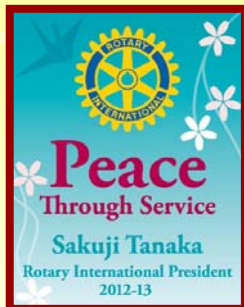


District Focus

Monthly Journal of Rotary District 5390

DECEMBER 2012



District Governor 2012-13
Daryl and Juanita Hansen
Rotary Club of Livingston

this issue

- A Christmas Time Story P.2
- Focus on Our Youth P.3
- Club Posts and Tweets P.4
- Upcoming Events P.6

DISTRICT HOSTING ROTARY MULTI- DISTRICT EVENT IN JULY 2013

District 5390 will be hosting the South Central Rotary Youth Exchange (SCRYE) summer meeting this coming July in Bozeman. Around 200 people are expected to attend the weekend meeting from the multiple districts that belong to SCRYE. Participants will attend sessions to learn the latest information about Rotary Youth Exchange. It also provides a great opportunity for district YE members to network and build relationships between member districts. There is also time for fun. With the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman and Yellowstone National Park nearby, attendees will likely want to stay and play before leaving Montana.

This will be the first multi-district Rotary event hosted in Montana and hopefully not the last.

Rotarian volunteers from the Bozeman area and across the district will be needed to help make sure the event runs smoothly. More information on how to help will be available soon.

Ω

The SEASON of PEACE on EARTH

As the Holiday season arrives, and we celebrate the season of Peace, remember that as Rotarians we create PEACE through our ROTARY service each and every day, somewhere in the world. Please remember to keep our Rotary Foundation in mind as you buy gifts and consider making a generous donation to our Foundation. I want to wish each one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thank you for all you have done to welcome me as I have traveled through our District over the past 6 months. I will always treasure my time meeting you and celebrating all of your accomplishments.

It is hard to believe but it is time to register your Presidents-Elect and Presidents Elect Nominee for the President Elect Training Seminar. DGE John and DGN Roy have been working hard to prepare what I am sure is a fantastic program. Please make sure that you arrive on time and depart late enough to get the most out of this exciting program. I am looking forward to meeting all the PE's and PEN's February 28 through March 3, 2013 in Denver.

Has your club completed and returned to Dave Kinsey the club MOU (memorandum of understanding)? We need to have these in to Dave in the very near future. Without this form, your club will be unable to participate in the new Grant Module in 2013-2014. If you need help with the forms, give Dave, John or Roy a call and they can help you out.

If you have not done so yet, please make sure that someone from your club signs into the RI website and posts your clubs projects at Rotary Club Central. It is also a good place check out what other clubs around the world are doing. This can be a great resource for you to find new projects and fundraisers that have been successful elsewhere and then adapt them to your own club.

Here in Livingston we are working and planning for the Year-end (continued, p. 3)

From Sint Nicholaas and Sinterklaas to Saint Nick and Santa Claus:

An American Comedy

By J W (Joop) Thiessen, Rotary Club of Kalispell

When I was a five(ish) year old child it was traditional in Holland to celebrate “Sinterklaas avond” (Santa Claus Eve) on the evening of December the 5th, the night before St. Nicholas’

day. Saint Nicholas was Bishop of Myra (present day Turkey) in the early fourth century; he died on December 6, 343. It is not entirely clear how historical the stories about him are – being a cynic I would submit that most of them were indeed just stories. He appeared never to have been formally canonized, but very early after his death he was already known as “Saint Nicholas”, the patron saint of (especially) children and sailors. Officially, i.e., in the Roman Catholic Calendar, his feast is considered “optional”. Whatever, in my youth it was a very popular occasion and the major day of the winter in which children received their presents; Christmas was, at that time, considered a holiday for adults. Even now the St. Nicholas holiday is still widely celebrated in Holland, with Sinterklaas arriving by boat from Spain (why Spain, I have no idea) in early December, accompanied by his little helpers (“Black Petes”) with bags over their shoulders carrying presents for the “good” children, and a “rod” of twigs in their hands to punish the naughty ones, all very politically incorrect of course!

One would have thought that the Dutch brought the St. Nicholas tradition with them to New Amsterdam, but there is no evidence of that. Later, the “Pennsylvania Dutch” (actually Deutsch, i.e., German) appear to have kept the feast of St. Nicholas – I don’t know in what form.

The present-day Santa Claus was reborn after the revolution, in New York, as one of the expressions of the colony’s Dutch roots. St. Nicholas even became the patron saint of the New York Historical Society and of the city itself. But the modern Santa Claus (at least in elementary

form) was an invention of Washington Irving, described in his *Knickerbocker’s History of New York* as a jolly Dutch burger with a clay pipe. He was pictured more like the modern Saint Nick in the 1823 poem

“A Visit from St. Nicholas” (better known as “The Night before Christmas”): *He had a broad face and a little round belly, that shook, when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf.* Notice that his “timing” was sneakily switched to Christmas, by more than two weeks from his official feast day.

The further transition to the Santa Claus as we now know him was heavily influenced by front pages of the

Saturday Evening Post and, especially, by the post-war Coca Cola advertisements which picture him in what we now think is the “classical” image of the jolly old man in a red suit – far removed from the St. Nicholas dressed as a bishop with miter and scepter, the way he is still pictured in “the old country”.

But then, Christmas isn’t what it used to be either!

I wish you, with Santa: “Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night”!



NEW GRANT MODEL

Districts manage the club qualification process using resources provided by the Foundation, including grant management seminar materials. Clubs must be qualified each year in order to apply for a global or packaged grant. However, districts decide whether clubs must be qualified in order to receive district grants.

To be qualified in our district, a club must:

- 1 Send at least two members to the district’s grant management seminar.
- 2 Agree to the club MOU and return it to the district. For Rotary year 2013-14, the 2013-14 club president and president-elect sign on behalf of the club.

Districts may develop additional qualification requirements for clubs, which must be reasonable, achievable, and fair to all clubs. Additional requirements should be included as an addendum to the MOU.

Clubs in District 5390 who attended the Foundation seminar in November and who are planning to apply for a grant in 2013-14, need to complete their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the club and send it to our District Foundation chair, David Kinsey. International Grant application forms are available on-line at Rotary.org and will be posted soon on the district website under Foundation Information and forms.

Ω





Members of the Corvallis High School Interact Club often visit their Rotary sponsors, the Rotary Club of Hamilton. Interact is far more effective for students and Rotarians when they “interact” on a regular basis.

FOCUS ON OUR YOUTH

Members of the new, soon to be chartered, **Interact Club of Great Falls** are busy doing community service. Students from Great Falls High School and CM Russell High School met as the prospective Interact Club of Great Falls recently at Bethel Lutheran Church. Rotarians working with the students are Pattie Craumer, Gregg Holt, Jordan Husted, and Marianne Granlie. Six of the students participated in a service project on December 9th at the High Gate Assisted Living Home, to help the residents make personalized holiday door name plates and Christmas ornaments. One of the residents said, “You made my Christmas special by coming today.”

Whitehall Interact members participated in a fundraiser to help the school band buy new drums. A Zumba challenge with school officials and local business leaders helped bring in over \$3000. The club also held a raffle to raise money to save the local theater. A new digital projector must be purchased (\$80—100,000) or the theater will no longer be able to show current films. Other community groups are helping find a feasible solution to the theater projector situation. The decades-old facility is great place to hang out on weekends for kids and adults.



POLIO RIDE IN ARIZONA raised more than \$375,000 for polio eradication. RI General Secretary John Hewko and his wife Marga were among the 90 Rotary participants. Polio cases continue to drop, thanks to the dedicated support and involvement of Rotarians and other organizations. Pakistan reported 54 cases as of November 20th, 100 fewer than the same time a year ago.

YOUTH EXCHANGE UPDATE: Report from Taiwan

Our outbound student, Quinn Grom of Belgrade is doing great in Taiwan. Her host Rotary District held a speech competition with 28 YE students participating. Quinn received second place and her host parents were very excited. The district governor will be sending a photo of Quinn. We will post it on the district web site and the district Face Book page when available.

Rail and Water Train Coming in April

Former Rotaract club president Martina Frycova from Pilsen, Czech Republic will be traveling through Montana in early April on the Rail and Water Tour, sharing stories of Rotary programs that provide clean water in developing countries. She has been working with Florida Rotarians to develop new water projects for a school and clinic in Afghanistan.

The tour will travel across the northern Montana Amtrak route. Clubs on or close to this route have the opportunity to host a presentation by Martina. For more details, go to the article on the district website under District News.

DG Daryl's Letter, Continued from page 1

District Conference and plan to have registration up on the District website around the first of the year. Start making your plans to come to Livingston May 3-5, 2013. We are planning fun activities, informative breakout sessions, good fun and incredible opportunities to share your success stories. Please plan to have at least one representative from your club at the annual General Business meeting that will take place on Saturday morning, May 4th. This is your chance to participate in the business of our District and voice your opinions. Remember to bring Silent Auction items to help raise money for our Foundation. If you have always wanted to see inside the Historic Livingston Depot, this is a great chance to do so. We are doing everything possible to make the District Conference affordable and enjoyable. If any club wishes, we are accepting sponsorship monies from clubs or businesses to help keep cost down.

Thanks to the hard work of Ellen Robison, we have been selected to host the Annual summer meeting of SCRYE (South Central Rotary Youth Exchange) in our District in Bozeman Montana in July 2013. This will bring up to 200 Rotarians and their families to our state and get us on the Rotary map for future meetings. We will be requesting assistance from many District Rotarians as time gets closer, so mark it down on your calendars.

Again I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas season and a Happy New Year and if you are traveling during the holidays please be safe. Peace be with you all.

Daryl Hansen, DG

CLUB TWEETS AND POSTS

ROTARY CLUB'S SUCCESS ON FIRST EVER FUNDRAISER

Laurel Rotarians presented a check to the Laurel School Board on December 13th in the amount of \$55,000. The money will take the school a step closer to replacing the gym floor, a project estimated at around \$150,000 to complete.

The Rotary Club of Laurel has been concerned about membership lately. They have always been active in the community; but, like many clubs, were struggling with finding new members. Then, the opportunity to try something new happened—raise money to help the school put in a new gym floor. WOW! \$55,000! Not bad for a first try and a great incentive for local business people to join.



Members of the Rotary Club of **Great Falls** helped the Salvation Army raise some much needed money for their community work by ringing bells on December 8th. The club also adopted two families and will be making sure each has a special Christmas this year.

The Rotary Club of Hamilton held their annual bell ringing to make Christmas a littler brighter for local children. As you can see, Scott Southwick can juggle more than one job at a time.



DISTRICT SIMPLIFIED GRANTS

DSGs are available for clubs that wish to help fund a local project. The amount of funds currently available is \$12,800. This is less than the past couple of years due to a decline in Foundation giving three years ago. The application form and instructions are available on the district web site. Some of the projects previously approved in the 2011-12 year included office & electronic equipment for Maternal Life International (Butte); a guided fishing trip for wounded veterans (Columbia Falls); food and supplies for the local food pantry (Lewistown); and a new fence around a playground (Twin Bridges). A complete list is posted on the district web site.

The **Rotary Club of Whitefish** was presented the Big Fish Award from the Whitefish Community Foundation for the club's Magic of Christmas program which helps hundreds of children and their families at Christmas.

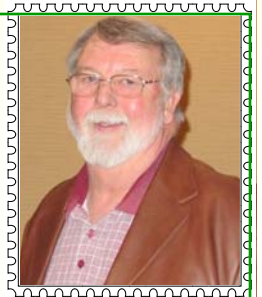


Delivering dictionaries has become an annual event for many of our clubs. Like the Hamilton Rotarians in the photo above, other Montana Rotarians spend countless inserting The 4-Way Test stickers into thousands of dictionaries before they are delivered. Some organizations that did provide dictionaries have stopped so it is more important than ever for clubs to check with area schools and make sure that every third grader (some clubs give to 4th or 5th graders) in Montana receives a dictionary.

Korky Deaton, President of the Rotary Club of **Anaconda**, has been named the **Good Neighbor of the Year** by the Anaconda Chamber of Commerce. Edith Fransen, Chamber Director, said Deaton is one of Anaconda's best assets and a unanimous choice for Good Neighbor of the Year.

Besides being an active member of Rotary, Korky serves on the Chamber board of directors and helped to develop the successful Alive After Five summer festival for the community.

The Anaconda club brought in the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band as a fundraiser this last August. The proceeds are being used to fund their annual Sharing is Caring program which gives a better Christmas to deserving children and families in Anaconda.



As of December 15th, 47.5% of our clubs reported November Member Information

November 2012, End of Month Attendance/Membership Report (as reported on Dec 14th) & Foundation Giving						
Club	Reported	# Members	% Attend	# Meetings	Foundation Goal	% Achieved
Anaconda	NO	19			\$1,100	
Big Sandy	YES	19	55	4		
Big Sky	NO	19			\$2,375	
Bigfork	YES	31	68	3	\$3,500	
Billings Noon	NO	203			\$20,500	
Billings West	YES	78	35	4	\$8,000	
Bozeman Noon	NO				\$7,000	
Bozeman Sunrise	NO	99			\$9,600	
Butte	NO					
Columbia Falls	NO	14			\$1,400	
Deer Lodge	NO				\$250	
Dillon	YES	17	69	3	\$1,500	
Evergreen	YES	17	96	4	\$2,000	
Glendive	YES	28	57	3	\$1,950	
Great Falls	YES	118	70	4	\$7,875	
Hamilton	YES	28	73	4	\$3,000	
Havre	NO	25				
Helena	YES	58	48	3	\$1,950	
Helena Sunrise	NO	18				
Kalispell	YES	112	78	4	\$13,000	
Kalispell Daybreak	NO	73			\$4,500	
Kootenai Valley, Libby/Troy	YES	39	52	3	\$4,500	
Laurel	YES	21	74	4	\$2,400	
Lewistown	NO				\$2,500	
Livingston	YES	34	55	4	\$3,000	
Malta	NO				\$350	
Manhattan	NO				\$1,150	
Miles City	YES	34	72	4	\$2,400	
Missoula	YES	133	39	4	\$13,900	
Missoula Centennial	NO	9			\$1,500	
Missoula Sunrise	YES	41	53	4	\$4,700	
Philipsburg	NO				\$600	
Polson	NO	67			\$7,000	
Red Lodge	NO	36			\$3,200	
Roundup	NO					
Townsend	YES	45	42	4	\$3,080	
Twin Bridges	NO	18			\$500	
White Sulphur Springs	NO					
Whitefish	YES	68	50	3	\$7,700	
Whitehall	YES	19	75	4	\$2,000	

Projected return to district in 3 years if Foundation giving goals are reached: \$74,990

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION 2013
LISBON, PORTUGAL**



Upcoming Events

PRESIDENTS-ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR 2013

March 1-3, 2013 This will be a critical PETS for new Presidents and PENs with new training topics. Attendees need to arrive at the hotel before 8:00 AM on Friday, March 1 and stay until Noon on Sunday, March 3. As before, PETS is in Denver at the Marriott Tech Center. To register, go to the District web site at www.montanarotary.org, look under District Events for President Elect Training Seminar. Open this event for more information and the registration link.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE, 2013

May 3-5, 2013 Celebrate the 2012-13 Rotary year in Livingston with District Governor Daryl Hansen. The Livingston Rotarians are planning a fun and informative event for our district. Registration will open after January.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND GROUP TRAVEL PACKAGE

June 23-26, 2013 The Rotary International Convention will be held in Lisbon, Portugal. A special travel package is available for Rotarians, friends and family with departures from Billings, Denver, and Dallas. The package does not include convention registration; but, does include airfare, lodging, in-country transportation and special group events. A land-only package is also available. For more information, visit the District website and look under District Events.

KENYA PROJECT

This project can not be completed without the right contact to secure a shipping container, transportation of the container and a broker to handle the international paperwork. Our leads so far have been unanswered or dead ends. Anyone who can provide a solid contact to assist with the shipping portion of the project is urged to contact PDG

Arlene Weber as soon as possible.

The 4-Way Test

Of the things we Think, Do, or say:

- _ Is It the Truth?
- _ Is It Fair to All Concerned?
- _ Will It Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- _ Will It Be Beneficial to All Concerned?

District Focus

DECEMBER 2012



Rotary District 5390

PO Box 1091
Billings, MT 59103
DG Phone: 406-220-0137

Newsletter Contact: PDG Arlene Weber at DG5390.2011@msn.com

For more information on Rotary, visit the International web site at www.rotary.org.