

# Celebrating Rotary – District 5370, 2013–2014



*Rotary 2013–2014  
was a fabulous year  
in District 5370.*

– PDG Betty

## Rotary 5370 Clubs: Awards and Distinctions

The clubs in this District shine in so many ways. This year 18 clubs (including an Interact Club) received Presidential Citations and six clubs received Presidential Citations with Distinction. These citations recognize clubs that are growing stronger, creating positive change in our communities, and enhancing our public image.

Rotary Club Central is a relatively new online goal setting tool that helps clubs set goals and keep track of their progress and achievements throughout the year. This year 32 clubs in our District set at least 15 goals or more in Rotary Club Central by 15 March 2014 and each received a Rotary Club Central Award.

Some of our clubs are doing particularly well in retaining members. Eleven clubs in District 5370 received the Rotary International Award for Highest Retention Rates this year.

### Camrose Rotarian Ron Grue Receives Service Above Self Award

Ron Grue was surprised and delighted when Rotary International President Ron Burton presented him with a Service Above Self Award at a Presidential Dinner in Red Deer.



Service Above Self Awards are given to only Rotarians each year, recognizing those who exemplary humanitarian service, in any form and at any level, with an emphasis on personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping others through Rotary.

Ron has served his local community and communities in other countries during his 31 years as a Rotarian. He designed and built the 7500 square foot Rotary Youth Centre, serving as a contractor and doing much of the work himself. He also designed and built a three-room school in Otaxha, Belize and spent a year in Colima, Mexico, rebuilding homes damaged by an earthquake.



## **Special Awards for Rotarians Who Have Contributed Greatly This Year**

Betty Screpnek presented a Service Above Self – Spousal Award to Terry Limoges-Brown at a meeting of the Westlock Rotary Club. Congratulations, Terry.



## **Les Dunford, Westlock Rotarian, Receives Rotary International Photo Award**

Photographs by Les Dunford, Westlock Rotarian and prize-winning photographer, were published in the *Rotarian* this year. Congratulations, Les.



## **Major Achievements, 2013-2014**

### **Membership**

In a year when many Districts in the world had net losses of membership District 5370 increased its membership from 2265 to 2314, a net increase of 49 members (2.2%). Retention, engagement and recruitment were high priorities.

### **District Training/Learning and Development**

Passion, commitment and joy of lifelong learning. The Training Team clearly connected with the District's

### **Significant Achievement Award**

Peace River Rotary House will provide accommodations for patients who need medical supervision as outpatients. It will be located within walking distance of the Peace River Community Health Centre.

Rotary House will also provide temporary accommodations for medical professionals, visiting specialists and medical students, whose expertise helps establish the quality of care required for people in Peace River and surrounding areas.

### **Youth Services Awards**

Twenty District young people won awards for Advanced RYLA (Norwalk, Connecticut), RYLA North America (Washington, DC), Interota 2014, SUNIA (Nordegg), Action Generation Banff Leadership Residency, and RYLA International (Sydney, Australia).



### **Past District Governor Betty's Rotary Champions**

PDG Betty Screpnek has awarded Paul Harris Fellowships to a group she calls her Rotary Champions. These awards – and the award for Rotarian of the Year – will be announced at the District Conference, October 2-3, 2014.

strategic objectives focusing on building team as a first priority. The team consisted of experienced and talented facilitators, experts in technology delivery and included a member from each of the Board committees. This was to ensure the needed two-way communication flow that helped in expediting the time needed to frame and deliver relevant learning.

The second priority was to align and provide a learning resource for the District. An on-line District Training page

was developed that included all things training related and one that mirrored resources provided on the RI site. The site includes local learning opportunities, links/materials related to using technology, District training presentations, the Rotary Leadership Institute as well as trainer resources and an learning calendar.

### **Rotary Leadership Institute**

The Rotary Leadership Institute program was re-launched in our District in 2013-14.

Three Part 1 "Rotary and Me" workshops were held providing this new Rotary learning opportunity to 37 Rotarians. Many thanks go to facilitators, Ross and Brenda Tyson, Darrel Martin, Pauline Perreault,, Dini Corbett-Lourenco, Tim and Sally Schildts.

The positive feedback from participants in attendance reinforced our plan to continue these workshops for all interested Rotarians. The workshops benefit all members, new and seasoned, creating an enthusiasm for Rotary and ultimately strengthening clubs.

The program goals for 2014-2016

- to increase the current number of RLI facilitators from 10 to 20
- to have all new members participate in a Part 1 workshop during their first year of membership
- to have 100+ Rotarians participate in one or more of the modules each year

Historically Rotarians have learned about the world of Rotary over a long period of time. This new program allows members to learn more aspects of the Rotary world in a condensed time frame. Often as a result of the training many experience the benefit of also making the transition from being a Rotary Club member to being a true "Rotarian".

### **Project Footprint 2020 – a 4G Leadership Initiative**

Project Footprint 2020 is a collective long-term membership vision that focuses on increasing membership to ensure Service above Self touches many more individuals and communities. The initiative was launched during the Spring Training and District Assembly opening evening. What is unique about the initiative is the collaborative effort by the "4Gs" – the District Leadership team. They designed, developed and gave commitment to support the initiative going forward until 2016-17 with the expectation that future District Leaders would commit to 2020. The 4G Leadership Team consists of the PDG, DG, DGE and DGN.

### **Celebrating Women In Rotary: The First Annual She's All That! Igniting Rotary Membership Event**

Our inaugural event, held May 8, 2014 at the Edmonton Petroleum Club, was attended by more than 270 Rotarians and guests. We celebrated eight of the many amazing female leaders across our District and invited women to learn about Rotary and join this great organization.



## Celebrating 100 Years of Rotary in Alberta



Rotarians from Districts 5360 and 5370 met in Ron Red Deer for a dinner celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Alberta. Ron Burton, President of Rotary International, was the guest speaker. Betty and George Screpnek were Presidential aides for the day, driving Ron and his wife Jetta to Red Deer for the meeting.

## Inaugural Youth Council Formed

The Youth Council, led by Edward Ramsden of the St. Albert Club, brings together representatives of RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment), Interact (youth, ages 12-17), Rotaract (ages 19-30) and the Youth Exchange Program.



## District 5370 Sends First Vocational Training Team to Honduras

This team replaced the Group Study Exchange in the Future Vision plan. We sent four individuals to Honduras – three Rotarians, and one non-Rotarian who was recently inducted as a member. The team focused on a micro-finance initiative.



## Working for World Polio Eradication

Funding for Polio eradication reached new heights. Polio Gonzo, Betty's Polio mascot and his siblings, were introduced at the conference and became the continuous reminders of the need for more funding.

With District 5360, we negotiated with the Province of Alberta to match up to \$350,000 (\$175,000 for each District). An amazing Rotarian then organized an Anonymous Polio Gonzo fund for \$75,000.



Each dollar contributed was matched by this fund, then the Province's fund, then the Bill and Melinda Gates fund.

The total amount raised by the Polo Gonzo Campaign for Polio Plus was \$1,317,030!

## The Rotarian Foundation Challenge

PDG Betty Screpnek invited every Rotarian who chose to donate \$500 (with a cut-off of June 30, 2014) that they would be matched with equal Paul Harris points to give them a Paul Harris Fellowship. One hundred and twenty Rotarians participated, resulting in a total of \$70,219.



Our Annual Giving went from \$306,000 in 2012-2013 to over \$349,000. Well done, Rotarians!



**Thank you for an amazing year!**