

# BIG SKY NEWS

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

## Guten tag, Hamburg

Rotary members preparing for a trip to Hamburg, Germany, June 1-5 for RI Convention should practice up on their German. Hamburg is Europe’s second largest port and known for its cosmopolitan outlook. It rivals Amsterdam in the number of canals and bridges; two inviting lakes in the heart of the city; and easy access to the North Sea and Baltic beaches that stretch for miles. Register at [riconvention.org](http://riconvention.org).

## Hamilton Past President is PHF +6

At the January 28 meeting of the Rotary Club of Hamilton, Past President Gordon Finney presented a Paul Harris Fellow +6 award to Past President Mark Jergens. Way to go, Mark! Thank you for your Rotary generosity!

—Gordon Read, Rotary Club of Hamilton



## Kalispell Daybreak inspires 19 new Paul Harris Fellows

As Rotary Foundation Chair for the Rotary Club of Kalispell Daybreak, I set a goal of six new Paul Harris Fellows for my club mates during Rotary Foundation Month in November 2018. For an added incentive, our board authorized a points matching program for gifts over \$100 received in the month of November. Our club had over 13,000 recognition points amassed just waiting to “do good in the world.”

Each week in November, our Club President Jason Cronk was kind enough to dedicate a few minutes of our meeting to learning about the Rotary Foundation. The first week focused on the Foundation’s purpose, its global impact and how each Rotarian can get involved. The Kalispell Daybreak Club is a 100% sustaining club, which means that each club member is already donating \$100 annually to the Rotary Foundation.

— cont. page 2, Paul Harris Fellows

## Public Image

Members of the District 5390 Public Image Committee met in Missoula January 5 to strategize how best to tell the Rotary story statewide. Committee Chair Patrick Plantenburg of Townsend, accompanied by his wife Mary, joined Robert Miller of Butte, Victoria Emmons of Missoula, and Area Governor Barrie Matthews of Miles City to discuss social media options for telling the Rotary story and to learn more about smart phone use as a vehicle for quick and easy posting of photos and stories.

“Our goal is to tell the Rotary story and to get those stories out quickly to the public,” says Patrick, who admits to being a first-time smart phone user.



“We want to encourage the next generation of Rotary members to join our midst,” says Patrick. “We have to assure that the Rotary story appears in places where young people go.”

The committee encourages greater use of Rotary branding in club communications.

## Paul Harris Fellows – from page 1

Subsequent weeks focused on the six areas of the Foundation’s philanthropic focus: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies. I was able to find stories of success in all of these areas at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org), and personally enjoyed putting real names and faces to the statistics.

By month’s end, I realized that I had severely underestimated the amazing generosity of our club members. Not only did we achieve our goal of six new Paul Harris Fellows, we exceeded it dramatically with 19 new Paul Harris Fellows. That’s right ... 19 new Fellows! Four club members received their first Paul Harris Fellow. Rex Boller donated enough to achieve his next two levels. And Jon Cuthbertson received his Paul Harris Fellow +6 recognition. Our Kalispell Daybreak members donated a whopping \$6,257 which was matched by 6,233 transferred club points.

I encourage all club Foundation chairpersons to check out your club’s recognition summary at [my.rotary.org](http://my.rotary.org). Does your club have Foundation Recognition Points available to challenge your members with a match?

In the end, it wasn’t the matching points or a competitive spirit (although those helped!) that brought forward this incredible outpouring of giving from my club mates. It was a sincere desire to do good in the world and put Service Above Self. I see this in my club in so many ways each week, and it is an honor and privilege to be a part of this wonderful group of people.

Kalispell Daybreak Rotarians who were presented Paul Harris Fellowships on January 3, 2019, include: Dennis Beams, Rex Boller (2 levels), Danielle Coffman, Jason Cronk, Jon Cuthbertson, Tom Esch, Bob Herron, Melissa Hulvat, Ann Johnson, Reesie Johnson, Pierre Kaptanian, Jim Langford, Jeannie Luckey, Beth Schecher, Terri Smiley, Susan Smith, Bruce Tutvedt, Scott Wheeler, and R. Dennis Winkel.

—*Melissa Hulvat, MD, RI Foundation Chair, Rotary Club of Kalispell Daybreak*

## From District Governor Rick Moore



# Make peace through Youth Exchange

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending the first orientation for our outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students. This year, three young women will travel abroad on exchanges – one from Whitefish and two from Bozeman. It is refreshing to visit with these exceptional young students and feel their excitement about the upcoming year abroad.

During the orientation, Youth Exchange Coordinator Daryl Hansen stresses to the students their role as ambassadors. They are ambassadors for the Rotary Club that sponsors them, for our District, for Montana, and for the United States.

While Daryl explained this to them, I pondered how to write my article for the Big Sky News this month. I wanted to focus on Peace and Conflict Resolution, Rotary's theme for February. The Rotary Youth Exchange Motto immediately came to mind, "Making Peace in the World, one student at a time."

Rotary Youth Exchange is a true exchange. For each student from Montana that we send abroad, we host a student from another country. Through this exchange we obtain a better understanding of other cultures through the visiting exchange student. Our students return to Montana with an in-depth understanding of the culture of the country that they visited. Exposure to different cultures and understanding those cultures within

their own context is a powerful force in the promotion of understanding peace. I want to thank the Rotary Clubs that are participating in Youth Exchange this year and those that have participated in the past. I encourage all Rotary Clubs to consider participating in our Youth Exchange Program next year.

Our District has been very active in promoting peace and conflict resolution for many years through our participation in the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Rotary members from Montana, Alberta and Saskatchewan met in 1931 to discuss creation of the first International Peace Park at Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada and Glacier National Park in the United States. Their dreams of building on the peace between our two countries came to fruition in May 1932 — **cont. page 4, DG Message**



Above: DG Rick Moore addresses participants in the 2018 Hands Across the Border Ceremony. Photo by Marschall Gingery.



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## DG Message – from page 3

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when Parliament and Congress both passed enabling legislation for the creation of the peace park. Each year since, Rotarians have gathered in Waterton or Glacier for an annual assembly which provides a forum for discussion on ways to promote peace throughout the world. Rotary Youth Exchange students from Montana and Canada attend the assembly where Rotary members can meet students from many different countries. The weekend culminates with the Hands Across the Border Ceremony, which is a reaffirmation of the lasting peace between our two counties.

I encourage Rotary members to spend some time this month discussing how your Rotary Club can take action to promote peace and conflict resolution. Visit the Rotary International web site to learn more about this important cause. Or contact our Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee Chair Betsy Mulligan-Dague for ideas on how your Rotary Club can help with our District's current initiatives. "Rotary, the new Peace Symbol."

### Montana's first Rotary eClub organizes with nine members

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Nine dedicated and excited Rotary members have launched Montana District 5390's first Rotary eClub, dubbed "E4 eClub."

The concept of an eClub was first developed through a design committee in District 5450 in March 2001 under the leadership of John Mintor, Governor's Representative for District 5450 and a member of the sponsoring Rotary Club of Boulder, CO. The RI board approved the first provisional E-Club (eClub One) with Minter as its

charter president. In the intervening years, a pilot program allowed for testing and review.

"In 2016, the Council on Legislation voted to abolish the distinction between Clubs and eClubs. The most successful Rotary eClubs knew from the beginning that technology is purely an enabler, nothing more. This was the forecast of the District 5450 design committee in 2001 and they have proven correct."\*

Montana's E4 eClub held its second meeting on January 20, during which members voted on its first service project, proving the mantra of "Service Above Self" is alive and well. The service project will focus on raising funds to buy books for junior counselors at RYLA camp in July. At RYLA, campers are divided up into teams, each team led by each individual junior counselor, and the team is named after famous and influential leaders that come from all different backgrounds. The books will be biographies of those leaders, ranging from leaders in sports, humanitarian efforts, politics and more. Each counselor may use the books as a resource to convey the qualities and skills that made their namesake great to the campers, as the campers learn about leadership and teamwork skills.

Wyatt Murdoch, a member of E4 eClub, is an alumnus of RYLA and says the purchase of the donated books will not only benefit the counselors in their roles as educators and leaders, but will help increase the quality of the experience of the campers who will ultimately take the skills they have learned at RYLA back to their communities.

The eClub is off to a great start, and ready to serve Montana, as well as the world.

—Wyatt Murdoch

\*Source: [www.RotaryeClubOne.org](http://www.RotaryeClubOne.org)

## Helena Rotary debuts 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

As basketball season rolls into full swing across Montana, the Rotary Club of Helena is already planning its second annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Helena this fall. Rotary members hosted their first Helena tournament on October 20, 2018, for kids in grades 4-8.

Proceeds from the event supported the club's Kids Programs, which include scholarships, funding for area students' clothing needs through My Student in Need, and funding local classroom projects submitted by teachers to Donors Choose.



**HELENA ROTARY HOOPS**

3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Brackets were arranged for 4th/5th grades, 6th grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade, with separate brackets for boys' and girls' teams. Young hoopsters who'd like to play in the 2019 tournament can find more information at [www.helenarotary.org](http://www.helenarotary.org) or contact Kelly Cresswell at [pdxpdq@charter.net](mailto:pdxpdq@charter.net). Players may show their skills in the 3-Point Contest and the Free Throw Contest – both offering a chance to win great prizes.

The club welcomes fellow Rotarians to volunteer the day of the event, and there are positions for basketball fans and those unfamiliar with the finer details of the game.

## Red Lodge community shines with Rotary pride of local service

Sixty-one nonprofits in the Red Lodge community benefitted last fall from the largesse of the Rotary Club of Red Lodge. Members volunteered and participated in the Annual Red Lodge Area Community Foundation's Fun Run, an awesome event that has generated over \$2,350,510 for nonprofits in the Red Lodge area during the past 15 years.

In addition to the Fun Run, Red Lodge members gathered up our gardening gear and helped the Local Youth Garden wrap up the season. The weather cleared and we had a perfect day for making the community space ready for next year's planting. Our mission is to promote and support local youth; the gardening project is our second monthly project aimed at doing just that.

September's project was to re-stain another community asset — our Moose Trails playground for kids. We were excited to partner with other groups in our area to make light work of this big project.

—*Anna Drew, Rotary Club of Red Lodge*

## Clubs take online grants training

Brian Furey, a member of the Rotary Club of Missoula Sunrise and chair of the District 5390's Grant Selection Committee, was thrilled with the participation in October of online grant training at the 2018 District Assembly.

"We had 24 clubs participate," he says and described the training as "very successful."

Brian says additional opportunities for training will be available in a convenient online format. Check the District 5390 website for upcoming training opportunities.

## District 5390 Calendar

March 1-3: PETS, Denver CO

May 3-5: 2019 District  
Conference, Delta Hotels by  
Marriott Helena Colonial

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

September 5-8: Rotary Zone  
Institute 2019

## Special Month

February is Peace and Conflict  
Prevention/Resolution Month.

## BIG SKY NEWS

**BIG SKY NEWS** is a monthly  
publication of Rotary District  
5390, Montana, USA.

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# Ever built a dragon of Brussels sprouts?

A friend and I from Glendive signed up to decorate floats for the annual Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, California, through [petalpushers.org](http://petalpushers.org), sponsored by Lutheran Hours Ministry. Petal Pushers volunteers help decorate ten floats.



Rotary's float is built in the same warehouse and had a great crew. Every inch of each float must be covered by living things. Rotary was so creative with its animated "Crocodile Rocks" float using Brussels sprouts for the bumpy crocodile skin,

sliced lemons and limes across his nose, and cranberry-covered Elton John glasses.

Interact kids were paired with mentor Rotary members to help out with the construction. To help fund the construction of the float, many clubs donated \$100. Those club members riding the float paid \$10,000 and those walking alongside paid \$6,500 toward float construction. No Rotary International funds are used.

The average cost of a parade float is \$250,000. This may seem like a lot of money, but the Rose Parade is the third largest TV viewing audience (44 million) behind the Super Bowl and Hollywood's Academy Awards, so this is much cheaper than a commercial; plus, it is seen by 28 million people overseas and 700,000 who live in Pasadena. Consider giving or decorating in the future. It's so worthwhile.

—Peggy Iba, Rotary Club of Glendive

## Missoula Club hosts Winter Break event at Ranch Club

The Rotary Club of Missoula co-sponsored The Ranch Club's Winter Break event January 20. Organizers could not have ordered up more perfect weather. Snow. Lots of it. The clouds opened up early morning and big flakes of wet snow never stopped falling all day long. The annual fundraising and fun-raising event supported Missoula Food Bank and the K9 Care of Montana, Inc., an organization that supports service dogs and their owners.

Twenty-five Rotary Club members and their spouses/partners volunteered throughout the day. From face painting to curling to sledding to skating, Rotary members were visible.

Martha Ripley, Kelly Stengen and Dolores Bandow designed paintings on children's faces. Bob Minto and McKenna Round helped remove snow from the curling ice. Rob Hilmes helped throngs of kids all ages on the sledding hills. Margaret Parson of the Rotary Club of Missoula Sunrise helped kids build snowmen, along with Ryan Boyd and George Stern. Scott Johnson oversaw ice skaters on rink 1, while Tom Wilkins helped fit kids with skates. Mike Schauf monitored parking concerns with all the snow.

Lisa Corrigan and Basil Coutinho made sure the Bounce House was safe for kids. Mike and Jan



Peissig, George and Cindy Stern, Victoria Emmons, Khalid Bouzina, Otto Koester, and Boyd manned the two

outdoor registration desks. Cindy Kelly served up



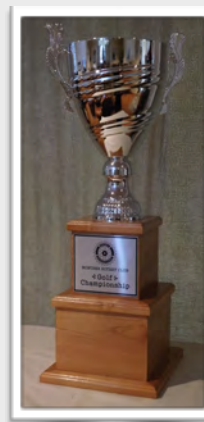
chili on the buffet line. Kathy Schulte and Cindy Stern chaperoned kids while they viewed fun films. Coordinating all the volunteers, Ray Round "floated" to assure volunteers had a break.

A KPAX-TV photographer arrived late in the day and took footage of the event for television news.

Many thanks to Ranch Club General Manager Rick McKethan and his staff for partnering with Rotary Club of Missoula on the project.

—Victoria Emmons, Rotary Club of Missoula

## Golf Championship trophy awaits



One Montana Rotary Club will win the huge trophy at left on June 10 at The Ranch Club in Missoula. The trophy will be awarded at the 1st Annual Montana Rotary Golf Championship. Rotary members and spouses or partners are invited to play. Entry fee is \$600 per foursome. Contact [kathy.schulte90@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.schulte90@gmail.com) to register. The event is

sponsored by the Rotary Club of Missoula.



## Rotary Made Easy

Did you know that you can find fellow Rotary members in only one click? Download the ClubRunner App to your smart phone or computer. ClubRunner is our Rotary communication site and houses all club member contact information, news about Rotary, and information you need to know.

Just visit the App Store on your smart phone and click on Rotary's ClubRunner, then download the app and open it.

For first-time ClubRunner users, check with your club secretary or the District web administrator for your login name. If you have already established a ClubRunner password, use that one; if you have forgotten your password, email your club secretary to reset your password or click on Forgot Password to reset it yourself. The ClubRunner app has all of your club members' contact information, but also information about your club including the speaker schedule. Additionally, you can search information about other clubs and club members. Stay in touch remotely with the ClubRunner app.



## Honoring Joop

Rotary Club of Kalispell member Dave Maurer hosted a luncheon visit last month with beloved fellow Rotary member Joop Thiessen who is living at Immanuel Lutheran Home.

In his many years with our Rotary Club of Kalispell, Joop served as president, assistant district governor, chair of the International Grants Committee and was the recipient of the highly distinguished Rotary Service Award. He is also a Paul Harris Fellow and major donor. A grand time was had at this mini-meeting remembering special Rotary moments and Rotary friends. Many, many thanks to Dave for his wonderful idea and generous gesture!

Rotary members (L to R): Will Baird, Margaret Baird, Lucy Smith, Nancy Manning, Muffie Thomson, Dave Maurer. Guest of Honor Joop Thiessen seated in front center.

—Lucy Smith, Rotary Club of Kalispell



## Good Morning, Interact!

A 2013 quote from Usama F., a 15-year-old from Saudi Arabia says, “The best gift you can gift yourself is challenging yourself.”

Interact clubs do just that for young people throughout Montana and the world. They challenge young people ages 12-18 to do community service and make the world a better place. Through Interact, we are building good community citizens and future Rotary members. Today, there are 468,556 Interact members in 20,372 clubs in 159 countries in the world.

Montana’s District 5390 now boasts eleven active Interact clubs being sponsored by Rotary Clubs. So we Rotarians are having a positive effect on hundreds of young people. We are teaching “Service Above Self.” What an honor!

Hats off to the following Rotary Clubs that are sponsoring Interact clubs: Big Fork, Big Sky, Bozeman Sunrise, Butte, Hamilton (2 clubs), Kalispell, Missoula Sunrise, Red Lodge, Townsend, and Whitehall.

There are a few clubs interested in either revitalizing their old Interact clubs or starting new ones. That’s great!

Someone asked me, “What does an Interact club do for the sponsoring Rotary Club?” I had to think about that question because our primary focus is on what we Rotarians can do for an Interact club. Here are a few thoughts:

- Being involved with an Interact club gives Rotary members a chance to teach about giving back;
- Gives the club a focus on youth;
- Introduces Rotary members to community members (parents, school officials, etc.);

My own experience is that it is just a pleasure watching these young people work to help others.

Please let me know if I can help you!

—*Marilyn Morris, District Interact Chair,*  
*marilyn@morrishoney.com*



## Corvallis Interact members learn etiquette à table

Judith Martin’s longtime and famous “Miss Manners” column in the *Washington Post* carries advice about all kinds of situations, from how to deal with misbehaving friends to cat litter in a guest bathroom. But what about table manners? Martin offers advice about that, too; but so does Rotary Club of Hamilton member Marilyn Morris.

Morris, along with fellow Rotary members Carol Holman, Barbara Liss, Patty Hascal, Bob Broughton and Doug McLaren, hosted 19 Corvallis Interact Club students for a formal luncheon on January 26 in Morris’ home. The Interact members learned appropriate table manners in a professional setting, an important skill for young people to acquire before they begin their careers. Job candidates are often invited to lunch so that hiring managers can observe their etiquette at the table.

The “Interact Professional Lunch” proved a big success, according to Holman, who reported back to fellow Rotary members about the event.

“Thanks to all for this special training for some of our Interact students,” said Holman. “And special thanks to Marilyn for putting it all together.”

—*Rotary Club of Hamilton*

## Bringing food to the hungry

In December, Darby Interact Club members in Hamilton collecting boxes and bags of canned and dry goods, all part of the club's service project to feed the hungry.

Darby Interact members hosted a food drive with all proceeds going to the Darby Bread Box, a local food bank, to bring some much needed relief to Darby families in time for Christmas and the New Year. Members offered a tasty incentive — a pizza party — for the mentor group that brought in the most food. The Interact members created fliers and hung them around the school and community. They also spoke to the mentor groups about the importance of service and community.

At the start of the food drive, Interact president Hayden Hunter spoke at the Rotary Club of



Hamilton and left with \$220 donated from Rotary members to help get the project in gear. This kickstart to the drive

helped spur the club to action. Along with sponsoring the food drive, Darby Interact members hosted tables outside the local People's Market, and collected food from the community. They also used social media to involve the community. Their food drive effort brought in 593.8 pounds of food and \$220 from the Rotary Club of Hamilton. The Interact Club is now starting four projects. First, the club will



participate in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Pennies for Patients" Challenge. The material for the project has just arrived and the group is deciding next steps. Having recently lost a former classmate to Lymphoma, this project hits close to home with the club. Second, the club is supporting a pie sale and silent auction to help a local family injured in a car accident. One of the children in the wreck remains in the ICU. The pie sale and silent auction funds will go to help offset medical expenses. Third, the club is looking at ways to help the Water Project in its efforts to bring clean drinking water to communities in Africa. Specifically, they are hoping to help projects that were fully funded, but ran into trouble (water tables changing, wells running dry due to drought, etc.). One reason the club chose to partner with the Water Project is its commitment to maintaining efforts in the communities in perpetuity. Fourth, the club is in the fledgling stages of organizing Community Assistance Team, where anyone in need would be able to contact the school with a request, and hopefully, our Interact Club would be able to help.

—*Bran Dufresne, Darby High School Interact Advisor*