

# Big Sky Rotary News



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

Montana Rotary District 5390 Newsletter

April 2018

## Joe Bear's Broadcasts

*A Message from District Governor Joe McBride*

### Events

[Helena Club Centennial](#)

Great Northern Hotel  
Jun 16, 2018  
5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

[Art on the Fly](#)

Downtown Livingston  
July 1, 2018

[RYLA Camp 2018](#)

Luccock Park Camp  
Jul 10, 2018 1:00 PM – Jul 14, 2018

[SCRYE Conference, Billings](#)

Northern Hotel Billings  
Jul 13, 2018 – Jul 15, 2018

[District Training Assembly, Butte](#)

Comfort Inn  
Aug 10, 2018 – Aug 11, 2018

[Rotary Zone Institute, Boise, ID](#)

Grove Hotel  
Sep 04, 2018 – Sep 09, 2018

WGIPP Assembly (Peace Park)

East Glacier Lodge  
Sep 21, 2018 – Sep 23, 2018

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

There are three clubs that I visited that I didn't include in my previous newsletter so I am including them now.

"The Fun Club": that's the way the Townsend club labels itself. They are active and organized. Their biggest event is the "Townsend Fall Fest," featuring free music events, over 100 vendors, a large car show and parades. They sponsor a Senior dinner and have raised thousands of dollars for dozens of projects and scholarships.

Led by **President Laura Obert** and Mr. Everything **Patrick Platenburg**, Townsend epitomizes what it is to be a "smashing" Rotary club.

One hour south of Butte is Dillon. The Dillon Rotary Club is guided by **Deborah Hedeem**, Provost at University of Montana Western. They have a number of fund raisers including brewery tour and golf tourney. However, my favorite is the "Dillon Ice Melt Contest." It is a lot of fun --I have not won. A new one this year is to make and sell address signs, that now have to be placed throughout the county. **Marty Malesich** is printing these in his basement. This is a club that finds a need and fills it.

Lastly, **Jim McIsaac** joined me in Canada in September (2017) with an impromptu hands-across-the-border meeting. Dillon is a distinguished club.

Over the past few years the Butte Rotary Club has taken on a new

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*Joe McBride  
District Governor  
2017–2018  
Rotary Club of Butte*

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# Rotary Club News

## Montana Foreign Exchange Students Spend Weekend in Townsend

Four Montana-based Rotary Youth Exchange Program students spent the St. Patrick's Day weekend in Townsend (see attached photos). Every year Beth Ihle and the Rotary Club of Townsend invite Montana Rotary Foreign Exchange Program students to spend a weekend in Townsend. This year the event was planned and hosted with the help of the newly formed Broadwater High School (BHS) Rotary Interact Club.

The students spent the weekend visiting with each other and the Townsend students. Some toured the glass-blowing shop at Goose Bay Glass. On Saturday night they attended the Community Dance held at the Heffner Ranch Barn, sponsored by the BHS Future Farmers of America (FFA) Club. At the dance they learned how to dance American style jitterbug and line dances. The Montana students got to try dancing to some Brazilian salsa music.

As usual, the event was much-appreciated by the Montana-based foreign exchange students, who only get to see one another two to three times a year during their one-year stay in Montana.



*May is  
Youth Services Month*

## Great Falls Club Prepares Military Care Packages

For the second consecutive year, Rotary Club of Great will be sending care packages to Montana Air Force and Air Guard troops this spring. Rotarians can donate funds to support the effort to show appreciation for our troops, or they can donate items for the care packages.

**Rob Rezek** of Davidson Companies is spearheading the project, assisted by **Denise Gray** (also pictured), **Todd Neighbor**, and **Colin Lee**. Items will be collected from April 10 - May 10.



Suggested items include lip balm, lotion, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, nutritional bars, new magazines, licorice, beef jerky, nuts, teas, and canned fish or fruit. Cash donations are used strictly to purchase needed items and to cover postage.

On May 15, volunteers will gather to sort the donations and package the items to be delivered. Nothing like a care package from home!

*(Joe Bear's Broadcast continued from page 1)*

look. Montana's oldest club is fully awake. **Dave Armstrong** has focused on new fundraisers, planting trees, including a 30-footer in uptown, and membership. Dave has had many helpers, including Mary Lou Spath, Bob Miller, and Jennifer Pierce .

Butte has sent many students to RYLA, contributes to a number of charitable groups, and continues to improve Maude S canyon trail. The club has become fully engaged--we've added a number of new active members and started an Interact club. Butte is busting out.

What a year it has been! Thank you again for inviting me into your meetings, As I am nearing the end of my Rotary year, I am reminded of a quote from Henry Ford: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success".

At the international level, the district level, and the local level, Rotary epitomizes this quote. Our clubs have worked to benefit the people of Montana and the people of the world. We should be proud of all our accomplishments. We have "*Made a Difference.*"

# The Face of Rotary

## Ty Robinson

District 5390 lost one of its longest-serving Rotarians on April 3 with the passing of Ty Robinson of Missoula. He was 102 years old.

The director of Missoula's United Way described him as "the champion of all Missoula good causes." The Boy Scouts of America awarded him its Distinguished Eagle Scout medal at the age of 100, one of only 2400 Eagle Scouts so recognized out of the 2.5 million Eagle Scouts in existence. H

Robert H. Ty Robinson was the quintessential Montanan. Raised in Columbia Falls, where Montana's most famous artist, Charlie Russell, was a family friend, he became an Eagle Scout at age 14. He went on to play basketball at the University of Montana and graduated from the law school there in 1948. By then, he had fallen in love with Missoula and called it home from then on.

He joined the Missoula Rotary Club in 1949, became its president in 1952, and was a faithful member for 69 years. On his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Missoula club helped him celebrate via iPad at their weekly meeting.

Ty changed the face of Missoula and Montana for the better. He was instrumental in establishing the Community Medical Center. He led the effort to fund building a new library in the '70s and to fund its replacement four decades later. He chaired the campaign to buy Flathead Lake's Melita Island and re-establish a summer camp there for the Boy Scouts. This year alone, some 1,200 Scouts will camp there.

No project was too big – or too small – for Ty. "The number of people he mentored and helped get established in all walks of life, not just the law — I don't have enough fingers and toes to count them," fellow Rotarian Bob Minto told the Missoulian. "I think of him as a conciliator. He was a problem-solver. He could step back from almost any problem and see a path through or around it that worked for pretty much everybody."

We join the Missoula club in celebrating the contributions and mourning the loss of Ty Robinson. Donations can be made to the Missoula Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 9290, Missoula, MT 59807, in memory of this exemplary Rotarian.



# The Rotary Foundation News

## Foundation Fundraiser a Success

On March 24, District 5390 held a Rotary Foundation Fundraising Dinner at the Northern Hotel in Billings. District Foundation Chair Sue Carstens explained the dinner's goal: "The District Grant Committee would like to fully fund all qualified grant applications and we simply can't with the \$30,000-\$35,000 we've been receiving from The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Annual SHARE Fund. If we invest more money this year, then in three years we'll have more money to give out for grants."

The Rotary Foundation invests the funds donated each year to the Annual SHARE Fund for three years and then returns 50% of that money for District 5390 to use on District and Global Grants. The remaining 50% is primarily used by TRF for Global Grant funding and Peace Fellowships.

All of the speakers at the dinner expounded on the good work The Rotary Foundation does locally and internationally and how they were personally connected to the work of the Foundation. Speakers at the dinner included:

- Dan Himelspace, the Zone 27 Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator from Denver. Raised on a ranch in southeastern Montana, Dan has held many Rotary offices. A member of the Paul Harris Society and the Bequest Society, Dan has been awarded The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. Christy Olson, Dan's niece, also attended the dinner.
- Martin Limbird, from Ft. Collins, CO. Martin and his wife Mary Catherine are Foundation Major Donors, Bequest Society and Arch C. Klumph Society members, as well as charter members of the District 6560 Paul Harris Society. In July 2015, Martin became the Endowment/Major Gift advisor for Zone 27.
- Richard "Rick" Powers from Anaconda. Currently Rick serves as President of the Rotary Club of Anaconda. He's a Paul Harris Fellow +6, a Bequest Society Level 4 and a member of the Paul Harris Society.

Fifty-five people attended the dinner. Rick and Nikki Powers of Anaconda received Major Donor Level 4 Awards and Paul Harris Society Chevrons. Lucy Smith of Kalispell the chevron and received the Major Donor Level 2 Award.

A total of \$9,820 was contributed at the dinner to The Rotary Foundation; \$8,620 to the Annual Fund and \$1,200 to Polio Plus. Participants in the President Elect Training Semi-

*(Continued on page 6)*



**Rotary**  
District 5390



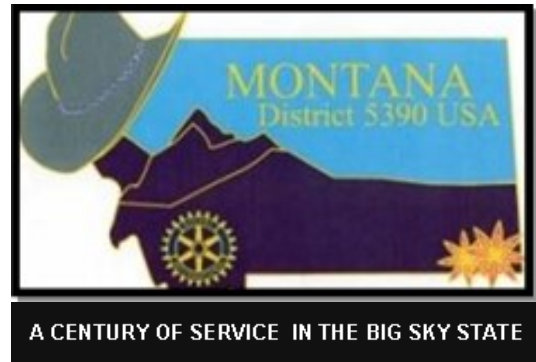
The Rotarian's The 4-Way Test  
*of the things we think, say, or do:*

Is it the Truth?  
Is it Fair to all concerned?  
Will it build Goodwill and better Friendship?  
Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

[www.montanarotary.org](http://www.montanarotary.org)

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*Service above Self*



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
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*(Foundation Dinner continued from page 5)*

nar (PETS) contributed \$3,265 to underwrite the dinner. That means a donation of \$13,085 was made to The Rotary Foundation and in three years our District will have another \$6,542 in Grant funds to help clubs carry out their projects.

Thank you to all who contributed to making the dinner a success. Our District is planning the next fundraising dinner in Kalispell during the month of October. Details will be forthcoming. If you want to give and can't attend, go to [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org) and click on 'Donate' or fill out this form and submit your donation directly to TRF: [http://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050013/en-ca/files/sitepage/rotary-foundation-information-forms/automatic-foundation-giving-form/rotary\\_direct\\_form\\_en.pdf](http://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050013/en-ca/files/sitepage/rotary-foundation-information-forms/automatic-foundation-giving-form/rotary_direct_form_en.pdf).

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