

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

March 17 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Peter Kyle, District Governor Nominee 2013-14
Peace Fellowship Program



The 2013-2014 District Governor Selection Committee unanimously nominated Peter Kyle as District 7620 Governor Nominee Designate. He will assume the office of Governor on July 1, 2013. Peter hails from New Zealand. He was awarded a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship in 1973/74 to pursue a Masters of Laws degree at the University of Virginia. After returning to New Zealand he was made a partner in one of the country's leading law firms and was invited to join the Rotary Club of Wellington North in 1976. In 1979 he took up a senior position with the Asian Development Bank in Manila, Philippines. He rejoined his law firm in 1985 and in 1992 was invited to join the World Bank in Washington, DC. He retired from the Bank last year but continues as a Bank consultant. Peter is a member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. He currently serves as an Area Governor for District 7620 and also chairs the District Alumni Committee and the World Peace Fellowship Committee. He is the Alternate Rotary Representative to the World Bank and the Vice Chairman of the RI Alumni Advisory Committee. He was awarded the Rotary Foundation's Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award for 2009/10 at the Rotary International Convention in Montreal, Canada, in June 2010.

(see news article on page 2)

March 17 - 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting
March 24 - No Meeting
March 26 - Club Officers Training
Holiday Inn Laurel West
March 26 - International Night at the University Club
March 31 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
SEEDS Haiti Project
April 7 - 6:30pm - Service Project
April 14 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
April 21 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
April 29-May 1 - DisCon 2011 Turf Valley Resort
Featuring Incoming RI President Kalyan Banerjee,
Incoming RI CEO John Hewko, Polio Survivor Ramesh
Ferris, Astronaut Pierre Thuot, and much, much more!
Register Today at rotary7620.org

March 10 Meeting Report



[Above, L-R] Ben Noll from the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County (CRCMC), President Jason Hamel and Friendship Heights Rotarian Bob Scholz who has also been a board member of CRCMC.

[Below] Ben Noll leads an interactive discussion of conflict issues and the methodology for dispute resolution and prevention. CRCMC offers their services free to county residents.



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Global Legal Expert Receives Foundation Alumni Honor

By Dan Nixon and Joseph Derr, Rotary International News, 20 June 2010

Peter Kyle, an attorney and global legal reform expert, is the recipient of the 2009-10 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award, The Rotary Foundation's top honor for alumni.

The New Zealand-born Rotarian and 1973-74 Ambassadorial Scholar addressed attendees at the Rotary Alumni Celebration on 19 June before the 2010 RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada. Kyle will be recognized during Tuesday's plenary session at the convention.

Kyle thanked those who helped him get on a path of service, particularly his scholarship sponsor, the Rotary Club of Wellington North. He also encouraged other alumni in attendance to reconnect with the "passion for Rotary."

"That's what Rotary and Rotarians are all about – we reach out," Kyle said. "We don't always know what individual impacts we make, but we know that the ripple effect of these interventions worldwide has an amazing impact on the needs of the deserving poor."

Kyle's career is a testament to the effect one individual can have on the world. A member of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (Washington, D.C.), he has worked on more than 100 development projects in over 80 countries for the World Bank. He joined the World Bank in 1992, shortly after the governments of the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries collapsed, and spent five years commuting to Kazakhstan, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, and other nations, advising on the legal reforms necessary to transition from a socialist system to an economy based on market principles.

Kyle was part of a pioneer reform effort that had to start from scratch.

"There was no template or textbook," he said. "History will be the judge if we got it right."

Before working for the World Bank, Kyle was counsel for the Asian Development Bank, based in Manila, Philippines, and in private practice in New Zealand. He continues to serve as an international consultant based in Washington, D.C., having retired as lead counsel from the World Bank in 2009 after a 17-year career.

Kyle's Ambassadorial Scholarship, which brought him to the University of Virginia to study law, helped point him in the direction he would later take. "It was a fascinating time to be a young law student in the United States," he said. "My Rotary year convinced me that sooner or later I would want to focus on international issues," he said before the celebration.

Kyle joined the Wellington North club just two years after completing his studies as a Rotary Scholar. "It all happened very naturally and seemed almost an extension of my Ambassadorial Scholarship experience," he said. "Rotary has been a very important part of my life for over 36 years and has enabled me to become involved in all manner of projects and service activities."

Most recently, Kyle's passion has been to promote the Foundation's educational programs and reconnect with Foundation alumni in District 7620 (District of Columbia; part of Maryland). Many of the district's 400 alumni had lost contact with Rotary, but semiannual gatherings hosted by Kyle's club have helped bring a lot of them back into the family of Rotary. Alumni now compose almost a third of the 30-member club.

"I thoroughly enjoy my interactions with the alumni and being able to assist with job applications, speaking engagements, and generally ensuring that the Rotary flame continues to burn brightly, and that they remain connected with this wonderful organization," Kyle said.



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

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Foundation Sets Up Disaster Fund For Japan

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 15 March 2011

People carry their furniture from their ruined home 15 March in Kesenuma, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, four days after an earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan's northeast coast towns. AP Photo/Kyodo News

In response to the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on 11 March, The Rotary Foundation has established the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands Disaster Fund, which will support long-term recovery projects in affected areas.

Rotarians and non-Rotarians can donate online. Clubs and districts can contribute cash and District Designated Fund (DDF) allocations to the fund.

The 9.0-magnitude quake, Japan's largest in history, and the tsunami that followed it caused widespread devastation, paralyzing much of the northern coast. More than 10,000 people have been killed, and thousands are missing. Millions have been left without clean water or power, and at least 550,000 people have been forced from their homes.

A series of explosions at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, 140 miles northeast of Tokyo, damaged reactors and forced the evacuation of tens of thousands. The Japanese government is working to contain the situation. Damage from the earthquake and tsunami is estimated at US\$170 billion.

RI President-nominee Sakuji Tanaka, of the Rotary Club of Yashio, Saitama, was in Lisbon, Portugal, on Rotary business during the disasters. He was able to reach his wife, Kyoko, on the phone to confirm her safety.

"She said it was the most horrifying experience she'd ever had," says Tanaka. "The northern region of Japan is still in chaos. We are unsure when this chaos will end or when things will get better. However, I am most thankful to know that Rotarians around the world care for us."



Japanese RI directors Masaomi Kondo and Masahiro Kuroda, as well as staff at Rotary International's Japan office, are confirmed to be safe.

Rotary clubs and districts worldwide are mobilizing efforts to bring urgently needed aid to victims.

"I've received many messages from Rotarians all over the world," says Noriko Futagami, the Public Image Resource Group coordinator for Zone 2. "I also have reports that Rotary clubs have begun to start planning projects for immediate help. Unfortunately, there are many Rotarians and families who haven't been able to be contacted. Rotarians in Japan worry for their safety."

Group Study Exchange team safe

Rotarian Robert Blackburn was leading a Group Study Exchange team in Japan when the earthquake struck. The five team members from Illinois, USA, were in a hotel in Tokyo, getting ready for a farewell dinner with their hosts. "It was our last night in Japan. I felt the whole building shake," says Blackburn, a member of the Rotary Club of Westmont. "It was not just a mild tremor. My hotel room was shaking from side to side. It felt like forever. I have never been so scared in my life." Blackburn says the earthquake lasted at least two minutes. He used a laundry cart outside his hotel room for protection. After the tremors stopped, he walked 18 floors down to the lobby, where the rest of the team congregated.

"The airport was temporarily closed, so I told everyone on our team that we might have to be here for a day or two longer," he says. "Thankfully, the airport reopened. Our hosts were incredible and were able to get us to the airport on time for our flight."

Tanaka says he is grateful for the warm support of Rotarians worldwide.

"The great thing about Rotarians is that we share everything, including each other's joy and sadness. They have the ability to put themselves in the position of others and act to help," says Tanaka. "Despite the unthinkable hardship we're experiencing now, the people of Japan will not give up on efforts to rebuild their communities."

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India Closer Than Ever To Eradicating Polio

By Dan Nixon RI News – 15 March 2011



Rotarians from several countries joined their counterparts in India to promote and participate in the 23 January NID. Photo courtesy of India PolioPlus Committee



More than 3,500 schoolchildren and 1,000 local residents participated in an End Polio Now "minithon" in Nashik, Maharashtra, organized by the Rotary Club of Nashik-Ambad. Photo courtesy of India PolioPlus Committee

Recent successes in India's relentless effort to eradicate polio are raising hopes that the goal is in sight. The incidence of the disease is at a record low, with only one case reported in 2011, as of 1 March, and just 42 in all of 2010. That compares with 741 cases the year before.

A major factor is the widespread use of the bivalent oral polio vaccine, which is effective against both types of the poliovirus. Another is rigorous monitoring, which helped reduce the number of children missed during National Immunization Days (NIDs) to less than 1 percent in 2010, compared with 14 percent in 2009, according to the World Health Organization.

During NIDs in January and February, Rotarians helped immunize children; organize free health camps and polio awareness rallies; and distribute banners, caps, face masks, comic books, and other items to children. Sporting signature yellow vests and caps, the volunteers fanned out to sites including schools, train stations, and bus depots across the country.

Teams of visiting Rotarians from Hong Kong, Italy, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom also took part in activities related to the 23 January NID, which immunized 174 million children.

In Veraval, Gujarat, a city of about 340,000 people, Rotarians and others worked at more than 100 immunization booths. "The town clearly bought into the whole project, and kids were flowing into the booths for immunizations," reports a Group Study Exchange team from District 9980 (New Zealand).

In Murshidabad, the highest-risk area for polio in West Bengal, Rotarian and non-Rotarian doctors organized health camps to screen and treat children for other illnesses and immunize them against the crippling disease. Had it not been for the camps, "many of those children may have remained unvaccinated," says Jenny Horton, a nurse, veteran Rotary volunteer, and member of the Rotary Club of Kenmore, Queensland, Australia.

Rotarians in India "have learned to take the battle against polio to every nook and corner," says Rotary Foundation Trustee Ashok Mahajan. "It is time to step on the eradication accelerator."

Says Deepak Kapur, chair of the India PolioPlus Committee: "What we have achieved in the country through the PolioPlus program is historic and, despite some last-minute difficulties, the goal of eradicating the disease is within reach. We now need to strengthen and focus our strategy ... in endemic regions to finish off this final battle toward a polio-free India."