

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

September 24 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Claude Suréna, M.D.

Dr. Surena is a respected member of the Haitian medical community known for his expertise in Disaster Management and informatics and comes highly recommended by brother Rotarian and Haitian Ambassador Fritz Cineas. Dr. Surena's numerous accomplishments include having been twice President of the Petion-ville, Haiti, Rotary Club, twice President of the Haitian Medical Association, and Chief of Staff, Haiti Ministry of Health and Population, along with having been Medical Director of the Hopital Materno Infantil - Hope Hospital, Delmas, Haiti. Moreover, he has made major contributions in the areas of Disaster Management, Child & Maternal Health, Polio Eradication, and AIDS & TB intervention, to name just a few. In the process, he has engaged in health promotion & research activities with IDB, WB, USAID, WHO/PAHO, UNICEF, and FNUAP.

September 26 - 9am to noon Membership Seminar -
8am to 9am - Free Full Breakfast
Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg
620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, MD
RSVP to rotary@district7620.org

October 1 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
John Kneiss Director, Government Affairs
& U.S. Policy Services, Hart Energy Consulting:
"Politics and Technologies of Oil and Gas"

October 3 - Super Summit Day
Health, Hunger, Literacy and Water
8:30am to 12:30pm Breakfast Cost: \$20
Register Online at Rotary7620.org by September 27
Holiday Inn Laurel-West 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707

October 8 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Governor Paul Frey
District Governor's Official Club Visit
October 10 - Rotary Leadership Institute
First Baptist Church, 7040 Bowers Road, Frederick
Cost: \$95 - Register Online at rlinea.org

October 13 - 7pm Manna Food Center
at the new location:
9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg
October 15 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
October 22 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
October 24 - 10:30am - Potomac Day
October 29 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
November 5 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
November 7 - Rotary Foundation Training Seminar
7:30am to 2:00pm
Holiday Inn Laurel-West 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707

Special Event This Thursday...

Distinguished Rotarian Visitor From Haiti

By President Noel Howard

Claude Suréna, M.D. will make a special presentation to the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club at this Thursday's (24 September 2009) 6:30 p.m. Dinner Meeting at



Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Rd, Potomac. Dr. Surena is a respected member of the Haitian medical community

known for his expertise in Disaster Management and informatics and comes highly recommended by brother Rotarian and Haitian Ambassador Fritz Cineas. Dr. Surena's numerous accomplishments include having been twice President of the Petion-ville, Haiti, Rotary Club, twice President of the Haitian Medical Association, and Chief of Staff, Haiti Ministry of Health and Population, along with having been Medical Director of the Hopital Materno Infantil - Hope Hospital, Delmas, Haiti. Moreover, he has made major contributions in the areas of Disaster Management, Child & Maternal Health, Polio Eradication, and AIDS & TB intervention, to name just a few. In the process, he has engaged in health promotion & research activities with IDB, WB, USAID, WHO/PAHO, UNICEF, and FNUAP. In view of the special interest of both our Club and Rotary in general in Haiti, we are excited at the prospect of Dr. Surena's visit.



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Push To End Polio Gains Ground

By Dan Nixon RI News – 16 September 2009

Rotarians go door to door to immunize children in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, one of the last remaining reservoirs of polio in India. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

Although the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has faced sobering challenges in the past year, officials say it is moving forward in key political, technical, financial, and operational areas.

Stepped-up efforts to end the disease in the four endemic countries -- Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan -- are paying off, they say.

"Rotary International has played an extraordinarily special role [in the GPEI], not just as one of the initiators but in bringing financial resources, political advocacy, and volunteerism on the ground to getting the job done," said Dr. Bruce Aylward, director of the GPEI at the World Health Organization, speaking to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., in June.

Aylward said that all levels of government in the four countries are committing unprecedented support for the polio eradication effort by monitoring the performance of immunization activities and holding local authorities accountable for the results.

According to WHO, the incidence of polio in India in 2009 has dropped by 28 percent to 284 cases as of 8 September, compared with 397 cases over the same period a year ago. Monthly immunization campaigns in the highest-risk areas have reduced wild poliovirus type 1 -- the more dangerous of the two remaining strains -- to record lows. Type 1 causes paralysis in about 1 out of every 200 children infected, versus 1 out of every 1,000 children with type 3.

In Nigeria, the incidence of polio has decreased by 41 percent to 379 cases, from 646 cases a year ago. By early 2009, the proportion of unimmunized children in the highest-risk states had fallen below 10 percent for the first time.



Unrest along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border has resulted in a slight increase in the number of cases in both countries in the past year. Between large-scale immunization campaigns, however, teams have exploited lulls in the conflict to enter normally inaccessible areas and give children an additional dose of vaccine. In Afghanistan, the wild poliovirus is endemic only in the south, and about 80 percent of children live in polio-free areas.

Rotarians in Pakistan have encouraged the national government to give strong support to ending polio. In early 2009, Pakistan launched the Prime Minister's Action Plan for Polio Eradication. On behalf of Rotary International in August, International PolioPlus Committee Chair Robert S. Scott recognized Pakistan's president, Asif Ali Zardari, with a Polio Eradication Champion Award for his outstanding support for a polio-free world. [Read more](#)

A new vaccine will be introduced in India as early as November to help stop the transmission of the type 1 and type 3 wild polioviruses. (Type 2 has been eradicated globally except in Nigeria.) This bivalent vaccine, health officials believe, will multiply the gains made during the past year toward eradicating polio. Intended to complement, not replace, monovalent and trivalent vaccines already in use, the bivalent vaccine will also be considered for Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Worldwide, the number of polio cases has dropped from more than 350,000 in 1988, when the GPEI began, to 1,651 in 2008.

"This is a great improvement from the worst days of polio epidemics," said Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Glenn E. Estess Sr. "But it is not good enough, and it will not be good enough until the number is zero. We cannot pause or slacken our efforts."

Global health experts are calling the push to end polio "the final inch," in light of the remaining 1 percent of cases that are the most difficult and expensive to prevent. Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, which ends 30 June 2012, is seen as crucial to the initiative's success.

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Pedaling Health Care

By Nicole Charky Rotary Canada – October 2009

A volunteer checks tire pressure during a maintenance session. Photo courtesy BEN Namibia

Eight Namibian men walk through the desert. Four of them carry an injured person on a stretcher.

The other four walk alongside and wait until the first four get tired. They switch off, hoisting the person and continuing along the unpaved ground.

This is the way people in rural Namibia usually reach a hospital. Kilometres from the nearest health care facility, villagers living with HIV/AIDS often miss their treatments because they have neither transportation nor enough income to charter private vehicles.

But today, Namibians are getting an opportunity to reach clinics from the most isolated places – and a better chance at survival – because of bicycle ambulances.

The Bicycling Empowerment Network (BEN) Namibia is a nonprofit organization that started out providing bicycles as transportation. It launched a bicycle ambulance project after noticing that health care workers used their bikes' luggage racks to transport patients to hospitals and clinics.

To bring bike ambulances to the country, the organization looked to the Rotary Club of Windhoek, Namibia, for support and adopted a design from Canadian Niki Dun. Dun, cofounder and director of Design for Development, a Vancouver-based charity, had come up with an innovative concept: a bicycle that could tow an adjustable stretcher, already being used in Malawi, South Africa, and Zambia.

Chris Offer, a member of the Rotary Club of Vancouver Chinatown, B.C., became involved after he read a newspaper article about an award Dun had received from the Canadian government for her design work. Offer wanted to learn more and to see if he could help. They were in sync: She needed funds to support the project in Namibia, and he could help raise them.

Now, more than 70 bicycle ambulances are serving remote villages with support from the Vancouver



Chinatown and Windhoek clubs and the Rotary Club of Port Moody, B.C., in partnership with Design for Development.

The ambulances are often the only option for transporting impoverished people with afflictions ranging from HIV/AIDS-related illnesses to scorpion bites. BEN Namibia has found that the bikes usually best serve areas within 10 kilometres of a health clinic.

"It means the difference between getting to a clinic and a hospital or not," Offer said. "It means being carried on someone's back when you're injured or pregnant, being carried in a stretcher by a group, versus one person being able to transport somebody. That's the difference."

Exclusive Offers On Simple Web Meeting Tools

Rotary International News – 23 September 2009

Rotary International has formed a partnership with Citrix Online, a leading provider of easy-to-use Web conferencing products. Through this partnership, members will have access to exclusive offers on GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar, two easy-to-use, cost-effective tools for conducting online meetings.

GoToMeeting allows presenters to share their computer screen with up to 15 meeting attendees. Users can change presenters and exchange keyboard and mouse control during the meeting. Unlimited meetings with VoIP and phone conferencing are available for one flat rate.

GoToWebinar provides an easy way to create, present, and even record online presentations for audiences of up to 1000 people. It allows users to disseminate information quickly without the hassle and costs of travel.

Districts, clubs, and Rotarians are all eligible for 60-day free trials of GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar and a 15 percent discount on both tools.

Using these products, Rotarians can easily collaborate on projects over the Web, hold Web-based fundraising events and virtual press conferences, and provide cost-effective and convenient member and leadership training.

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Message from the RI President

My fellow Rotarians:

There are many service organizations in the world today, but none so old or so successful as Rotary. There are many reasons for that, and Vocational Service is one of them. This year, I wish you to place a special emphasis on Vocational Service, which is sometimes the forgotten Avenue of Service in Rotary.

High ethical standards in business and personal life are still as important today as they were in 1905. Indeed, many of the problems our world is facing today have been caused by the failure to observe such standards in business affairs.

Vocational Service, in Rotary, means that we are committed to honest business and unassailable ethics, and that we are equally committed to using our vocational skills and advantages to help others. The idea is simple enough – but it is unique to Rotary.

Many service organizations are open to anyone who wishes to join. That has never been the case in Rotary. Rotarians only seek out as members those who are qualified – those who have the character, the ability, and the resolve to make a real contribution to their club.

I have long believed that the bedrock of Rotary is our commitment to ethical behavior. It has been putting what's right above what's convenient – and Service Above Self – that has made Rotary different from the rest. That is why we must always remember that whatever we do, we are each the public face of Rotary. We are each the standard-bearers of our organization. What one member does, for good or for ill, reflects on all of us.

So much of what we've achieved as an organization has come about because of the trust the world has in Rotary and in Rotarians. That trust has been a major part of our success in polio eradication – the fact that we are known in every community, and known to be people of goodwill and good hearts.

If we wish to see our organization grow and prosper, we must keep Vocational Service front and center in our minds and actions. We must seek out skilled and determined men and women of character. We must do what is right, even when it is inconvenient. And we must always, always, put Service Above Self.

Kenny Establishes Membership Goals

Rotary International News – 17 September 2009

RI President John Kenny (middle) has established his membership goals. Districts that achieve these goals can earn a certificate signed by Kenny.
Rotary Images/Alyce Henson



Clubs can earn a certificate signed by RI President John Kenny by meeting his membership goals for 2009-10.

The top 10 clubs and top 10 districts, as determined by RI, will also be acknowledged onstage at the 2010 convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

To meet Kenny's membership goals, clubs need to achieve the following:

- ⇒ A minimum net increase of one member
- ⇒ A minimum retention rate of 80 percent and two of the items below:
- ⇒ Increased percentage of qualified women
- ⇒ Increased percentage of qualified younger professionals (under age 50)
- ⇒ Induction of at least one RI or Rotary Foundation program alumna/alumnus
- ⇒ Increased diversity of membership (e.g., classification, gender, age, ethnicity)
- ⇒ Achievement of club goals will be certified by the district governor.

Clubs should submit their results to their district governor by 15 May. Districts should certify the results and submit them to RI, along with their district results, by 22 May. Certification forms will be available on www.rotary.org at a later date.

All clubs and districts that reach these membership goals will receive a certificate signed by Kenny. From this pool, RI will determine the top 10 clubs and top 10 districts (not more than one club or one district per zone) showing the highest percentage net increase in membership, to be acknowledged onstage at the Montréal convention.