

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



Rotary Club Calendar

April 29 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm
Tom Leuchtenburg – Real Estate Update
May 6 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm
May 11 – 7pm – Manna Food Center
May 13 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm
Christina Myers, Peace Corps Volunteer
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

April 22 Meeting Report

Just a week after the official end of the tax season, Phil Meade returned to the club meeting and was our featured speaker. He gave his insight as to how he would approach transforming the Federal Government taxation system. Thanks so much



Marilyn and Bob are pictured with Past RI President Richard King and his wife Cheri.

[Photos by Nabil Bedewi and Steve Naron.]



for giving a thought provoking talk. The Narons and the Nelsons were enjoying an outstanding District Conference in Gettysburg, PA.



Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club Charters New Rotaract Club at Georgetown University

Young men and women from thirteen states and two foreign countries are charter members of a new Rotaract Club at Georgetown University. Dr. Nabil Bedewi is the Faculty Advisor and Chinyere Amaefule is the Rotary Club Representative. The club eagerly supported the formation of the new Rotaract Club when Nabil presented the proposal to the membership earlier this year. The Rotaract club meets on Monday evenings and with an average age of 19, they will be quickly turning their energies into pursuing service projects. For more information, visit their Facebook page.

“Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Rotaract clubs are either community or university based, and they’re sponsored by a local Rotary club. This makes them true ‘partners in service’ and key members of the family of Rotary. As one of Rotary’s most significant and fastest-growing service programs, with more than 8,000 clubs in about 163 countries and geographical areas, Rotaract has become a worldwide phenomenon. All Rotaract efforts begin at the local, grassroots level, with members addressing their communities’ physical and social needs while promoting international understanding and peace through a framework of friendship and service. Each Rotaract club is required to complete at least two major service projects annually: one to benefit the community and the other to promote international understanding.”

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

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Daily Council Highlights

By Jennifer Lee Atkin RI News – 26 April 2010

In his opening address Monday, Council on Legislation Chair Mark Daniel Maloney quoted the book *This Rotarian Age* by Paul Harris, noting that it is too much to expect Rotarians to agree on everything.

"That men do not think alike is no more remarkable than that they do not look alike.' That is why we engage in this democratic process," said Maloney, a past RI director.

As the Council began its deliberations on more than 200 proposals, district representatives rejected a measure to amend the Standard Rotary Club Constitution to state that the club is a nonprofit organization.

Representatives from Bangladesh and Brazil, among other countries, argued that the language was necessary to ensure that Rotary clubs, which are required by law in those nations to be nonprofit organizations, are allowed to open bank accounts and perform other functions as a club.

"In Brazil, my country, it's very important that we have this language," said Júlio J. D'Albuquerque Lóssio, of District 4490.

Several representatives noted that nonprofit means different things in different countries.

The RI Board of Directors opposed the measure. "Variation of the laws in countries with Rotary clubs is significant," said RI Director Thomas M. Thorfinnson. "If adopted, this legislation would cause tremendous problems for clubs. In addition, clubs already have the ability to incorporate. It's not necessary to have this [amendment] in order for clubs to become nonprofit corporations."

In other actions, the Council:

* Requested that the RI Board endorse the concept put forth in the New Models for Rotary Clubs pilot project. "We need to give clubs more freedom," said representative Tord Kristoferson, of District 2360 (Sweden), noting that the revised RI Strategic Plan calls for fostering club innovation.

* Rejected an enactment that would have prohibited the discussion of business matters or private disagreements during club meetings. "We don't need a secret service in Rotary to monitor

conversations," said Kurt Tritten, of District 1990 (Switzerland).

* Rejected a resolution calling upon the RI Board to develop legislation for the next Council that would create interim charters for new clubs. "This is like creating second-class Rotarians," said Farouk Ben-El-Kadi, of District 9010 (Algeria; Mauritania; Morocco; Tunisia).

* Adopted a resolution asking the RI Board to consider encouraging clubs to create a training and leadership committee. Opponents argued that the measure duplicated existing district training efforts. Supporters felt that club training was needed, and that such training would bolster district efforts.

Rotary Club of Gaithersburg





Rotary Club of Gaithersburg

In cooperation with the
Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC)
and the
*Philippine American Community Partnership (PACP)
Foundation*



Invites you to its
3rd Annual Spring Dance
Enjoy Great Food,
Vibrant Cultural Performance
And Non-Stop Dancing
For A Worthy Cause!

Sunday, May 2, 2010
5 p.m. to 11 p.m.
(Dinner to be served at 6:30 p.m.)
New Fortune Restaurant
16515 Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD

Gaithersburg, Immediate Past President, Mr. John Phil Cabrera 240-401-9138
or MHC Executive Directors and PACP Advisors: 202-247-0137 Ms. Grace
Valera-Jaramilla, Mr. Jesse Gutschallian 202-631-8256, Aracelo S. Valera Esq.
703-675-6334 or Ms. Denny Cabrera 301-654-4451.

For sponsorship and advertisement in the souvenir program, please call
240-401-9138.

Proceeds will benefit the service oriented charitable projects of the local
Gaithersburg Rotary Chapter, the Philippine-American Community Part-
nership (PACP) Foundation and the Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC).

The Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC) has been extending various ser-
vices beneficial to the migrants in the U.S. with the support of relevant civic
oriented organizations and institutions. Amongst many services provided
are free legal consultations, free health and dental screenings, funeral assis-
tance to migrants who die bereft of funds and without immediate family in
the U.S., cultural support, information dissemination and enhancement of

US \$ 35.00
Business/Semi-formal

Please make checks payable to :
Rotary Club of Gaithersburg
and mail to : c/o CF Alliance
Insurance Services, 20300 Seneca
Woods Parkway, Suite 205,
Germantown, MD 20876

"Every attendees will be entered for door prizes."
"MAKE A DIFFERENCE, LIVE A LIFE THAT MATTER"

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Council Approves e-clubs

By Jennifer Lee Atkin RI News – 26 April 2010

After more than an hour of debate, district representatives at the 2010 Council on Legislation voted Monday to make e-clubs a permanent part of Rotary International.

The measure, approved by a vote of 430 to 85, received loud applause.

"This will allow Rotarians with physical disabilities or [scheduling] restraints to meet regularly and conduct service projects through the Internet," said RI Director Antonio Hallage as he presented the proposal to the Council. Representatives from Rotary's 531 districts are convening in downtown Chicago this week to consider more than 200 proposals, some that would make changes to RI constitutional documents.

Submitted by seven Rotary e-clubs along with the RI Board of Directors, the measure makes permanent the six-year-old e-club pilot project, which is set to end on 30 June.

Enactment 10-06 defines e-clubs as Rotary clubs that meet electronically. A separate amendment, approved by a vote of 311 to 197, allows for two e-clubs per district. E-club members have the same responsibilities as other Rotarians to conduct service projects and promote The Rotary Foundation.

Some of the pilot e-clubs meet solely through online forums, while others combine electronic with in-person meetings. Each e-club makes that determination for itself.

Noting that the average age of an e-club member is 47, supporters of the enactment noted that the clubs are an effective way to recruit younger Rotarians. "If our organization is to grow globally, we must embrace new ways to invite young members," said Lucinda General, the representative from District 5510 (Arizona, USA).

The 14 e-clubs boast 360 members in 30 countries and geographical areas, and 586 service projects. E-clubs conduct meetings in Chinese, English, Finnish, Greek, Portuguese, and Spanish. Collectively, they have contributed almost US\$150,000 to the Foundation.

"I was worried that the e-club measure wouldn't pass," said Gerald Sieberhagen, of District 9270 (South Africa). "Anyone who had taken the time to visit an e-

club site before this meeting would have seen the huge value e-clubs offer to the organization. There's a huge opportunity for more e-clubs to be chartered."

Some representatives expressed concern that e-clubs would introduce unintended side effects if they were made permanent. "As the number of e-clubs increases, there may be a situation in which there is division between the e-clubs and the ordinary clubs. I don't think that this is something we would want," said Chohei Hashimoto, of District 2650 (Japan).

Others noted that too many questions remained unanswered about e-clubs. "Which PETS [presidents-elect training seminar] does the president of the e-club attend, assuming he or she is not physically in the district? How does the district governor do his/her official visit?" asked Chris Offer, the representative from District 5040 (British Columbia, Canada). "Do we have to develop specific online training for one club in the district? There are probably more questions than answers today."

Douglas W. Vincent, of District 7080 (Ontario, Canada), said e-clubs presented an opportunity too valuable not to embrace. "This is not taking anything away from Rotary; it's adding to Rotary."

The Council will continue its deliberations through 30 April.

Eradicating Polio Is Feasible, Says Scott

RI News – 23 April 2010

Robert Scott, chair of Rotary's International Polio Plus Committee, responds to a 23 April Wall Street Journal article about polio with the following letter:

Dear Editor,

Your April 23 article documents the myriad complexities inherent in the effort to eradicate polio.

Yet, despite challenges both ongoing and emerging, tremendous progress continues to be made. The incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99 percent since 1988, when Rotary International partnered with the WHO, the CDC and UNICEF to launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

We are especially heartened by the recent progress in Nigeria, arguably the most challenging of the four remaining polio-endemic countries. Increased efforts to reach all of Nigeria's children under age 5 with the

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

oral polio vaccine are paying off, with only two cases recorded so far this year, compared with 193 cases this time last year.

The current outbreak in Tajikistan dramatically underscores the necessity of staying the course until the crippling disease is vanquished permanently. It shows how quickly polio can rebound and reclaim territory, and why "99 percent" is not good enough.

Rotary and its partners have been at this for more than 20 years, achieving successes that demonstrate the feasibility of polio eradication. The partners' commitment and tenacity were recognized in 2007, when the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation stepped in to provide major crucial funding.

Finally, in a timely perspective in the April 17 issue of *The Lancet*, University of Toronto researchers made the case for "an ethical obligation" to finish polio eradication. "We are on the last kilometre of a marathon," they conclude. "Surely it is worth crossing the finish line?"

Dr. Robert Scott

Chair, Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee

Rotary Responds to Polio Outbreak in Tajikistan

By Dan Nixon RI News – 23 April 2010

A Rotarian in Nigeria verifies that children in a household have been immunized against polio. The perseverance that is helping to turn the tide against polio in Nigeria is also being applied to the recent outbreak in Tajikistan. Rotary Images/Joseph Lorenzo

Rotary International and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative – the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – are responding to a recent outbreak of wild poliovirus in Tajikistan.

Rotary is providing a total of US\$500,000 in emergency grants to UNICEF and WHO for immediate polio immunization efforts throughout the country.

Neighboring countries are also increasing their surveillance efforts.

Seven children in Tajikistan have been stricken with polio, the first cases of the disease reported there since 1997, and the first in the WHO European region since it was certified polio-free in 2002.

"Polio importations such as the Tajikistan cases demonstrate our global vulnerability to infectious disease," said Carol Pandak, manager of RI's PolioPlus program. "It highlights the fact that polio 'control' is not an option, and only successful eradication will stop polio in resource-poor countries."

Outbreaks of imported cases are not uncommon during eradication efforts, underscoring the critical need to stop polio transmission in the remaining endemic countries: Afghanistan – which borders Tajikistan – Pakistan, India, and Nigeria.

"Our experience shows that where polio transmission has been stopped before, it can be stopped again," Pandak said. "A fast, large-scale, high-quality immunization response and strong surveillance are absolutely critical."

Global polio eradication is achievable, and stepped-up efforts to end the disease are paying off. As of 20 April, Nigeria has reported two polio cases in 2010,

compared with 193 cases for the same period in 2009. India has reported no cases in the past five weeks. Multicountry synchronized immunization campaigns are continuing in West Africa, and the outbreak that affected the entire region in 2009 now appears to be confined to the westernmost part.

According to a *Wall Street Journal* article, Bill Gates talked about the challenge of eradicating polio during a trip to Nigeria last year. "The benefit of finishing is huge. ... We

really stand at the threshold of global health success on polio."



**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 29, 2010 - Page 4

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Matching Grant Supports Lifesaving Heart Surgery

By Dan Nixon RI News – 23 April 2010

Infants receive treatment in an intensive care unit in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India, as part of a Foundation Matching Grant project. Photo courtesy of Mike Parry

A 1996 Group Study Exchange (GSE) spawned a project that today is providing lifesaving heart surgery to 100 low-income working women in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

Many of the women contracted rheumatic fever, which can cause abnormal heart function, as children. They are receiving heart valve replacements through a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant project supported by the Rotary clubs of Coimbatore Metropolis and Pontllanfraith, Gwent, Wales.

"The women are the daily providers for their families. Their failure to provide such support would leave their children as orphans," says Mike Parry, governor-nominee of District 1150 (Wales), district Foundation committee chair, and a former GSE team leader to North Carolina, USA.

Three physicians from the Coimbatore Metropolis club are participating in the project, and the Pontllanfraith club is providing financial assistance through District Designated Fund allocations.

The effort is one of five Foundation Matching Grant projects that have grown out of the relationship between the two clubs since the GSE. All have focused on meeting people's health needs while protecting their livelihoods. The others are as follows:

* A recently completed project enabled 83 industrial workers injured on the job to regain the use of their



hands through reconstructive microsurgery. The effort was headed by S. Raja Sabapathy of the Coimbatore Metropolis club, who had observed pioneering techniques in microsurgery as a GSE team member to

Denmark in the 1980s. Sabapathy applied the techniques at a Coimbatore hospital, helping the facility develop a reputation for excellence in the field. He also encouraged two other surgeons to become GSE participants.

* While carrying out the microsurgery project, the medical team also encountered many children who had injured their hands in nonindustrial accidents. The two clubs obtained a Matching Grant to help fund the cost of surgery for 67 young people.

* A "womb to cradle" project provided prenatal care to pregnant working mothers, helping them return to their jobs in good health after childbirth.

* A neonatal intensive care unit, established through a project to promote the health of newborns, is protecting infants' lives while allowing their mothers to continue working.

A visit to Coimbatore in February proved rewarding for Parry; Richard Bullen, leader of the 1996 GSE team to India; and Pontllanfraith Rotarian Allan Martin.

"We were present for the launch of the heart valve replacement project, to attend the Rotary Club of Coimbatore Metropolis's 25th anniversary celebration, to share experiences with an incoming GSE team from District 5190 [parts of California and Nevada, USA], and to observe preparations for a polio National Immunization Day," Parry says. "This reinforced how Rotary is a family and one Foundation program affects other programs."

**Please remit your payment
for the second quarter invoice to:
Treasurer Alan Cookson
15717 Bondy Lane,
Darnestown, MD 20878**

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

April 29, 2010 - Page 5