

# *Rotary District 5960 Monday Musings*

*Notes from Marlene Gargulak, District Governor, 2015-2016  
June 5, 2016*



## **International Convention-Youth Exchange** *My Experience*

You might be asking yourself: Why this title? Are you reporting on Youth Exchange or the International Convention in Seoul? The answer to your question is: I am reporting on both. It was a long flight to Seoul, a City of almost 10 million people.



Since I don't speak Korean, I placed great confidence that my experience would be similar to any travel that is Rotary related. The Rotarians would take care of me. Needless to say, it was an eighteen-year-old **Korean youth Exchange student** who was amazing in caring for us. Sponsored by the **North St. Paul/Maplewood/Oakdale Rotary club Solyun (Sue) Lee** spent one year in North St. Paul as an exchange student. She spent one week with us showing the best of her country because



she and her family were so appreciative of the care she received. As a tour leader she took us on the subway, train, and taxi to a baseball game, ballet and of course the convention. She spoke during a pre-plenary session and told her story of Youth Exchange. As a first year college student she was given special permission to spend the time with us. I wondered how many 18 year olds could become a tour leader, taking responsibility for all aspects of our journey.

**Sandie LeVan, Barron Co Sunrise Pres Elect, Anita Jader, N St. Paul/Maplewood/Oakdale Pres Elect and Sue Lee, Exchange student in 2014-2015**

## Rotary International Convention in Seoul Korea:



Here are a few highlights of the convention in Seoul Korea. Total attendance at the convention was over 43,000 Rotarians,

We started the event with a **3K Walk for Peace** held on Saturday morning. Over 6000 Rotarians dressed in their country attire and marched for Peace. It was a colorful event with drums and singing.



**Opening ceremony:** The flag ceremony brought Korean Interact students to carry over 160 flags in a procession to honor each country. This ceremony always brings a tear to my eye and a lump in my throat as I realize the connection we have with each other and the beauty of Rotary bringing all of us together.





## Opening remarks from President Ravi

When he took the job as the International President he approached it similar to running a business:



*"And to those who said to me, "But Rotary is not a business," I said, "Yes, it is." But it is a business like no other. Our business is literacy, is health. Our business is livelihood, and it is hope. Our business is life itself — and to so many of those we help, our business is miracles.*

*And that's what I want to say to all of you. That's what I ask you to understand. That when we push for ambition in our service, when we push for productivity, for efficiency, for new ways to leverage our resources, it is so that we can make that business grow.*

*As Rotarians, we see our business as entrepreneurs. We set our targets. We measure our progress. We chart our course and we move forward, week after week, month after month, one Rotary year after the next.*

*In this week here in Seoul, we will look at our business from the other side — through the eyes of those we help, through the eyes of the bird that soars above.*

*The child who was given no hope — until Rotary came to save her.*

*The family left homeless — until Rotary built their home anew.*

*The countless generations who feared polio — until Rotary came, and stopped it.*

*The work that we do in Rotary is practical, it is considered, it is the work of our hands and our minds here on earth. And yet the gifts that we give, the fruits of that work — those gifts are indeed miracles.*

*For that is what you do, when you serve to the very best of your abilities, when you hold your Rotary work to your highest professional standards, when you never content yourself with saying, "I did the best I could," but always ask yourself, "How could I have done more?"*

*I thank you all for the gifts you have given me: I thank you for your trust, for your confidence, for the responsibility that you have placed into my hands.*

*And I thank you for the gifts you have given, and the gifts you have become, through the work you have done, the promises you have kept, the opportunities you have seized — to Be a Gift to the World."*

**House of Friendship:** The House of Friendship was huge. Besides the food of multi-cultures there is always a stage with constant entertainment. Sitting at a table and listening to a children's choir from China is probably not something we do everyday. From local stores selling shoes and purses to the many booths selling local artisan products, there is something for everyone. Rotarians can stock up on printed material at the Rotary Booth or join a Fellowship. Global grants are presented with opportunity to participate and cooperate. The only way to experience the House of Friendship at an International Convention is to be there. It truly brings together all the pieces of Rotary.





**Fellowship Booths**



**Shelter Box**



**Projects to Do GOOD**



**Rotary Global Rewards: Check these out. Save Money this summer.**



**Experience the culture and the food:** Rotarian President Elects, Greg LaMere and Brad Kirscher were not afraid to try anything including some delicious crab cakes. They were an experience.



Of course I can't tell you the whole story of a Rotary International Convention. It is TOO big! Probably the best phrase to share is one given by **Rotarian Elaine Case** from last year's convention: I went to the Convention and "**Drank the Rotary Kool-Aid**". This year was no different. Rotarians who were attending for the first time hopefully drank the Kool-Aid. They experienced the structure of Rotary and the global impact we are having.



*Sue and her Grandmother share friendship at our Hello and GOOD BYE meal.*

Our final day included dinner with Sue, her mom and grandma. It included a diverse amount of food and friendship. Sue's mom said: "I am so proud of my daughter." Just think of having your own tour guide in the form of an eighteen year old? She was absolutely amazing in her care and protection of us. Thank you **YOUTH EXCHANGE**

**Register for the Atlanta Convention today**  
**and save \$75.00. Sign into**  
**[www.rlconvention.org](http://www.rlconvention.org).**



## News from the clubs:

### **A Briefing on Syria and the Global Refugee Crisis**

**June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Breakfast: 7:30am**

**Breakfast and Registration: \$25**

**Green Haven Golf Course, Anoka, MN**



**Anoka Rotary** will sponsor **Daniel Woodsworth**, president and CEO of the Minneapolis based American Refugee Center and Jamshed Merchant at a forum on the Refugee crisis.

The American Refugee Center is an International humanitarian aid agency that works with refugees around the world to help them take back control of their lives. The event will take place on June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Anoka Rotary Club's Breakfast meeting.

During Mr. Woodsworth tenure the American Refugee Center has expanded programming into Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar and Syria. He was awarded the Peter F Drucker award for Non-profit Innovation in recognition of its work with the Somali Diaspora globally.

The war in Syria has triggered a worldwide refugee crisis. We are yet to fully understand the implications of this crisis, but as Europe struggles to cope, people are waking up to the magnitude of the emergency. Right now, American Refugee Committee is working alongside truly heroic Syrians to provide critical aid inside Syria but we are also working hard to understand how to respond to refugees in a new way.

Jamshed Merchant began serving as Canada's Consul General in Minneapolis in October 2012. He is Canada's senior representative in the Upper Midwest states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Jamshed leads a team of professionals building two-way trade and investment ties, engaging decision-makers and citizens on a range of issues important to both countries and helping Canadians living and travelling in the region.



Jamshed started his career as a faculty lecturer in Geography at McGill University in Montreal in 1979. In 1983, he joined the Alberta government's Ministry of the Environment as a soil scientist working on land reclamation. From 1985 to 2001, Jamshed worked with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as a soil conservationist in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

**Please register in advance at [www.anokarotary.com](http://www.anokarotary.com).**

**For more information, please contact Lynn Montgomery at 612.670.8281**

## Northern Tier Robotics Grants



Matt Sieh of Northern Tier and Pres.-elect Cork Wicker

President-elect Cork Wicker convened our evening meeting at The Machine Shed (President Katie Dailey is in Korea attending the Rotary International Convention). He welcomed the approximately twenty students, parents, mentors and teachers from the Robotics teams at the four local high schools (Woodbury, East Ridge, Park and Math and Science Academy) who were in attendance. Cork told of a chance meeting at a SuperAmerica gas station with the CEO of Northern Tier (which owns Northern Tier Refinery, SuperAmerica gas stations and SuperMoms bakery and concessions). Cork took that opportunity to tell how the Woodbury Rotary Club is supporting the Woodbury HS Robotics Team and proposing that Northern Tier provide mentors and funding. The then-CEO put Cork in touch with the Donations Committee which considered the request favorably, in fact, very favorably. Rather than just support the Woodbury HS Robotics Team with a grant, they decided to make a \$5,000 grant to each of the four teams in the South Washington County School District, and a \$7,500 grant to the district organization that puts on the competition. Cork introduced Matt Sieh, chair of the Northern Tier Donations Committee and a Category Manager for SuperMoms, who confirmed the donations, told those assembled that Northern Tier intends this to be ongoing support, and announced that next year they will be awarding a scholarship at each school for a student interested in studying in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) field. Sieh described the \$750,000 worth of charitable donations to non-profits that Northern Tier made in 2015, combined with 3350 volunteer hours by its employees. They made donations in the areas of education, health and safety, community and environment, human services, and military and veterans. Sieh had recently arranged a tour for the students of the robotics clubs at the Northern Tier Refinery, treating them to robot-shaped cookies. The response from the students and parents who had been part of the tour suggested it was very interesting to them. Sieh indicated a willingness to continue working with the Woodbury Rotary Club in the future.

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## TASTE OF ROSEFEST:



Hosted by the Roseville Rotary Club, the event is scheduled for **June 23, 2016**. Check out the details at the Roseville Rotary Club's Facebook page. The Taste of Rosefest is a food and wine tasting event held during the week of Roseville's Rosefest celebrations. You will enjoy fun activities and be filled with great food.

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## PASSING OF THE GAVEL COMING SOON!

Register today to attend the passing of the gavel to **District Governor, 2016-2017 Jim Hunt** from **White Bear Lake Rotary**. The event will happen on June 21, 2016 in White Bear Lake. Check out the details below and register to attend.



**White Bear Lake Rotary**



The White Bear Lake Rotary proudly announces the installation  
of  
**Jim Hunt**  
As the 2016-2017 District 5960 Governor  
June 21, 2016 6:30 PM Social Hour, Appetizers, Cash Bar - 7:30 Program



**White Bear Center for the Arts**  
4971 Long Ave, White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
Additional parking at  
White Bear Lake High School North Campus  
"free shuttle service"

Tickets \$40.00

Tickets online at <https://jimhunt.ticketbud.com>  
Questions contact Pam Tschida [parmt1716@icloud.com](mailto:parmt1716@icloud.com)  
Order tickets by Friday June 17



## Prior Lake Rotary:




Check out the details of the upcoming Lakefront Music Fest at  
[www.lakefrontmusicfest.com](http://www.lakefrontmusicfest.com)

## Greater Rochester Rotary Club:

**Sign up** today to support the 'Believe in Me' Bike Ride!

*Believe* in **ME!**  
Greater Rochester **BIKE RIDE**  
ROTARY  
Proceeds Benefit Rotary Programs for Local Youth


July 9, 2016  
**Family Friendly Fun!**  
Proceeds Benefit Rotary Programs for local youth!




"BELIEVE IN ME" were the words spoken by a young Rochester High School student in danger of not graduating. However, participation in the STRIVE Mentorship program connected him with a mentor, who did believe in him. He was inspired to complete high school and went on to receive a Rotary Scholarship.

Proceeds from this event help fund those efforts and other Rotary Youth Programs!

**Your help is needed.** Recruit co-workers, family and friends. Let's have fun together as we raise money for STRIVE, dictionary project, RYLA, and the foreign student exchange program. Volunteer needs fall into two categories: PRE-EVENT and DAY OF EVENT ACTIVITIES.



[CLICK HERE](#) to get descriptions of the volunteer jobs that need to be filled and to sign up today!



Rotary members are encouraged to donate for this special event! [CLICK HERE](#) to donate now!

**Rotarians Visit Peace School in DMZ in Korea.** Several Rotarians visited the Border Peace School in North Korea on June 1 and June 2. Included in the group is St. Paul Rotarian Anne Frisch and White Bear Lake Rotarian, Greg Bartz. This might be a good Rotary program in the future.

