

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

September 23 - 6:30pm - Meeting- Normandie Farm
Thaddedus Ewald; Montina Filice; Chris Yedibalian;
Marc Patterson, President, 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 Tuesday evenings and with an average age of 19, they will be quickly turning their energies into pursuing service projects. "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."

September 30 - 6:30pm - Social - Normandie Farm

October 7 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

October 12 - 7pm - Manna Food Center Packing
9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg

Volunteers are Needed - Alex Naron Coordinating

October 14 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

October 16 - 4pm Picnic at Dick Gordon's home



September 16 Meeting Report

By Steve Naron

Photos by Nabil Bedewi

We welcomed two visiting Rotarians, Area Governor Barry Thompson from North Bethesda and Jon Van Winkle from Wheaton-Kensington. Our guest speaker was Signe Fosgaard who is a 2010-11 Rotary



Ambassadorial Scholar from Hillerod, Denmark. She is studying for a MS in China and International Economics at the Johns Hopkins Schools for Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Signe is becoming an expert in Chinese renewable energy because renewable energy can play an important role in limiting the environmental damage of development in China and other developing countries. She spent significant time in China near Tibet and has traveled a lot, but this is only her second week in the U.S.A. The Rotary scholarship was necessary for her to be able to study here and she is very thankful to Rotary. She truly appreciates Rotary's attitude toward offering help to so many in so many different ways.

Denmark is a small country with a largely homogenous population of only 5-6 million. In fact, the people of Denmark, Norway and Sweden tend to be homogeneous - tall, blond, thin, and blue eyed with similar languages. Because Denmark does not have the large northern lands of Norway and Sweden, for her it feels like a small, comfortable family. The people



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of Denmark have a very long history and, in many ways, do not like change. For example, the Danish krone is still in circulation instead of the euro. Still in reality the krone is pegged to the euro and Denmark is part of the EU. So real change has, and is, happening. Attitudes in other ways are more open than the U.S. For example, she said she thinks whether or not someone is a homosexual is as insignificant in her thinking as to what their shoe size is. The tax rate is high, between 40% and 70% based on income, but many more services are provided. For example, universities are free and come with a stipend. In comparison, club members pointed out that if the new tax rates are permitted for the richest in the US it still would be less than 40%. Minimum wage in Denmark is about \$15 and Signe has no trouble finding jobs when she is home. Signe takes seriously her job as an "ambassador." She tries to understand and explain cultural differences. For example, she said in a small village in China she was asked why Christians like pizza so much. She realized the only Christians these villagers see are missionaries who have opened pizza parlors as a way of attracting residents.

Working With Rotaractors

RI News – 1 September 2010

How can you motivate your club to increase communication with the Rotaract club they sponsor and plan more joint projects?

Rotary International's monthly problem-solving forum asks Rotarians for their strategies to address the challenges they deal with every day.

8 Comments:

On 20 September 2010, Elvis Khisa, IPP, Kiwatule wrote: We as Rotarians should design interesting and relevant projects with our Rotaractors. We should also get a Rotarian from the club who will be in charge of the Rotaractors i.e attending their fellowships, board meetings and their activities. This Rotarian should always report back to the club.



On 20 September 2010, Tim Tucker wrote: Ideally, almost all the Rotaractors of a Rotaract Club should know almost all the Rotarians of their sponsoring Rotary Club. Likewise, with the members of the sponsoring Rotary Club knowing almost all their Rotaractors. This can be achieved by attending each others events, joint events, and sharing in service projects together. Rotarians and Rotaractors are in the same marvelous Rotary Family and both parts can only benefit from knowing each other better. Rtn Tim Tucker RIBI Rotaract Resource Group Rotary Global History Fellowship - Rotaract Coordinator

On 7 September 2010, PDG Dinanath Lohia, R.C.GTR Raniganj, D-3240 wrote: Most of the projects, we take jointly with our sponsored Rotaract Club. We invite Rotaractors in our meeting and listen their new advice and suggestions for any projects. Our regular communications made our relations much more better. Always lack of communications from Rotary end increases breakdown in relationship with Rotaractors.

On 7 September 2010, Greg Barlow wrote: Our International Peace Rally will do more for Rotary/Rotaract/Interact (RR&I) collaboration and relationship building than most other things. RR&I are required to identify peace and welfare projects, cost, submit and initiate from funds provided. Collaboration is crucial.

On 7 September 2010, PP Jane Cole wrote: Our Rotaractors attend our weekly meetings. We have joint projects. During the month of September every year, i.e. during the New Generations month, we give them the opportunity to present their programmes of activities to the Club, and we agree on the areas of cooperation. We also have a New Generations Committee, whose responsibility includes ensuring that the interests of our Rotaractors are catered for. We sponsor them to District meetings. We further provide them with apprenticeship opportunities where necessary. We are truly trying to live the maxim "Every Rotarian an example to youth."

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On 3 September 2010, Okugo Uche, RC Asaba D9140 wrote: There's the tendency of our interactions with Rotaractors becoming secondary which causes communication breakdown. We had this issue where Rotaractors felt all we need them for is when we have events and tickets needs to be sold or errands to run, etc. It kind of dented the Rotarian/Rotaractor relationship. However, we began the resuscitation of this relationship by attending their meetings, helping them develop a budget/program and having them fully participate in our activities. We also have a new generations committee! This has greatly improved communication and also has an added advantage of having them interested in becoming Rotarians when the time is right!



On 3 September 2010, PDG Yogananda, R I Dist 3190 wrote: Little communication between the Rotarians and the Rotaractors is because they act in isolation. Earlier we used to have Rotary Installation as our first meeting, Interact Installation as the second meeting and Rotaract installation as the third meeting -all at the meeting place of Rotary Club. Rotarians can visit old age homes and make Rotaractors entertain the elderly, make Rotaractors raise funds for polio, have a quiz program for Rotaractors and such other projects help.

On 2 September 2010, Michael Gordon wrote: Make it meaningful for both Rotaractors and Rotarians. Don't just let Rotaractors be the "cheap labor." Tell and show them how they are helping in making a difference.

Working Together To Improve Global Health

By Ryan Hyland RI News - 17 September 2010

To increase awareness of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and its successes, Rotary International organized a workshop held 30 August at the United Nations Department of Public Information/Nongovernmental Organization Conference in Melbourne, Australia.

More than 2,200 representatives from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in 70

countries took part in the three-day conference, which aimed to build support for improving global health and achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Rotary's workshop, "Coordination a Public-Private Public Health Campaign: The Global Polio Eradication Initiative," was moderated by Rotarian Jenny Horton and featured presentations by Bruce Thorley of the World Health Organization and Lieven Desomer of UNICEF.

Bruce Thorley (left), Jenny Horton, and Lieven Desomer attend the UN conference for NGOs in Melbourne, Australia. They spoke at Rotary's polio eradication workshop on 30 August. Photo by Christine Sanders

"The hope was that attendees left understanding how partners can work together, confronting all challenges while preventing disability and death in children who suffer from polio," said Horton, a member of the Rotary Club of Kenmore, Queensland, who served as a WHO consultant. "I believe our workshop displayed how each partner brings different strengths to the GPEI and how this relationship is vital to the success of eradicating polio." Horton said the workshop emphasized how GPEI programs have increased routine immunization, helped with the development of disease surveillance systems, and provided a structure that has benefited other disease interventions.

Bigger picture

"Seeing and hearing just what is being done about polio eradication by many NGOs was amazing," she said. "Looking at the bigger picture to build partnerships to achieve a goal and ensure community participation is the best way to achieve the best outcome."

A registered nurse and volunteer for Stop the Transmission of Polio (STOP), Horton has led polio surveillance activities and immunization campaigns in Botswana, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Horton said that having a workshop at the conference highlighted Rotary's leading role in building global

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support for polio eradication. A booth also showcased the humanitarian work of Rotary, particularly in water, sanitation, and peace.

"Rotary is one of the leading community-based organizations in the world," Horton said. "I'm still in awe at what an organization of volunteers, partnering with others, can do toward eradicating a disease from the world. Through partnerships, anything is possible."

Horton added that NGOs gain a lot by meeting and sharing programs, and that the conference will increase interaction among them as they work toward advancing global health.

"The conference and our workshop were very successful," she said. "We had the opportunity to learn about many programs that promote better health and to ponder how we can partner with others."

RYLA Alumna Brings Teens Together In Arizona By Vanessa N. Glavinskas *The Rotarian* – October 2010

Annica Benning, a RYLA alumna, took the photographs and wrote the text for Arizona: Nations and Art. Photo courtesy of Annica Benning

Annica Benning was shocked. "There was nothing green," recalls the 16-year-old Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) alumna.

Benning was standing just a few hours from her upscale suburb in Arizona, USA.

"It was an eye-opening experience," she says of the barbed-wire fences and dilapidated houses on the Havasupai Indian Reservation.

Benning visited several reservations while researching Native American art and culture for a project she developed at age 13 as part of her bat mitzvah preparations. A budding writer and photographer, she decided to put together a children's book about the first people of Arizona. "In the fourth grade, you learn about Native American history," she says. "I thought teachers could use my book as a supplement to their curriculum."

Her mother, an artist, helped design and edit *Arizona: Nations and Art* and set up a nonprofit to accept the

donations needed to cover the cost of Benning's goal – to print 100,000 books, one for every fourth grader in the state. Benning has already given away 4,000 copies.

When the Rotary Club of Scottsdale learned about her project, Rotarian John Thornton suggested she apply for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. In 2009, Benning attended a RYLA event designed to challenge participants to tackle problems facing their generation.

During the program, she thought about what she had learned while working on her book: that nearly one-third of Native American children live below the poverty line, and that the high-school dropout and youth suicide rates in their communities are high. Benning decided to try to recreate her RYLA experience to bring together Native and non-Native

teens. The goal was simple: to help the participants find common ground and break down stereotypes.

She worked with the Gila River Indian Community's youth council, United World College-USA, and several adult advisers to organize The Bridge 2010: Native and Non-Native Youth Summit for Understanding, held at the Boys and Girls Club on the Gila River Indian Reservation.

The two-day event drew 40 participants. "First there were ice-breakers, then some really good food, and guest speakers who

talked about growing up Native American," she explains.

Another event is being planned for next year, and many of the participants have stayed in touch through Facebook and texting. But some of Benning's Native American friends continue "walking in two worlds," she says. At school, they find support, but in their community some are put down for focusing on their education. Others have to take care of their families and are pressured not to pursue dreams that would take them off the reservation.

"For the Native kids, it's intimidating when they go from a school on the reservation into mainstream high school," explains Cyd West, one of the Native American adult advisers. "The Bridge creates a safe place to help them make the transition."



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Oklahoma City Club Meets In A Pub

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News - 20 September 2010

Lealon Taylor, Emilee Truelove, and Mark Mann, members of the Rotary Club of Bricktown Oklahoma City, make a presentation to the winner of the club's Four-Way Test essay contest. To attract younger members, the club meets in a bar and holds evening meetings. Photo courtesy of Bricktown Rotary Club



Working for a politician in Oklahoma, USA, Mark Mann had been to plenty of civic group meetings. So when a friend asked him to consider joining a Rotary club in their town, he was anything but enthusiastic.

"I said, you have to have lost your mind," Mann recalls. But the friend returned a few weeks later insisting that the Rotary Club of Bricktown Oklahoma City was different. "We don't sing, they have great speakers, and they have great community service projects," the friend said.

"I tried it out for a couple of weeks and decided it was a good fit for me," says Mann, who is now serving as the club's president. "I've been there ever since."

The Bricktown Oklahoma City club marked its seventh anniversary on 11 September, with more than 60 members and an average age of 35. Mann and past club president Lealon Taylor point to several key ingredients that have helped the club attract and retain young members.

For starters, the club meets in a pub. First-time guests are treated to two free beverages, compliments of the club.

"It's important to choose a location that's fun and well known," Taylor says. "We meet in the Bricktown Brewery, which is a local landmark. It's easy to invite your friends to come down to the brewery and have a couple of drinks on the club and learn more."

The club founders also decided on a meeting time of 5:30 p.m. After 15 minutes of social time, Mann says, the club meeting is kept under 45 minutes. Some members go out to dinner together afterward.

"People in their 20s and 30s are not going to get up early to go to a breakfast meeting, in my opinion," Taylor says. "And lunch every week is always difficult if you're a young professional. So our attendance does well because we're right after work, we're right downtown, and it's a fun place to be."

Getting their hands dirty

But being fun isn't good enough, he notes. It's equally important to give members something to do.

"Younger people really want to get their hands dirty," Taylor says. "We can't write checks for everything. So we have a goal of doing at least one community service project a month and encouraging

everyone to be a part of that as much as they can. We also have an extensive international project."

The club partners with the Rotary clubs of Carlsbad, California, and Tecate, Baja California, Mexico, to operate a clinic for children with cleft palates in Tecate as its signature international project.

The club's activities are family-friendly. "I brought my 20-month-old out to an Alzheimer's walk a few years ago," Mann says. "Many of our members bring their children and spouses with them to service projects, or even meetings."

Both Mann and Taylor have heard the criticism that quantity does not always equal quality. But they insist that the club is effective at weeding out people who are not committed. Mann notes that 100 percent of the club's membership participated in at least one community service project last year.

Mann sees a long future for Rotary.

"There's always going to be human suffering, natural disasters," he says. "There's always going to be a need for Rotary globally to band together at a moment's notice and solve a problem quickly and efficiently, which is what Rotary does."

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

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