

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

April 22 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
April 22 - 25 - DisCon 2010 Gettysburg, PA
April 29 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
May 6 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
May 11 - 7pm - Manna Food Center
May 13 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
May 20 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
May 27 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
June 3 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
June 8 - 7pm - Manna Food Center
June 10 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
June 17 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
June 28 - 6pm - District Governor Installation
Howard Community College

April 15 Meeting Report

President Noel Howard brought good news on the status of Alan Cookson stating that the back surgery was successful and leg pain has disappeared but he is



in considerable discomfort. President Noel announced openings at Sophia House on June 29 and August 31.

Chinyere Amaefule is the representative from our club to the new Rotaract Club at Georgetown University and received a check from the club for the RI chartering fee. Nabil Bedewi is the faculty advisor for the Rotaract Club. There will be a special article in next week's Potomac-



Bethesda newsletter on the chartering of the new club. We welcomed back Lou Fettig who had been away in Florida. Since we have previously used the Polish embassy for an International Night program, Caesar Kavadoy suggested that the club send a letter of sympathy at this time of tragedy for Poland. Bob Nelson was appointed the Voting Delegate for the District Conference. Steve Naron continued his very interesting discussion on technology.



Earlier in the afternoon he had easily downloaded new software to his mobile phone that allows him to use the phone to access the

internet at the club meeting and was projecting websites live from the internet. He has subscriptions to a number of online news sources including the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* and finds it very convenient to read newspapers online in the morning while he is riding his exercise bicycle. We said farewell to Steve who is returning to Florida following the District Conference.



**In Next Week's Newsletter:
Rotaract Club Chartered at Georgetown
University by Potomac-Bethesda Rotary**

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

April 22, 2010 - Page 1

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Message from RI President John Kenny May 2010

My fellow Rotarians,
Shortly after the earthquake hit Haiti in January, Rotarians began making phone calls and sending e-mails to discuss how they could help. When Rotary International posted its first story on Rotary's immediate relief efforts, Rotarians took this discussion online. The very first comment about the story expressed what so many Rotarians were thinking: "If they begin sending Rotarians over to help in any way, please let me know if I can help."



This plea was multiplied over the following days on Rotary's website and our social media pages. Rotarians also reported what they were doing: collecting thousands of dollars to fund ShelterBoxes and Aquaboxes, contributing to Rotary's Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, and organizing ways to transport food, supplies, and medical personnel to the devastated country.

On the ground in and around Haiti, Rotarians were also busy. Local Rotarians helped distribute the ShelterBoxes to some of those left homeless. Rotarian Claude Surena, a physician, took 100 injured earthquake victims into his home, which he managed to turn into a makeshift hospital despite the damage it had sustained. District 7020 established a relief fund, flew in planes loaded with medical supplies, and strategized to provide assistance in the weeks following the disaster.

And it is in those weeks – and months and even years – that Rotary can make its greatest contribution. Rotary is not a disaster relief agency, but we are very good at long-term recovery. After all the media attention dies down, Rotary will still be there on the ground – in Haiti's case, with 17 local clubs and thousands of willing partner clubs. If Rotary's recovery efforts in Bangladesh, Honduras, Indonesia, and countless other

countries are any indication, Rotarians will be in Haiti long after public interest has faded and the media have moved on.

In this month's *Global Outlook*, you can learn more about Rotary's success in helping communities and countries rebuild after a disaster – not only replacing what was lost but making it better as well. The Rotarian passion for helping those in need, combined with our perseverance and grassroots presence, will continue to bring hope to those whose lives have been torn apart by disaster.

Our response to the tragedy in Haiti manifests Rotary's concern and desire to help those less fortunate and offers evidence of what Rotary does best: give service. Thank you all for what you are doing.

Rotary Identifies Long-Term Needs In Haiti By Ryan Hyland RI News – 6 April 2010



Haitian children gather outside a tent in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. Providing shelter that can withstand severe weather has become a priority of recovery efforts as the hurricane season approaches. Photo courtesy of District 4060

Rotarians in Haiti are laying the groundwork for the next phase of the recovery process: sustainable restoration projects that will enable long-term rehabilitation to begin.

The Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, a donor advised fund set up by The Rotary Foundation, has raised

US\$1.3 million to help rebuild the country's infrastructure, which was shattered by the 12 January earthquake that killed up to 300,000 people and left 1.2 million more homeless.

"We are now at the crossroads as we move from immediate relief mode to sustainable development," says Past RI Director Barry Rassin, an account holder for the fund. "What is important is that we work with the needs defined by Haiti and always keep in mind

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

April 22, 2010 - Page 2

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

that our help should strengthen their economy and not detract from it."

District 7020, which includes Haiti, has flown more than 100 planes filled with medical equipment, food, water, clothes, toys, and tents into the cities of Pignon and Port-de-Paix. The district's own account for recovery efforts has reached \$400,000, which will be used for sustainable restoration projects.

While the Haiti Task Force overseeing recovery efforts is still formulating long-term plans, committee members have identified three areas of major need: rebuilding schools, providing prosthetic limbs to amputees, and equipping thousands with adequate shelter before the rainy season arrives.

The 17 Rotary clubs in Haiti are developing a plan to restore at least one school back to operating capacity with desks, books, supplies, and other necessities. Schools are a priority because in addition to educating children, they provide at least one meal a day and help keep the students occupied and out of tent cities.

The need for prosthetics is also great. An estimated 4,000 people have undergone amputations from earthquake-related injuries and require prosthetic limbs. District 7020 appointed a committee to coordinate with organizations interested in helping to provide prosthetics. The district is looking to set up three clinics at an estimated \$50,000 each.

With the hurricane season approaching, district leaders have also appointed a committee to investigate appropriate ways to provide shelter than can withstand storms and earthquakes. The district has considered creating villages that would have all the necessary infrastructure, including water, sanitation facilities, and a clinic, school, and community center.

District leaders say they will provide more information to clubs and districts about how they can work with the donor advised fund as soon as specific details of the recovery plan are approved by the Haiti Task Force and cleared with the Haitian government. Those interested in applying for a grant from the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund should complete a grant application form, which will be available on the District 7020 website.

Rotarians Make Good Use Of Social Media

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 16 April 2010



The Palais des congrès de Montréal will be the site of breakout sessions and the House of Friendship during the 2010 RI Convention. LinkedIn members are using social media to locate other Rotarians planning on attending the convention. Marc Cramer/Palais des congrès de Montréal

Worldwide, Rotarians are finding ways to use social media to build fellowship and get new ideas about running their clubs.

Some Rotarians have begun using Rotary International's official LinkedIn group to identify other Rotarians who are planning to attend the RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada, 20-23 June. Keith Tsukishima, a member of the Rotary Club of Richmond, B.C., will be going to his fifth RI Convention this year. Tsukishima recently asked other members of the LinkedIn group whether they would be attending, and more than 50 people responded.

"Rotarians communicating – whether on social networking sites, or face to face, or at their meetings – is like glue," Tsukishima says. "Sharing Rotary with others fosters more interest and promotes the diversity of this amazing organization."

He says he is looking forward to the convention as a chance to meet new friends and discover opportunities in Rotary. He is encouraged by the effectiveness of social media.

"Perhaps we are all trying to find more commonalities and want to belong to something meaningful," he says. "Meeting all these folks online puts faces and personalities into the picture. No longer are we just 1 of 1.2 million Rotarians. These are real people, with real ideas, real and sometimes different thoughts. These discussion groups cross age barriers, geographic barriers, gender barriers, and cultural barriers."

Dave Getz, a member of the Rotary Club of Mechanicsburg-North, Pennsylvania, USA, will be attending his second convention. He also went to the 2007 RI Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

"One thing I have enjoyed about Rotary is the opportunity to meet other Rotarians," he says. "Meeting those with whom I share something in common, whether it be the fellowship of musicians or a LinkedIn group or someone who shares my classification, enhances my Rotary experience."

Getz says the LinkedIn group has helped him this year in his role as club membership chair. He received valuable insights from group members on induction ceremonies, including one idea from a Ukrainian Rotarian. "We are hosting an exchange student from Ukraine this year, which made that especially meaningful," he says.

John Fortney, of the Rotary Club of Toronto, will be going to his seventh convention in eight years. He says more than 80 members of his club, as well as Rotaractors, are planning to attend. He is most looking forward to the fellowship, and he has some advice for fellow Rotarians on what to do: "If any of you are going to the province of Québec for the first time, treat yourselves to a side trip to Québec City. It is the only walled city in North America and is over 400 years old. You will swear you are in Europe."

New Generation Lifts Up The Next By Maureen Vaught RI News

Central club service chair Candy Ma (left) joins a young project recipient at the Hong Kong Broadband TV station. Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Central, Hong Kong

The Rotary Club of Central, Hong Kong, understands the value of helping young people reach their potential.

Over a third of its 33 charter members come from a Rotary background, having been involved in Rotary Foundation programs, Rotaract, or RYLA, or as other members of the family of Rotary. So it's not surprising that the club's first service projects would involve helping youth.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tai Po, the Central club was chartered in June. Just two months later, the club was awarded a Rotary Foundation District Simplified Grant of US\$2,000 in support of a Make a Wish project to help children, ages 7 to 14, who have



migrated from mainland China assimilate into their new culture.

"Through group activities and workshops, we hope to develop their interpersonal skills and boost their self-confidence," says charter president Fonia Wong, a former Group Study Exchange team member and Rotaractor. "We also hope to enhance their understanding of Rotary to pave the way for future involvement in Interact or Rotaract."

In cooperation with the HKSKH Kowloon City Children and Youth Integrated Service Center, the club has organized a variety of activities, including a community service project, a visit to an amusement park, and a tour of a local television station.

Following the visit to the TV station, the club held a series of six journalism workshops on writing and photography. In April, the young people used their newfound skills to "cover" the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Kowloon children and youth center.

"We want to encourage the children to pay attention to the daily news and develop confidence in expressing themselves through words and photographs," Wong says.

With an average age of 33 and professional backgrounds as varied as public relations, investment banking, and entertainment, members of this New Generations club didn't lack for extracurricular activities, but they chose Rotary.

The Central club's launch "was a dream come true for several RI- and district-driven initiatives to retain scholars and alumni within the Rotary family and extend the service platform to the younger generation," says Tai Po club member Claire Mak, who serves as District 3450 Governor Ada Cheng's special representative to the Central club. "It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with a bunch of enthusiastic, fresh Rotarians with a clear vision to serve."

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

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

April 22, 2010 - Page 4