

# District Governor Frank's Weekly Letter for Club Presidents - February 24, 2013



## *This Past Week*

Scottie and I shared an outstanding week of Rotary that literally spanned the globe (a 19,000 mile roundtrip) this past week. The District 3220 District Conference in Sri Lanka ended last Sunday, and we then headed for the north east portion of the country where we found ourselves in Trincomelee, a rural town located a few hours south of Jaffna. Along with PDG Anil Garg and Lika, we participated in an inauguration ceremony that involved Rotarians, local officials, teachers, and children that totaled about 175, hosted by the Rotary Club of Trincomelee. The program is for an early childhood education program, that provides for teacher training grants. Through our TRF MG program, many of our District 5240 clubs participated with financial support for these very dedicated teachers. Our collective generosity is providing a one-year certification program to 960 teachers in three large rural/semi-rural areas of the country. Look at the link, and see if you can figure out what they are saying!

<http://kinniya.net/2011-11-08-16-59-46/1371--1000-.html>

We had a similar experience in Kurunegala, which had even more participants. The youngsters were fantastic! I plan to put together a more detailed report with facts, figures, and pictures about this education and literacy project in the near future.

We flew home (well almost), with a four-day stop at the LAX Marriott, to participate in SoCal PETS 2013. DGE Jack McClenahan and his dedicated team worked to help with training and support for our District 5240 President-Elects. SoCal PETS includes the six Southern California Rotary Districts. The official total attendance this year was 599! How did it go? Ask your President-Elect!

In the middle of PETS; Scottie and I, along with DGND Jim Bell, took a 'quick trip' to join the Bakersfield Breakfast Rotary Club (Randy Merriman) celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> charter anniversary. Simply stated, this group celebrates in style! Thanks BBRC for the warm reception and including us with your celebration!

Back to SoCal PETS on Sunday to finish up and start the planning for 2014 PETS (Feb 20-23).

We are 'tucked in' Sunday night in Thousand Oaks for a couple of early meetings the following week, then looking forward to a night or two at home! Yes. This week was one of the best weeks ever!

## *District Four Way Test Contest*

This contest is designed to award winning entries submitted from individual clubs in District 5240 for their interpretation of the Test. To be eligible for District consideration, entries must be sent in readable format (electronically or via mail), and should be either an essay or a copy of a speech (no posters or drawings can be accepted.) Winning categories include grade/elementary schools (1-6), middle schools (7-8) and high schools (9-12). First place in each category is awarded \$300, second place \$200, and third place \$100.

Deadline to submit your club's entry is **Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**, with the winner announced Friday, May 3rd, 2013. The submittal form is available on the District Website, under Vocational Service [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org). **Need more information? Please contact JIM LEWIS, District Vocational Service Chair at: (818) 399-9870 or [jlewis1118@aol.com](mailto:jlewis1118@aol.com)**

## *A Challenge from District Governor Frank!*

Scottie and I were so very impressed with the commitment of the Sri Lanka Rotarians and the dedication of the many school teachers we met. To that end, we really want to get the total number of teachers trained by another 240. They are located primarily in the Nuwaelyia (mountain area) of the country. We have a completed MG. We now need a little cash. Scottie and I have agreed to personally match all cash contributions, up to \$5,000.00, from throughout our District 5240,. We have two weeks to get the needed commitments.. Your support is appreciated. For now, you can simply email your cash commitment to me. Remember, *"Individually we can do really good; but collectively we can be great!"* Are you in? Let's get it done!