

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

January 29 – 6:30pm Meeting –Hunters Inn

President Todd Nitkin

Medical Teams International - Trip to Liberia

February 5 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

Christine Clapp, Founder, Spoken with Authority

February 10 – 7pm Manna Food Center

February 12 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

February 14 – 8am to Noon - Water Mini-Summit

4-H Center, University of Maryland

Speaker: Paul Faeth, CEO, Global Water Challenge

February 19 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

District Governor Elect Paul Frey

February 26 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

March 14 –8am Literacy Mini-Summit -Rockville Library

March 25 – 11:30am - Rotary Day at Gallaudet Univ.

March 30 – Rotary Foundation Dinner – Greenbelt

April 18 – 8am District Assembly - Holiday Inn, Laurel

April 25 – 6:30 pm Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club

International Night at the Austrian Embassy

January 22 Meeting Report

Assistant Governor Barry Thompson congratulated Potomac-Bethesda Rotary as being up-to-date on its responsibilities including dues payments. He announced a number of upcoming events including the President Elect Training Seminar near Richmond on March 6-7, a Mini-Summit on Literacy on March 14 in Rockville, a Rotary Foundation Dinner on March 30 in Greenbelt, the District Conference cruise to Bermuda May 9-14 and the District Assembly, Four-Way Test Speech Luncheon, and Group Study Exchange Presentation on April 18 in Laurel. President Todd Nitkin announced that the annual Rotary Day at Gallaudet University will be on March 25. Caesar Kavadoy mentioned that



May 2007 that we wouldn't see a recession in the next two years. If one thinks that we are looking at a scenario similar to the Japanese, then a CD would work well. Real estate and gold were suggested as hedges against inflation. Preceding happy dollar



collection, Art Blitz told a humorous story about investing.



In This Issue: Bill Gates Donates \$255M to Rotary International for Polio Eradication



vacationing Alan Grant just visited Caesar's hometown of Trujillo, Peru.

Guest speaker Michael Zhuang put today's economic climate in perspective as he compared with other countries. He said that the Japanese economy peaked in 1989 and now is at a level of 20% of

what it was at its height. Comparatively we are less than half way through the Japanese decline with the best case forecast for a typical recession of 16 months.

The Japanese government didn't go into debt and the recession lasted much longer. Here the Federal Reserve likes to print money that can result in serious inflation a few years down the road. Michael gave "3-D" investment advice: Dividend, Diversification and Discipline.



Recalling the Great Depression, he said that the Dow lost 87% of value from October 1929 to May 1932. The next time the Dow was at the October 1929 level was not until 1954, 25 years later. If one reinvested

stock dividends then, one could have covered all their losses by 1945. If one had invested in the top 30% dividend-paying stocks they could have recovered their losses in three years, eight months. Michael emphasized diversification since we really don't know the future. He quoted the Fed saying in

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Bill Gates announces a new US\$255 million grant for ending polio at the 2009 International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska-Lee

Joint Letter About Polio From The RI President And Foundation Chair

Rotary International News – 21 January 2009

Dear fellow Rotarians,

This is another historic day for Rotary. Our organization was honored today to host philanthropist Bill Gates Jr. at Rotary's International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

Speaking to 2009-10 district governors-elect, Gates congratulated Rotarians on the success of the partnership between Rotary International and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to raise funds for polio. To date, Rotarians have already committed more than US\$60 million toward the \$100 million Gates Foundation challenge grant awarded in November 2007.

In recognition of Rotary's impressive fundraising success and steadfast commitment to polio eradication, Gates announced that his foundation has decided to increase its challenge grant by \$255 million – for a total of \$355 million. By accepting the increase, Rotary also accepts the challenge to raise an additional \$100 million in matching funds by 30 June 2012 and raises the combined Rotary-Gates Foundation commitment to a total of \$555 million.

All of the resulting \$555 million will be spent in support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in polio-affected countries. The initiative is spearheaded by Rotary, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

In another welcomed development today, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development pledged £100 million (US\$150 million) and the German government is giving an additional €100 million (US\$130 million), both to the global initiative. These contributions are separate and will not count toward Rotary's match of the Gates Foundation challenge grant.

The infusion of funds is crucial if the world is to finally be rid of polio, a crippling, sometimes fatal disease that poses the highest risk to children. Although the initiative has reduced the number of polio cases by 99 percent over the past two decades, the wild poliovirus still persists in four countries – Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan – and imported cases from these endemic countries threaten other developing nations.

Your continued participation in this effort is vital. The Rotary International Board of Directors and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation have unanimously agreed to accept this challenge grant to ensure the success of the PolioPlus program. Rotary and the Gates Foundation intend for their funding partnership to set an example for the rest of the world. We feel confident that this extraordinary partnership will serve as a catalyst for further donations from others to help us realize the dream of a polio-free world.

When Rotary entered the fight against polio in 1985, we promised every child a world free from the threat of polio. We are almost there. This funding agreement between Rotary and the Gates Foundation is a huge step forward, bringing us even closer to our goal. Success is our only option. Together, we can End Polio Now. For more information, please visit www.rotary.org.

Dong Kurn Lee
Rotary International, President 2008-09
Jonathan Majiyagbe
The Rotary Foundation, Chair 2008-09

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Bill Gates Announces New US\$255 Million Grant For Ending Polio

By Arnold Grahl and Dan Nixon RI News - 21 January 2009

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded US\$255 million to Rotary International in the global effort to eradicate polio, bringing the total committed by Rotary and the Gates Foundation to \$555 million.

Shortly after meeting with incoming district governors from the four countries where the wild poliovirus is endemic – Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan – Bill Gates announced the new grant on Wednesday morning at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

"Rotarians, government leaders, and health professionals have made a phenomenal commitment to get us to a point at which polio afflicts only a small number of the world's children," Gates said. "However, complete elimination of the poliovirus is difficult and will continue to be difficult for a number of years. Rotary in particular has inspired my own personal commitment to get deeply involved in achieving eradication."

"We are going to end polio now," affirmed Robert S. Scott, chair of RI's International PolioPlus Committee.

In response to the new \$255 million Gates Foundation grant, Rotary will raise \$100 million in matching funds. In November 2007, RI received a \$100 million Gates Foundation grant, which Rotary committed to match by raising \$100 million.

The two Gates Foundation challenge grants now total \$355 million. Rotary International's matching effort in response is called Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, which must be completed by 30 June 2012.

The \$255 million grant is one of the largest challenge grants ever given by the Gates Foundation and the largest received by Rotary in its 104-year history. Rotary will spend the grant in direct support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which is spearheaded by RI and its partners, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. Rotary will distribute the funds through grants to WHO and UNICEF.



The participation of Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians in Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge remains crucial to its success. Rotary has raised nearly \$73 million toward this amount: \$62 million in contributions and \$11 million in commitments. Each club is being challenged to organize a public fundraiser annually for the next three years. In October, The Rotary Foundation Trustees approved special Paul Harris Fellow Recognition, which begins 1 July, featuring a certificate with the End Polio Now logo.

Polio eradication has been Rotary's top priority since 1985, with more than \$1.2 billion contributed to the

effort. Gates praised Rotary for providing the volunteers, advocates, and donors who have helped bring about a 99 percent decline in the number of polio cases. "The world would not be where it is without Rotary, and it won't get where it needs to go without Rotary," he said.

The final hurdle still is ahead, said RI President-elect John Kenny. This grant shows that the Gates Foundation is just as committed as Rotary to ridding the world of this disease, he said.

Gates also shared with the incoming district governors and Rotary leaders a story from his trip to India in November, when he held a nine-month-old girl afflicted with polio in his arms in a slum in East Delhi.

"She obviously didn't understand why people were poking her legs and looking so serious. But she'll never be able to kick a ball around, never be able to play hide-and-seek with her friends, because she has polio," Gates said. "As I held Hashmin, I thought, We can end this."

"We don't know exactly when the last child will be affected. But we do have the vaccines to wipe it out," he said. "Countries do have the will to deploy all the tools at their disposal. If we all have the fortitude to see this effort through to the end, then we will eradicate polio."

In addition, the governments of the United Kingdom and Germany announced they have respectively committed \$150 million and \$130 million to eradicate polio, which will not count toward Rotary's challenge.

Government support is key to polio eradication efforts, said Scott.

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Governor-elect Lalit Shrima of District 3040 (India) talks with Bill Gates during a private meeting held at the 2009 International Assembly. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson



Announcing a new US\$255 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for polio eradication are Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair-elect Glenn E. Estess Sr., Trustee Chair Jonathan Majiyagbe, RI President Dong Kurn Lee, Bill Gates, RI President-elect John Kenny, and International PolioPlus Chair Robert S. Scott. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska-Lee

Rotary is looking for men/women in a variety of professions – just a few vocations are listed below:

Small Business Owners; Physicians; Insurance brokers/agents; Pharmacists; Optician; Banking and Wealth Management; Journalist/writers

**Rotary Shares by
Growing Rotary Membership!**

Membership The Key To A Strong Rotary

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 20 January 2009

The future of Rotary depends on increasing and retaining members, RI President Dong Kurn Lee told incoming district governors on Monday at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

Lee noted that while the world's need for service is growing, Rotary membership is not keeping pace. In fact, while the world's population is growing, membership is remaining stable.

Lee made his remarks as he outlined RI President-elect John Kenny's membership goals for 2009-10. Earlier in the day, Kenny said he would ask the new district governors to see to it that there are more members at the end of the year than at the beginning and to mentor those new members.

Lee built on that message, saying the president-elect challenges the incoming district governors to work on a minimum net membership increase of one member per club, to maintain a retention rate of 80 percent, and to add at least one new club per district.

Lee noted that diversity is the key to membership growth.

"We must reach out to people who are different from us and from the members in our club," Lee said, "because this is the way to a stronger club, with more connections and better potential."

Lee also asked Rotarians to increase the percentage of qualified women and professionals under the age of 50, to bring in at least one alumnus or alumna of Rotary International or Rotary Foundation programs, and to work to increase the diversity of membership in all clubs.



RI President Dong Kurn Lee tells incoming district governors that the future of Rotary depends on increasing membership. Alyce Henson/Rotary Images

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Lee stressed, as Kenny had earlier in the day, that retention is as important as recruitment. "New members do not benefit Rotary unless they stay," he said.

"I know that with your help, we can increase Rotary's membership," Lee said. "With your help, we can Make Dreams Real today and tomorrow. **The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands.**"

Governor-elect Ken Oakes from District 5510 (Arizona, USA) was looking forward to the challenge of keeping Rotarians interested in staying involved with their club. Oakes said member retention would be the focus of his year as governor, adding that the key to making people want to stay is planning activities, like parades and social events, that keep Rotary fun.



RI President-elect John Kenny and his wife, June, wave to the crowd during the opening plenary session of the 2009 International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

Emphases Build On Rotary's Success

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 20 January 2009

If Rotary is to stay relevant in the 21st century, it must work to improve access to clean water, combat hunger, and expand literacy.

RI President-elect John Kenny set that challenge in front of incoming district governors on Monday, as he rolled out his 2009-10 presidential emphases, noting that **The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands.**

Kenny stressed that while clubs are the backbone of Rotary, emphases help coordinate the many individual efforts, encouraging clubs to direct their work in the

areas where the organization has seen the greatest need and where there has been the greatest benefit.

"We also strive for continuity of service, so that we many continue to go from strength to strength," Kenny said. "In [2009-10], I will ask Rotarians everywhere to continue to learn from our experiences and to build upon our successes. I ask you all to continue to work for the health and well-being of not only children but their families and people everywhere."

Access to clean water

Kenny set water as his first emphasis because "it is the necessity of every man, woman, and child. We could, I suppose, all live without oil, but we can none of us live without water."

Health and hunger

Kenny described health and hunger as the tent within which much of Rotary's service dwells. Rotarians who work in the area of health and hunger are also working toward peace.

"How can there be peace in the world when so many will try to sleep tonight without having eaten today?" Kenny asked incoming governors, assembled for the annual International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

Literacy

Literacy rounds out Kenny's emphases. "In the words of Nelson Mandela, 'no country can succeed if its future leaders are not educated,' " he said.

"Whether Rotary will thrive or falter, whether our service will mean much to many or little to few, whether Rotary is known with respect or seen as a relic of days gone by – all this is up to you," Kenny said. **"The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands."**

Timothy Buckley, governor-elect from District 5870 (Texas, USA), said the emphases give the new class of district governors a good direction to follow. "We need to strengthen Rotary in order to help others," he said.

*Please send news articles and photos
to Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov
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