

# BIG SKY NEWS

**Rick Moore, Governor** | District 5390 | Montana, USA

## Online Auction funds club projects

Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club hosted its annual fundraiser December 3, an evening of fine dining, drinks, live/silent auctions and raffles, to fund club service projects.

Auction items were available for anyone to bid online prior to the event. The club arranged shipping or drop-off to winners not living in Bozeman.

Auction items included: Private wolf watching tour for 4 people on the Ted Turner Flying D Ranch, dinner, guide, transportation & videographer; Private air flights for 3 people over Bozeman & Yellowstone Park; fishing trips on statewide waters; river floats & kayak trips, ski & bike tours & ATV rental; luxury home rentals & golf on Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course at Moonlight Basin; food & wine, jewelry, micro-brew, dinner certificates.

—Mike Banville, Rotary Club of Bozeman Sunrise

## Whitehall Interact Club helps international student

Thanks to members of the Whitehall High School Interact Club, Rio Mae Innocent Labiaga of the Philippines is now the proud owner of a high school diploma.

The Interact Club, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Whitehall, began supporting the young girl's education four years ago. Last spring, Rio Mae proudly participated in the graduation ceremony from her high school. Without the help of the Whitehall Interact Club, Rio Mae's family could not have afforded to send her to school. The cost of sponsorship is only \$135 per year and provided her with a school uniform, books, paper and other basic school supplies. Fifteen dollars of the total sponsorship is given at Christmas to help the student buy something for herself. Last December, Rio Mae was able to buy a new backpack and school shoes.



Over the past four years, Whitehall students have written letters to Rio Mae and she has returned letters to them. In her last letter following her graduation, Rio Mae wrote the Interact club members, "After all my efforts and sleepless nights, it was worth it. I'm so happy and feel blessed because I finally graduated (Senior) high school." — *cont. page 2*



## Baking pies for Polio

Standing prominently on the Florence property belonging to Lauretta and Curt Belts is a very productive apple tree. For the second year in a row, Lauretta (Rotary Club of Missoula) and Curt (Rotary Club of Missoula Sunrise) have harvested their apples and turned them into scrumptious pies ... lots of pies. The pies sold for \$50 each which together with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matching gift, raised over \$11,000 last year for the RI Foundation's End Polio Now campaign. This year, the couple made 50 more pies and hope to raise a similar amount.

## Bigfork Film Festival

Bigfork Rotary Club of Montana presented three wonderful days of classic movies October 5-7 downtown at the Bigfork Center for Performing Arts.

Visit the website for the Bigfork Retrospective Film Festival at [bigforkfilmfestival.com](http://bigforkfilmfestival.com) to learn more about the event's success.

## From page 1 – Whitehall Interact Club

The Interact Club works through The H.E.L.P. Foundation, founded by Rotarian Keith Hooper and his wife Pat, who is from the Philippines. The couple's Foundation is based in Topeka, Kansas.

The Interact Club plans to sponsor two more students through high school and to help Rio Mae attend college. The members will also be performing local community service during the school year. Some activities will be in conjunction with the Rotary Club and others will be independent. The group was busy this fall helping the Rotary Club with highway cleanup in September and the Fall Harvest Dance in late October. They participated in a blood drive at the high school November 7 in cooperation with United Blood Services.

This school year, the Interact officers are President Madison Loomis; Vice-President Britney Welker; Secretary Dalaney Scafani; and Treasurer Hannah Tebay. Interact advisors are Holly Harper (WHS) and Ed Handl (Whitehall Rotary Club). The club meets at the high school on the first Wednesday of the month and club officers meet on the last Wednesday of each month.

—Arlene Weber, Rotary Club of Whitehall

## T-shirts for peace and conflict resolution



Support the District Peace & Conflict Resolution Committee and show off the Rotary Focus on peace. T-shirts available for \$20 each. To purchase one, contact Betsy Mulligan-Dague from Missoula Sunrise Rotary at [bmdague@gmail.com](mailto:bmdague@gmail.com) or 406-274-6171.

**From District Governor Rick Moore**



## Seasons of Rotary Service

Summer is always a fun time in Montana Rotary. The Rotary Club of Billings hosted the South Central Rotary Youth Exchange summer conference. The Rotary Clubs in the Flathead Valley had a very successful Great Bear Festival. The Rotary Club of Philipsburg organized its Ninth Annual Summer Charity Concert and Auction held on the club's brand new stage. Rotary Club of Townsend sponsored its monthly Slice of Summer events. And this is just a small sampling of all the great summer events that our clubs sponsor. Rotarians from around the state gathered in Butte for our annual assembly. We had Rotarians from all four corners of the state in attendance. Many thanks to all who attended, especially those who presented at the Assembly.

Fall has been equally busy for clubs around the state. September brought Basic Literacy and Education Month and Rotary members participated in our District-wide literacy project. We distributed reference books to third grade students around Montana. I hope you enjoyed seeing the kids' faces light up when they received their reference books. And I hope you took photographs of Rotarians distributing the reference books and used them in your clubs' public information programs.

Winter brings the holiday season, with many Rotarians "ringing bells" and organizing countless other charitable activities. I know that many clubs "adopt a family" during the holidays to make sure that those less fortunate have a more enjoyable holiday season. Please explore ways that you and your Rotary Club can put Service above Self and provide for those in need. And thank you for all that do for the communities you serve.



Jenna Justice, DG Rick Moore & Seeley the hospice dog.

As Sylvia and I have traveled the state visiting Rotary Clubs, we have seen many projects that our clubs have completed. It is very inspiring to see first hand what People of Action can accomplish when we "join leaders to share ideas and take action!" I must admit, though, that one of the more inspiring moments came when I met Seeley, the Hospice Dog in Kalispell. His mistress Jenna used a Happy Buck to tell members about Seeley.

Many Rotarians have asked me the best way to help people affected by the recent fires in California. You may contribute directly to the Paradise Rotary Club Foundation to support relief efforts for victims of the

Camp Fire. For the Woolsey and Hill Fires, District 5240 has established a foundation to receive donations for victims of those fires. All donations will go directly to those most in need as determined by local Rotarians. See page 4 for how to donate.

## CA Fire Relief

Help victims of the devastating California fires by donating to relief efforts.

### **Camp Fire: Paradise Rotary Club (Northern California)**

Send checks to:

Paradise Rotary Foundation  
Scheer Memorial Chapel  
2410 Foothill Blvd  
Oroville, CA 95966.

### **Woolsey and Hill Fires: District 5240 (Southern California)**

On line donations: Ventura County Community Foundation,

<https://vccf.org/donate/hill-fire-and-woolsey-fire-sudden-and-urgent-needs-effort>

Send Checks to:

5240 Charitable Foundation  
Attn: Barry VanderKelen,  
Chair  
1212 Marsh St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Write "Fire Relief" in the memo section on the check.

## Promote world peace through hosting Rotarians

If you learned that a nice Rotarian or two, perhaps from another country, were coming to your community, might you be willing to host them in your home and help them see the area for a few days?

If you thought "possibly yes", then you qualify for fellowship in a good Rotary-related program in which I participated last year and recommend.

I was traveling through Argentina and did not know anyone in the capitol Buenos Aires where I had long layover. Before making final reservations I made contact with a Rotarian member of the *International Travel and Hosting Fellowship*. He invited me to stay in their apartment in the historic part of the city for three nights (their children were grown so they had space). He had business to do during the day, but provided me with city maps and several tickets for the subway/tram and walked me the four blocks to the station. In the evening, I came back and reported on my visits to museums and a boat tour of the bayou and islands of the river delta. One night we had local food in their apartment and the next I bought them dinner at a nice restaurant.

The understanding is if they or another Rotarian should come to Montana that I would return the favor. Simple as that.

The advantages to me are having instant fellowship upon arrival, a way to really understand the area over dinner conversation, etc., and a flexible way to explore unique local attractions without having to be part of a tour group. Plus, it's a cost saving and such

money can be spent on a nice dinner treating the hosts. Sampling local wine was a plus.

**Here's where to get started:** <http://www.ithf.org/>

—Steve Hample, Rotary Club of Bozeman Sunrise





## Tell your Rotary story to the community

Rotarians need to do a better job of telling the world about the wonderful things we do in our communities, the state, the nation and the world.

District Webmaster Arlene Weber has created a link to some helpful tools to make People of Action posters, banners, print ads, Facebook posts, etc.

Check out the link at: <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50013/sitepage/people-of-action-templates>

If you have any questions please call Patrick Plantenberg, District Public Image Committee Chair, at 431-4615.

*Photo above: Assistant Governor Susan Dykhuizen and daughter Sophie create a People of Action poster at the 2018 District 5390 Conference.*

*Photo by Rick Moore*

## District offers Paul Harris Society matching gifts

Fellow Montana Rotarians, we need your help. For whatever reason, our District is currently under represented in the Paul Harris Society (PHS). To help increase our participation in the PHS this year, District 5390 has committed to matching the donations of up to 20 Montana Rotarians who join PHS by committing to donate \$1,000 per year to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) for as long as they can. The District match will be given to PolioPlus. This is a great opportunity for those who can join to double their impact to TRF this year.

The Paul Harris Society, named for Rotary's founder is comprised of dedicated supporters who annually contribute \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Rotary Foundation grant. Rotary has made joining the PHS painless and giving through Rotary Direct is an easy way to give throughout the year. Simply visit [rotary.org/give](http://rotary.org/give) or call 1 (866) 967-8279 for direct assistance.

Your gifts help provide:

- Vocational training for teachers in South Africa
- Water filters and hygiene training in India
- Scholarships for medical professionals to reduce child mortality rates
- Peace building seminars in Uganda
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets to prevent malaria in Mali

Many Montana Rotarians are currently eligible to join the PHS due to their recent donation history. Those individuals will be receiving a letter in the near future encouraging them to join the PHS and to take advantage of the District's PHS Challenge. Joining the PHS is easy as you may go online and complete the sign-up form at [rotary.org/paulharrissociety](http://rotary.org/paulharrissociety) and choose Join Today.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please contact me.

*Rick Powers, Rotary Club of Anaconda*

*Paul Harris Coordinator*

## District 5390 Calendar

March 1-3: PETS, Denver CO

May 3-5: 2019 District  
Conference, Radisson Colonial  
Inn, Helena, MT

June 1-5: Rotary International  
Convention, Hamburg,  
Germany

September 5-8: Rotary Zone  
Institute 2019

## Special Month

December is Disease  
Prevention and Treatment  
Month. Good time to make a  
contribution to End Polio Now.

## Big Sky News

*Big Sky News* is a monthly  
publication of Rotary District  
5390, Montana, USA.

District Governor Rick Moore  
Rotary Club of Helena Sunrise

District Secretary  
Shawna Secker  
Montana's E-Club E-4

*Big Sky News* Editor  
Victoria Emmons  
Rotary Club of Missoula

Address correspondence to:  
Editor, *Big Sky News*,  
Rotary District 5390  
PO Box 1091  
Billings, MT 59103  
Email: District5390.newsletter  
@gmail.com



Rotary believes education is a right. Our more than one million members across the globe unite to educate and uplift students through scholarships and service. Inspiring the next generation— that's what people of action do. Once a year Rotary in Montana hands out dictionaries to 3rd graders. Learn more at [MissoulaRotary.org](http://MissoulaRotary.org).

Members of the Rotary Club of Missoula deliver dictionaries to 3rd graders.

**Rotary**  
District 5390

