lawrence won the 2007-08 contest by taking a picture of a boy inspecting a cup of water at a project in Guatemala in which 11 clubs in District 7890 raised more than US\$24,000 to provide water filters, vented pit latrines, and raised vented stoves for 52 families.