

# Big Sky Rotary News

Montana Rotary District 5390 Newsletter

February 2016



## Events

[Great Falls Centennial Celebration](#): March 4

[President Elects Training \(PETS\)](#): March 11-13

[Tasmanian Professional Development Exchange](#): April 14 – May 14

[2016 District Conference](#): April 22 – 24

[Billings Downtown Centennial Celebration](#): April 25

[RYLA](#): July 12 – 16

[Peace Park Assembly](#): Sept. 16 – 18

## Inside this issue:

Club News	2-4, 6
Membership Matters	5
Who is Malinda Shafman	7
District Convention	8
From the Editor	9

## District Governor Bill's Message to Rotarians

Several items need action on your part to help finish up this Rotary year. The District Conference will be held April 21-22, 2016 at Fairmont Hot Springs. There will be opportunities to take part in a service project, possible play golf (depending on weather) and generally have a good time with your family at the Conference and at Fairmont. Please make sure all of your Interact Clubs and Rotaract Clubs receive the information regarding the conference. We will be holding an Interact Conference in conjunction with District Conference. Please tell your Interact Club officers to contact [Heather Howlett](#) ) and [Connor Ford Butte Interact President](#) ) regarding this event and agenda. Registration will be available on the District Web site soon. I am requesting each Club to bring a silent auction item. Fairmont Hot Springs has donated a one-night stay at Fairmont for the auction. Clubs should also bring displays for our annual Showcase to let other clubs know about the great projects your club completed during the past year. As has been done in the past, we will hold a ceremony for recently deceased Rotarians as one of the first items in the first plenary session. Please send a brief bio of a Rotarian from your club that has passed away this Rotary year to our District Secretary [Shawna Seeker](#) . I need nominations for District Conference awards. Categories include Best Club(s), Rotarian of the Year, Membership Net Improvement Award, Foundation Award, and Governor's Citation. If there is a Rotarian or a club or a club's project you feel deserves mention, let me know soon.



*Bill Spath  
District Governor  
2015 — 2016  
Rotary Club of Butte*

Our Professional Development Exchange team from Tasmania will arrive in our district, at the Billings airport on April 14th. We are in the process of setting up the visitation schedule for the team. I need your club and host contact information for these visitors. If you are interested in hosting let me know immediately.

Presidents Elect Training (PETS) is coming up quickly. District Governor Elect Malinda is expecting everyone to send a PE and possible a PEN. Mary Lou and I look forward to seeing the Pes and PENs in Denver March 11 – 13.

Don't forget that we have two clubs that will be celebrating their 100th anniversary this Rotary year. Great Falls is celebrating on March 4th and Billings is celebrating on April 25. The Montana State Governor will speak at the Great Falls celebration. Our Rotary International Vice President (and Zone directory) will speak at the Billings celebration.

We also are asking clubs to support our District International Literacy Project. We gave each club labels to generate book donations in each community for schools, libraries and individuals. We are also preparing a District Grant for next year to provide school materials to two schools in Guatemala. Please consider having your club donate \$50.00 to \$100.00 to help us deliver school supplies to these needy children.

I hope your Rotary year is going well and that you are doing great things for your communities and Rotary!

## Rotary Club of Polson ReBarn Project

A county-wide community effort is transforming the horticulture barn at the Lake County Fairgrounds into an insulated, heated expansive space where youth can hone their skills — even in the frigid winter. The barn, built in 1961, is used each year by 4-H shooting and 4-H dog training projects and Mariners baseball practice. It's come to the rescue as a "fallout shelter" when unexpected summer showers threaten outdoor events. But dim lighting and lack of heat made the venue unbearable at times.

"The Mariners used it for practice when it's 16 (degrees) outside and 6 (degrees) inside," said Sjaan Vincent, member of the Friends of the Fairgrounds.

The "ReBarn Project" — coined by Jack Stivers, Montana State University extension agent — had several challenges that were not letting the project get off the ground, according to Vincent. "We were struggling with the 'how to' of this project," she said. "It wasn't a sow's ear, but it wasn't a silk purse either." Along came an anonymous local building company who spent countless hours donating not only time and equipment, "but also materials and know how," according to Vincent. Work included rewiring and the installation of seven new trusses to support a dropped and insulated ceiling. Existing lights were lowered and with the enclosed and painted white ceiling, the room is now bright.

Mission Valley Mariners baseball players and the Lake County 4-H kids also worked on the project and contributed to fundraising efforts. The Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife contributed \$10,000 to the project to get the ball rolling.

From there it just caught fire, according to Vincent. The Rotary Club of Polson jumped right in with a grant of \$11,000. Lake County Community Development aided in the grant writing process for several successful grants including the Rotary grant and \$4,000 from



Fred Grant, 4-H shooting sports leader, acknowledges receipt of an \$11,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Polson, represented by Larry Ashcraft, President Elect. Also pictured from left are Sjaan Vincent, Friends of the Fairgrounds; Karen McLeod, 4-H dog project leader; Jim Harrod, Mission Valley Mariners; Ed Larson, 4-H shooting sports; Gypsy Ray, Lake County Community Development Corporation; Dee Dee Blaney, Polson Rotary Club President.

## Interact in Hamilton

Five young ladies from the Corvallis High School Interact Club recently attended the meeting of the Rotary Club of Hamilton. The Hamilton Rotary Club is also sponsoring a new Interact Club to be formed at the Darby High School.



Corvallis High School Interact Club Members

## Whitehall Has 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Dinner

The Rotary Club of Whitehall held its second annual International Dinner on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Whitehall Community Center. Although there were fewer overall food vendors, the attendance was up over that for the first event in 2015. Eight of the 16 food vendors were Whitehall Rotarians. There dishes included Canadian cabbage rolls, Fiji chicken, Black Forest Parfaits, Slovenian Povitica, Chinese won ton soup, Southern US jambalaya, and Scottish short bread. Other non-profit groups had dishes representing Germany, England, Italy and Columbia. The Whitehall Interact Club served French crepes.



President-elect Helena McCarthy and Karen Burtch dish up some jambalaya for a hungry customer.



PDG Arlene Weber with one of her Black Forest parfaits.

## Great Falls Rotary Club 100 Year Celebration

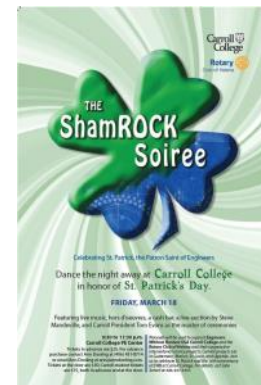
Great Falls Rotary Club was officially chartered on March 1, 1916, and they're planning a 100-Year Celebration! On Friday, March 4, the festivities begin at 5:30 at the Meadowlark Country Club with a social hour followed by a sit-down banquet. The event is semi-formal and the price per ticket is \$50.

The program will be emceed by Great Falls Rotarian and former District Governor, Mark Finnicum, who will conduct the occasion with all the traditions of the club's weekly meeting. The honorable Governor Steve Bullock will be our featured presenter. Several Rotarians are at work compiling a CD of our signature achievements: Vignettes from the Early Years, Camp Rotary, the Polio Project, Women in Rotary, and Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Rotarians from Helena, Canada, and Butte have already expressed an interest in attending, but all District 5390 Rotarians are encouraged to attend. If you're interested, contact Tim Peterson, Great Falls Rotary Club President, at [timothy@lpwarchitecture.com](mailto:timothy@lpwarchitecture.com).

## Rotary Club of Helena and Carroll College Shamrock Soiree

Upcoming Shamrock Soiree is cosponsored by Carroll College Engineers Without Borders and the Rotary Club of Helena. The funds realized from this event will be split equally between the Helena Rotary Club and Engineers Without Borders. The portion that goes to the International Committee of the Helena Rotary Club will be used for joint projects with Engineers Without Borders. The Carroll College Engineers Without Borders already partners with the Rotary Club of Kootenai Valley (Libby/Troy) on water projects in Guatemala.



## Rotary Club of Great Falls Harvest Howl Raises Money for Camp Rotary

The Great Falls Club had the most successful Harvest Howl ever, raising \$70,000 for Camp Rotary. Someone wowed at the Harvest Howl became a "Cabin Angel," donating \$500 to the cause.

Our reconstruction project is going apace. In a construction update on Camp Rotary, we learned that the four cabins of focus in Phase I are 90% complete. They need a bit of furnishing and detail work, but we are turning our sights to Phase II, which involves the construction of another four, and possibly five cabins. We have submitted a grant request to the Murdoch Foundation for the fifth cabin. We've received a Murdoch grant in the past and they've accepted this one, so keep your fingers crossed.

"Camp is where you unload the sad and fill up on the happy,"

These are exciting times for Camp Rotary, which serves many worthy causes. "Camp is where you unload the sad and fill up on the happy," said one camper who has now returned to Camp Francis as a teen volunteer. Camp Francis is a unique healing experience for grieving children ages 6 to 12 and is held annually at Camp Rotary. Camp Rotary hosts more than 800 children each year through various community organizations such as 4-H, camps for children of incarcerated parents, children in foster homes, and those that have lost a loved one, to name a few. Access to camp provides children with an excellent educational experience and for many may be the only positive experience they have that summer.



Camp Rotary

Learn more about Camp Rotary and the Harvest Howl at: <http://harvesthowl.org/index.html>

## Billings Rotarians Support the Needy

The holidays are a special time for caring and giving back to the community. Giving can be done through monetary contributions, donated items, and volunteering. Rotarians from the Downtown Billings Club gave their money and time during the 2015 Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. Fundraising within the club paid for 900 food baskets that were distributed by Food Services of America to needy families in Billings to provide them with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Many Rotarians, along with members of the community, also volunteered in November and December to help Food Services pack the food baskets for distribution. In addition to providing holiday meals, Downtown Billings club members braved the December cold one Saturday to ring the bell for the Salvation Army in



## Kriegs Make Major Donation, Club Closer to Significant Milestones

The Downtown Billings Rotary Club is proud to announce that Rotarian Gareld Krieg and his wife, Barbara, made a major donation to the Rotary Foundation in 2015. Major Donors are recognized by Rotary International when their cumulative donations to the Rotary Foundation reach \$10,000. They are honored with a crystal recognition piece and a Major Donor lapel pin or pendant, as was Gareld as well as Past District Governor John Stewart and his wife, Susan. The Downtown Billings club currently has over 70 Paul Harris Fellows, which represents over 40 per cent of the club's membership. The near-term goal is to have at least 16 new Paul Harris Fellows, which would make it more than 50 per cent of the club membership. The longer-term goal is to make that ratio 75 per cent. The club's members have to date made a total of over \$457,000 in qualifying contributions, and they want to push that figure up to \$500,000, a major lifetime milestone for the club.

## Membership Matters

*By Rick Moore*

Membership worldwide in Rotary International has seen remarkable growth over the last few years. The same cannot be said, however, for our District. As the graph to the right shows, over the last four years membership in District 5390 has declined by almost 100 members. The reduction in the number of active Rotarians has many implications for the future of Rotary in Montana. Simply stated, we cannot continue to implement all of our projects with fewer and fewer members. The old adage “Many Hands Make Light Work” is especially critical to completing volunteer service projects.

One of the many advantages of being a member in Rotary is networking with other professionals in your community and in Montana. As membership declines, so do the networking opportunities. I would also note that one of the problems of not recruiting new members is that we are becoming a “grayer” organization. As members reach retirement age, many of them may drop out of Rotary for various reasons. Recruiting new members to Rotary will undoubtedly bring in many younger members. These members add new vitality to clubs, and will allow older members to get a better sense of community.

On a more pragmatic level, the declining membership directly impacts the District’s operating budget. The majority of operating funds are derived from member dues. Fewer members means fewer dollars to support Rotary service projects in Montana. There are three ways to deal with this problem. You can reduce the services that you provide. We saw this last year when the budget did not allow the District to purchase all of the dictionaries that Clubs wanted to distribute to schools in their communities. Or, you can increase fees assessed for projects. All of us who send students to RYLA have seen this over the past several years. Although the majority of the costs for RYLA comes from the camper fees paid by our Clubs, the District also provides significant financial support to RYLA from the operating budget. The reduction in funds available from the District means that the cost to clubs sending students to RYLA has increased.

But – all of these issues can be solved if we reverse the trend and increase membership in Montana Rotary. Although the overall trend has been down this year, several clubs have seen remarkable growth. The Helena Sunrise Club has increased membership by 38% since the start of the year. The Big Sky Club has increased membership by 22%. I asked the Presidents of these clubs to provide their insights into how they have been successful in recruiting and retaining members. Their solutions can be easily implemented by any Club in the District that wants to improve their club and grow their membership.

### Rotary Club of Helena Sunrise Club

Helena Sunrise Club President Brad Lancaster announced at the beginning of his term that membership growth was my number one priority. He asks members at nearly every meeting to think about inviting someone to a meeting. Prospective members are invited by a member of the Club to attend a meeting or two. If they express an interest in joining Rotary, Brad arranges to take them to lunch with their prospective sponsor and other members to discuss Rotary and activities of the Club. This works. Success breeds success. Once a couple of folks actually join, I believe it becomes easier for members to invite prospects.

One of the most helpful things Brad has brought to help attain growth is tactful leadership. Through his leadership, Brad has brought organization and consistency to the meetings, which has made a great deal of difference and generates energy.

Brad says he is determined to refocus the Club on Rotary, while at the same time keeping the Club's independence. Brad has also introduced simple and **brief** Rotary educational moments to Club meetings- using the Rotarian as a major resource. Building a knowledge base about Rotary **and** a good meeting makes members more willing to invite others to join. Excellent speakers attract and help retain members.

Brad says that the Club has been doing things – Trivia Night, Clothes for Kids, Kiva, Bowling for Kids, Empty Bowls, Peace Park, Literacy, etc., etc. Doing things make members feel they are making a difference - because they are - and it makes them feel good about saying they are Rotarians and about inviting others to join.

Finally, Brad has tried to lead, but to also to delegate. Involved members are stronger members. He added that he really appreciates having members that are “Rocks of the Club,” who have been terrific assistants to his goal of growth. Having such people is key to any club's success. A president trying to do it all is a recipe for failure.

### Rotary Club of Big Sky

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Bozeman Sunrise Rotary's *Winter's a Beach Festival*

“To say the kids were having fun is an understatement. In its first official year, the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary's "Winter's a Beach Festival" turned out to be a great success. The event featured a 5K run, ice skating, broom ball, a chili and cornbread cookoffs, winter sports gear demos, a drone flying tent and demonstration, face painting, sledding, and plenty of fun. The event was very well received by the public, had a great turnout and also received some really good publicity with the TV station KBZK attending the event to get some footage and interviews. HGTV was also in town filming an episode of their Montana based real estate show, "Living Big Sky" and happened to get some event footage and Rotarian interviews. Proceeds from the event will help with a variety of planned projects from the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary along with a donation to the Gallatin Valley Land Trust. Many thanks to everyone for the amazing work on the day of and to all the work leading up to the event.

Winter's a Beach [Watch the Footage from KBZK](#)

fundraiser kicked off with more than 250 in attendance.”



*(Membership Matters Continued from page 5)*

Dale Palmer, District Membership Chair and a member of the Big Sky club, projects that the Club will have increase by a net of seven members (from 27 to 34) when Presidents Elect meet in Denver in March for their training. He hopes that they will be at 35 or 36 members by the District Conference in April. He says that if you ask why, it's because five years ago the Club “reinvented ourselves.” Yeah, you say, a six-year old club reinvented itself? The Club revised the dues to include only District and Rotary International dues. Since then, they have done \$115,000 worth of community projects, none of which came from grant money, and taken advantage of those projects to promote the club and Rotary in general. He says that the Club has a written list of prospective members and actively recruit them.

Big Sky Rotary Club President Danielle Miller, while recognizing the Club's success in recruiting new members, also emphasizes the importance retaining current members. This year the Club formed committees and ask every Rotarian to join one. This has helped members create a sense of ownership over projects and has helped spread the workload so a few members aren't doing everything. Danielle also notes that they have focused on having more socials and doing more community service meetings such as park clean ups. Meeting outside of the normal Club meetings allows members to socialize and get to know each other more. I think the key to increasing membership is giving every member a sense of ownership over a project or club duty and creating long lasting friendships between the Rotarians.

The Club will soon be hosting their third induction ceremony of the year and will be welcoming three new members to the Club. Danielle says, “We've created a celebration out of these ceremonies and host food and wine for our members. We do not have a program for the meeting and instead spend time socializing.”

### Summing it Up

Make membership a priority. This should address both recruitment of new members and retention of current members. Ask all of your members to help identify new members. Ask these people to your meetings and events. Follow up with them and answer questions they may have about Rotary. Make your club meaningful in your community by doing projects that make your members proud. If they are proud of your club, they won't hesitate to share the things you are doing with their friends and colleagues. Celebrate new members, but also put them to work immediately on meaningful projects. In short, have fun, do good things, and enjoy the friendship of Rotary! *Be a Gift to the World*

## Who is Malinda Shafman?

Many Montana Rotarians may be wondering “just who is this Malinda Shafman, our 2016-2017 District Governor?”

I don't want to spoil all the fun of meeting me in person and getting to know me personally, but here are just a few facts about who I am and how I think!

- Born and raised on a farm in central Iowa so I know how to work hard and how to be frugal (not cheap).
- Attended the University of Northern Iowa graduating with degrees in Teaching English and Teaching English as a Foreign Language.
- Taught junior high and high school for 2 years
- Moved to a corporate environment in 1979, working for Principal Financial Group (PFG) in Des Moines, Iowa for 24 years, holding several positions over the years because I like new challenges. Once I even dissolved the department I was managing.
- Moved to Montana in 2002 because Iowa wasn't getting enough snow – yes, I like winter/snow sports. I snowshoe and cross country ski as much as possible during the winter!
- Married my wonderful husband Dave in 1987.
- Retired from the insurance industry in June 2014 because our one grandson in Iowa needed spoiling, so now we make frequent trips back to Iowa to visit the grandson (and daughter and son-in-law).
- Enjoy hiking at home and abroad – I live only 20 minutes from Glacier so frequently hike there and in the Flathead National Forest. Have also hiked across England, Wales coast and the Catalonia Coast of Spain.
- Also enjoy reading (murder mysteries) and rock hounding (nothing like the thrill of finding a sapphire or gold nugget in the woods!).
- And finally, have been a Rotarian since 2003 and absolutely LOVE my Rotary Family around the world!



Malinda Cross Country  
Skiing at Jewel Basin!

## District Convention News

### Highly Acclaimed Speaker Kicks Off the Convention

Join us to celebrate Rotary in Montana at the Rotary District 5390 Conference at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. Corbin Ball, a highly acclaimed international speaker, consultant and writer will kick off the Conference Friday afternoon with two enjoyable, exciting and informative presentations.

**Plenary Session 1:** "Technology for the SOHO (small office / home office) and Road Warrior - How to Make it Work For You"

**Plenary Session 2:** "The Top Technology Trends Transforming Business and Society"

**Corbin Ball** is an international speaker, consultant and writer helping clients worldwide use technology to save time and improve productivity. With 20 years of experience running international technology meetings, he now is a highly acclaimed speaker with the ability to make complex subjects understandable and fun. His articles have appeared in hundreds of national and international publications and he has been quoted in the *U.S. News & World Report*, *Wall Street Journal*, *the New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Fast Company*, *PC Magazine* and others. Corbin was named as one of "The 25 Most Influential People in the Meetings Industry" for 2012 by *Successful Meetings* magazine, having received this award four times previously. Corbin was also selected by his peers in the Convention Industry Council (CIC) as one of the "Top 30 Certified Meeting Professionals Influencers" in 2015.



### District Convention Highlights

The District Convention is a celebration of our Rotary Year. As part of the celebration, District Governor Bill Spath will be presenting awards to outstanding clubs and Rotarians. So get your nominations in to Bill soon. The Convention will also include the Club Showcase. This is your opportunity to show attendees the great projects that your club has completed over the last year. So please bring your display to brag about your club.

Special guests will include our Youth Exchange Students and the Professional Development Exchange Team from Tasmania. You won't want to miss the opportunity to hear our outbound Youth Exchange Students give their introductory speech in the language of the country that they will visit. It will be very interesting to talk with the Tasmanian exchange team and learn more about their country. The program will also include sessions to update you on Rotary, and to assist you in completing your various projects.

There will be plenty of fun also! Golf on Friday, time to enjoy the resort, and the Awards Banquet and Celebration. The highlight of the evening will be the induction of Malinda Shafman as our next District Governor.

### Club District Convention To Do List

- ◆ Submit Award Nominations to District Governor Bill
- ◆ Prepare Silent Auction Item
- ◆ Prepare "Showcase" Poster
- ◆ [Register for the Conference](#) (registration available soon)
- ◆ [Reserve a room at the Fairmont Hot Springs](#) (enter the Group ID of 15267 and the Password 268 to get the Rotary room rate.
- ◆ Come and have Fun!





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***

## 2016 Waterton-Glacier Peace Park Assembly

The 2016 Waterton/Glacier International Peace Park Assembly will be held in East Glacier September 16 -18, 2016. The Assembly next year will be extra special. Glacier National Park Superintendent Jeff Mow and representatives from the Helena Noon Rotary Club will be providing details about the Assembly at the District Convention. Registration for the event will be available soon. Rooms at East Glacier can be reserved now by calling (406) 892-2525. Use the Group ID "E16 Waterton Glacier" when making your reservation to get the group rate \$159.00 per night for one or two people per room.

*From the Editor Rick Moore*

It was really fun preparing this issue of *Big Sky Rotary News*. Articles from the Rotary Clubs across Montana kept rolling into my inbox. I enjoyed reading about all the remarkable projects that Montana Rotarians have completed recently. Congratulations are due for all the wonderful service projects that you have accomplished!

This newsletter is for you—Montana Rotary District 5390 Rotarians. My goal is to provide you information about Rotary International and Montana Rotary. To do this, I need input from you. I appreciate all the articles that Clubs submitted for this issue. But I also want to hear from Rotarians in general. What do you like about the newsletter? What don't you like? What would you like to see covered in future issues?

I would like to start a regular column that features input from Montana Rotarians. Do you have a question about Rotary, or about District 5390? If so, let me know and I will try my best to find the correct answer for you. What do you like about Rotary? How can we improve your Rotary experience?

I also realized when I saw District Governor Bill's plans to include Interact Clubs in the District Convention that I need to reach out to the Interact and Rotaract Clubs and feature articles about their activities. Hopefully, the next issue will feature articles from our Interactors and Rotaracters.!

I look forward to seeing many of you at PETs and the District Convention. Don't be afraid to approach me there with your ideas and suggestion. You can always email me at [District5390.Newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:District5390.Newsletter@gmail.com).