

Be a gift  
to the world

# ROTARY CLUB OF SLIDELL

August 2015



Two busloads of Rotary Youth Exchange students passed through Slidell as part of a 31-day tour of America. The students completed a year of study at various high schools in upstate New York. They attended the Pete Dammon Youth Exchange Picnic, July 7, 2015. (Photos by Ken Thompson).

## PETE DAMMON YOUTH EXCHANGE PICNIC



### In this issue...

- Rotary Exchange Programs
- Polio Eradication
- Speaker's List
- Upcoming Events

# AFRICA ON BRINK OF POLIO ERADICATION

Nigeria and the whole continent of Africa is on the cusp of being polio free, Dr. Hamid Jafari told audience members at the Rotary Convention on 8 June in São Paulo, Brazil.

Between 2013 and 2014, the reported cases of polio dropped from 53 to just six in Nigeria. Even more encouraging, said Jafari, is that the last case of polio in Nigeria was reported in July of last year and the last case in all of Africa was reported in Somalia in August.

“With a year of no polio cases in Nigeria tantalizingly close, and no cases in Somalia since August, the tireless work of so many people across the continent is paying off,” said Jafari, director of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative for the World Health Organization. “But it is incredibly important that Nigeria remains vigilant. As long as polio exists anywhere, it will continue to be a threat everywhere.” Transmission of the wild poliovirus has also never been stopped in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2014, 85 percent of polio cases worldwide were in Pakistan, the country’s highest case count in over a decade. But progress has been made over the last few months to stem the spread of the virus. The focus for the government and all of the polio partners has shifted

to missed children. Vaccinators have gained access to areas that have been out of reach for years, said Jafari.

Since January, cases in Pakistan are lower than this time last year thanks to advocacy work from Rotary members, said Jafari. “This is a reminder that we cannot let politics and conflict stand in our way, because at the end of the chain stands a mother or father that just wants to protect their child. But the coming months are the real test. We are entering the high season for polio transmission.”

Jafari encouraged attendees to stay committed. “I need you to continue to advocate and engage with your political leaders with that strong, influential Rotary voice of yours, so that all our stakeholders continue to commit to funding the final stages,” he said. “I need you to keep on educating and engaging your communities and the global community on this great endeavor.”



## SLIDELL ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

Rotary Northshore and our club have partnered to host Rotary Youth Exchange Student Dorka Leitner from Hungary. Each August, approximately 8,000 high school students from around the world travel on Rotary exchanges. This year, clubs from both states in our district are hosting and sponsoring students.

Dorka competes at Women's Sabre in the European Fencing Confederation. The weekend of August 14 she will be traveling to Percy Quinn State Park in McComb, MS with other exchange students for their Inbound Orientation hosted by the MaComb Rotary Club.

Contact Ron Davis if you can take her along for a community event, out on the lake or any local experience.

## JULY AND AUGUST MEETING SPEAKERS



Date: July 10  
Name: John Cornwell  
Topic: Rotary District Governor



Date: July 17  
Name: Mayor Freddy Drennan  
Topic: City of Slidell



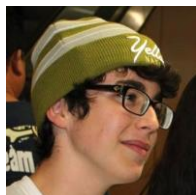
Date: July 24  
Name: Senator A.G. Crowe  
Topic: State Affairs



Date: July 31  
Name: Kim Bergeron  
Topic: Hope for Habitat:  
Katrina X



Date: August 7  
Name: Dr. John Kiefer  
Topic: Disaster Resilience



Date: August 14  
Name: Ethan Van Sant  
Topic: Taiwan Exchange



Date: August 21  
Name: Sharon Hewitt  
Topic: Get To Know Your Child

## Club Meetings

Weekly: Fridays at 12:00 noon  
Place: Pinewood Country Club  
405 Country Club Blvd, Slidell



Louis "Pat" Neff Jr., 87, of Slidell, passed away on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at Slidell Memorial Hospital. Mr. Neff received the Rotary Club of Slidell Lifetime Achievement Award July 26 at the installation banquet.



Congratulations to Barbara Edwards Doyle for being inducted as the 2015-2016 President. Barbara is the President of Pelican Pages. She is a member of the East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce and enjoys ballroom dancing.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 20 - The "Big Game Raffle" will do the drawing August 20 at 12:30 pm at the Metarie Country Club. Good luck!

August 29 - Foundation, Membership & PR Seminar at Pearl River Community College from 8 am – noon

October 23 – Plans are being made for our meeting to be held at Mt. Olive Soup Kitchen as part of our support for Friends Forever.

Stay tuned for more information on service projects and club socials!



## ROTARY INSTALLATION DINNER

The Rotary Club of Slidell members and guests celebrated the installation of new officers and board members on Friday, June 26th, 2015, at the Pinewood Country Club. The officers included: President, Barbara Doyle; President Elect, Joan Archer; Treasurer, Tracy Clanton; Secretary, Dick Graham; International Service, Ken Thompson; Rotary Foundation, Ken Thompson; Vice President, Ron Davis; and Immediate Past President, Rene Arcemont. The directors are Bruce Anzalone, Tana Hamilton Stevenson, Joseph Harvin and Al Tomsic. Advisors are Kathy Lowrey and Patricia Brown Jones.

The guest speaker for the evening was Rotary District 6840 Governor John Cornwell. Governor Cornwell encouraged everyone to do their part to make a difference in the world, and to be a gift to the world.

The evening was an opportunity to recognize members of the Rotary Club of Slidell and community members. Pat (Louis) Neff received the Rotary Club of Slidell's Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Joan Archer received the club's Rotarian of the Year Award. Journalist Sara Pagones received the Bill Lowry Service-Above-Self Award. Eric DuBuisson received the Community Stewardship Paul Harris Award. Youth from Slidell High School and Salmen High School received the Robert Johnson Scholarship Award, the Charles W. Magas Scholarship, and the Pomeroy Lowry Scholarship.

Several Public Officials were present, including: Slidell Mayor Freddy Drennan and his wife Glenda; St. Tammany Parish City Council Member Gene Bellisario and his wife Mary; and Louisiana State Representative A.G. Crowe.

