

## Rotary District 5960 Monday Musings

Notes from Marlene Gargulak, District Governor, 2015-2016

November 15-21, 2015

### *Our Rotary Foundation Needs Your Support*

Dear Rotarians,

Now that Thanksgiving is over and we are physically and emotionally filled with food and love from our family, and being thankful for all that we have, it is also a great time to promote giving. Interestingly we are in the midst of a time for spending including *Black Friday, Think Small Saturday and Cyber Monday*. In tradition with these days an extra day was added: **#GIVING TUESDAY**. The purpose of the day is to Celebrate generosity and to give. The Rotary Foundation is our lifeblood to making the world different because of all the projects we have done in our communities and the world. We can do more with your help. This **Tuesday, December 1 (#Giving Tuesday)** is a time to give and a chance to reach new supporters by leveraging social media and the momentum of Foundation Month in November.

Look to inspire your giving and others by using resources such as Rotary's [vimeo](#) page or look at successful projects on [Rotary Showcase](#). Another resource is using "Give the gift of Rotary " page giving people ideas of what their money can do. Please visit [www.rotary.org/givethegift](http://www.rotary.org/givethegift) and see what a gift to the Rotary Foundation can do to make the world a better place.

#### **Rotary Global Scholars**

**Sudip Bhandari** is our global scholar at the Ann Frank Institute in Amsterdam. He recently sent e-mail to Craig Leiser, DRFCC about connecting with Rotary Clubs. We are proud to sponsor global scholar exchanges as part of our District Global Funds. These students are working all over the world.

*"Dear Craig,*

*Today, I had the big honor of meeting Anne, the current DG of District 1580 here in the Netherlands. Anne very kindly connected me to a couple of Rotary clubs and a Rotaract club in Amsterdam. I'm hoping to regularly attend meetings of the [Rotary Club Amsterdam International](#) because their mode of communication is English, and they seem to be doing exemplary work around the world. I will definitely keep you updated on how these connections come to fruition. Thank you very much for your continued support.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sudip"*

## Telling **YOUR** Rotary Story:

### *Chisago Lakes Rotary Club*

Featured in the *Chisago County Press* is this story about the global grant that will happen in January, thanks to participation of 21 Rotary clubs in our District. Craig Leiser, DRFCC and Margie Horning (Rotary District 5960 Grants Sub-Committee Chair) presented a check from the Rotary Foundation to support the matching contributions for the project benefiting Jamaica. Diagnostic equipment including ultrasound machines, transducers, and an EKG machine will be sent. The second part of this project includes sending a medical training team who will lecture and instruct Jamaica technicians on proper usage of the equipment. Joanne Sackreiter and Kristine Nelson Fuge, Chisago Lakes Rotarians spearheaded this project. Delivery of the equipment and on-site training are scheduled for the second week in January 2016. The total project cost is estimated at \$55,000.



**Craig Leiser, DRFCC, Margie Horning, Grants Sub-Committee chair and Judy Chartrand, President**

Margie Horning stated in the article to the *Chisago County Press*: ***“The work that went into putting this***

***grant together by local Rotarians should be applauded.”***

### *River Falls Rotary Club*

*(Published in the River Falls Journal: Written by Debra Eliason, Wednesday, November 25, 2015)*

#### **Reading and Rotary: the two "R's" for one local teacher**

“Special Ed teacher Jean Westpetal loves to read. But even more so, she loves to teach reading to struggling young readers because she knows how important it is to their success. “Although literacy does not automatically guarantee a high quality of life, we know low levels of literacy can seriously undermine it,” Westpetal explained. “We also know 90-95% of children with reading problems can overcome their difficulties if they receive appropriate treatment at an early age.”

About 13 years ago, two things came into serendipitous convergence to help address reading problems. Jean Westpetal, who teaches at Westside Elementary School, knew that teachers needed help from volunteers for young readers just not keeping up with their peers. And a Rotary Club member asked her if there was anything the Rotary could do to help at the school. That led to the Rotary Readers program. Members of the River Falls Tuesday morning Rotary club volunteer for about half an hour each week to listen to a small group of grade school’ers read aloud.

This mentoring provides a valuable service to teachers who don’t always have the time to listen to every student. It’s also important for struggling reading students. **“It’s a gift to the school.”** Westpetal said. “Learning to read can be hard



**Jean Westpetal,**

work for some students. And there's just not enough time to listen to them read -- to have them practice reading." Wespetal said that practice of reading is crucial. Rotarians can give that to her students.

"All kinds of reading research says you really need to have the words in front of the child a lot," Wespetal said. "They need to actually see the written words repeatedly so they can absorb the phonetic code and sight words." That's why her classroom is lined with bookshelves filled with books. That's also why she makes sure kids get books in their hands. Wespetal tapped the local Rotary to pay for a pizza party at the end of the school year with Rotary volunteers and the students in their reading groups. At the pizza party every volunteer gave their student a book based on that student's interest. "It's like an award ceremony. The student is called up, shakes the hand of the Rotary volunteer and is awarded a book," Wespetal said. "It's so good for the child."

Every year, the school hosts the Scholastic Book Fair -- and often, some students don't get money or forget to bring money to buy a book. Westepal, with money from the Rotary, makes sure every child gets a book. Wespetal took it upon herself to organize the reading program with the volunteers from Rotary and the teachers who use them.

Year after year she speaks at the Rotary breakfasts to recruit members to her cause. Year after year, she helps teachers at Westside use these volunteers. That's why Wespetal was awarded a Wildcat Pride award. It was presented to her at the school board's Nov. 17 meeting. "It was a real honor," Wespetal said. "It was also humbling because it's not just me. *It's a team* of Rotary members and teachers."

### **Participate? DONATE TODAY TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**

**YOU are the important piece.** Your donation will make the difference and others will follow. Take a few minutes and connect to the work we do to inspire yourself and others.

**Share** how you and your club give back to your community by telling your story on social media. Post stories with hash tags #Giving Tuesday and #Rotary on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**Reach** out to your Rotary family and all your Rotary friends to share in this day by giving to the Rotary Foundation. Ask them to help support projects within your community and the world. Here is the link for Direct Giving: [www.rotary.org/donate](http://www.rotary.org/donate).

**(TELL YOUR ROTARY STORY)-** Contribute to this newsletter and spread the word about your club and its work in contributing to your community and the world as a Rotarian. If your club is featured in a local story, please allow us to share in your success. Just e-mail: [mgargulak@charter.net](mailto:mgargulak@charter.net) . Your story will appear in this communication.

### **NEW CLUBS FORMING- we are growing:**

#### **Prior Lake Interact Club.**

Officers are elected- just need to be chartered.

Jennifer Deschane and Susan Perez are co-chairing this committee for the Prior Lake Rotary. **From left to right:** Susan Perez, Jennifer Deschane, Victor Beckers, Exchange Student, Treasurer; Megan Hofstein, Communication; Shea McBrayer, President; Alex Schult, Vice President, and Hannah Amundson, Secretary



## Rotary E-CLUB



The Rotary e-club of District 5960 is an aspiring eClub without borders, thus it attracts [members](#) from around the world. In cooperation with District 5960 and members of several Rotary Clubs, we hope to Charter this e-Club in 2015.

Our goal is to open the door of Rotary to individuals who may not be able to be a member of Rotary through a traditional club. If you know of a Rotary member who has quit because of finances, schedules, or other conflicts, an e-Club may be an alternative. If you know someone who wants to be a part of Rotary and is challenged with time, cost, or physical issues, please tell them about this alternative and ask go to the [membership page](#) and complete the form to get started.

This club is an exciting alternative to those members who are leaving your club because of financial or other circumstances. It also offers makeups for Rotarians who can't attend regular meetings for whatever reason, but want to stay involved with your club. We have some exciting weekly programs on-line. A donation for the make-up is requested. Check it out!

**DEADLINE FOR EARLY REGISTRATION IS  
DECEMBER 15 FOR THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION IN SEOUL, KOREA**

## [Connect with Korea --](#)

Join us in Seoul! Take advantage of early registration for the convention in Seoul, Korea, 28 May--1 June 2016. Early registration deadline is December 15, 2015. Sign up today at <http://www.riconvention.org/>. The District has blocked 30 rooms for Rotarians, so please be sure to register with Katie Dailey at Dailey Travel.



*Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars*

*December 1: #Giving Tuesday*

*December 3: Birthday DAY!*

*December 7: Rotary District 5960 Board of Directors Meeting*

*January 15-16, 2016: Rotary World Peace Conference, Ontario, California*

*January 29, 2016: Leadership Academy*

*January 30, 2016: Midterm and PETS Orientation*

**We are challenged by this theme: it is a call to action, a directive of service, an order to follow, a course to lay down, and a quest to pursue!**

Join me during this exciting Rotary year to honor our journey together. Our time is short; it is fleeting already. We have just 7 MONTHS to respond to this challenge.  
This is our Time!

