

Big Sky Rotary News



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Montana Rotary District 5390 Newsletter

January 2018

Joe Bear's Broadcasts

A Message from District Governor Joe McBride

Events

PETS 2018
Renaissance Stapleton
Hotel, Denver
Mar 2-4, 2018

District Foundation
Dinner, Northern
Hotel, Billings, March
24

District Conference
Fairmont Hot Springs
Apr 27, 2018 – Apr 28,
2018

RYLA 2018, Luccock
Park Camp, July 10—
14, 2018

After traveling another 6,672 miles, I have a lot to report on my visits of the last two months!

On Nov. 6, Libby and I had a white-knuckle drive to Lewistown via Big Timber. (We wised up on the way back and returned through Great Falls!) Last year the Lewistown club celebrated its 100th Anniversary, which we attended so we had some relationships established. Many of the Lewistown members participate in the Central Montana Youth Mentoring Program, which has been active since 1997. One of their members, **Jason Shobe** is a polio survivor. Led by their president, **Tim Robertson**, Lewistown's Rotary is an important part of the community.



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

Libby and I traveled to the Kootenai Valley club via Seattle, where we attended a family funeral. My wife has an affinity for Libby for obvious reasons. Led by their president, **Tracy McNew**, they have a very successful wine-tasting auction dinner in February. They have a Paul Harris plaque in their meeting room, which adds a nice touch. The club is very active in global grants, with **George Girard** leading the way. The Libby club is way out there geographically, but is one of the most active and central to Rotary. They are making a difference.

Our past DG, **Malinda Shafman**, welcomed Libby and me to the Evergreen club. This club does "Sad Bucks" in addition to "Happy Bucks." They are active in RYLA, the literacy project and, yes, they "sing" - very well! This is an excellent group led by **Roxy Swartzenberger**. It is also the home to **Robbie Mathiason**, one of the District's knockouts.

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Rotary Club News

Rotary Club of Butte donates Rotary Tree to Uptown Butte

The Rotary Club of Butte funded and installed a large 20-foot spruce tree in Victory Circle, a new green space located at the corner of Park and Arizona Streets in historic Uptown Butte. The spruce helps revitalize a lot owned by the Victory Club. After it burned down decades ago, it was left vacant for 30 years.

The Victory Circle project is under the direction of Butte-Silver Bow and the Urban Forestry Board and restores the holiday tradition of having a Christmas tree lit in Uptown Butte. This project received grant funding from the DNRC: Montana Tree City of the Year 2016, SARTA and the East Butte Renovation & Rehabilitation Agency to pay for the majority of the expenses.

The Rotary Club of Butte, the Interact Club of Butte, and a District 5390 Centennial Grant provided funding for the community spruce tree and the tree lights. The spruce tree was delivered and planted on August 24 and, that afternoon, approximately 40 volunteers from Rotary, Butte-Silver Bow, and the Urban Forestry Board planted 6 small trees, 12 shrubs and 48 perennials. Ten Rotarians, two spouses, three Rotaractors, and two Interactors participated in planting, watering, raking, and site cleanup. The site was landscaped and sodded and the Rotary Club of Butte had lights installed in time for the holiday season.

The Rotary Tree was dedicated December 9th with the reading of a Proclamation by the Chief Executive of Butte-Silver Bow and carols by the Senior Choir of Butte High School. The dedication stone was donated by Butte Granite Works.

Pictured is Rotarian Mary Lou Spath lighting the Rotary Tree at the dedication ceremony. Also pictured are some of the Rotarians who helped on the planting day.



Whitehall Club Active this Winter

The Whitehall club has been donating wheelchairs to people in need for more than a decade through the Wheelchair Foundation. Last month they purchased a wheelchair for a Whitehall area resident who was in need of an updated chair. **Mary Ann Gagnon** and her husband were very grateful for the donation, which will replace a chair definitely in need of replacement.

Members of the Whitehall club are once again donating their time to sell tickets for the high school home basketball games. Rotarians have a great opportunity to meet local and visiting community members and show Rotary in action. The school will make a small donation to the Rotary club as a thank-you for the help.

Rotarians Judy Schwab (pictured) and Arlene Weber recently presented a new wheelchair to Whitehall area resident Mary Ann Gagnon and her husband.



Kootenai Valley Club Promotes Literacy

The Rotary Club of Kootenai Valley delivered sixteen bookshelves to Head Start students last week. The bookcases, constructed of solid oak and oak plywood with an adjustable shelf, were presented to the students and their parents at a brief ceremony in the school gymnasium. Each bookcase came complete with a starter set of books and each had the child's name on a brass plate affixed to the front. Additional books will be sent home later in the school year.

All of the construction and finishing work was completed by local Rotarians. The materials for construction were purchased by the Rotary Club of Kootenai Valley in partnership with Big Sky Lumber Supply, Ace Hardware, and Frames Unlimited. These businesses generously offered substantial discounts. The books were purchased through a grant from Rotary District 5390. Twelve bookcases were donated to randomly selected four-year-old students in Libby and four went to Troy.



This is the eighth year of the project and over one hundred children have been beneficiaries of these gifts. The driving belief behind this project is that putting these resources in the home, combined with a commitment from parents to read with their child on a regular basis, will result in children who are more prepared to begin kindergarten and primary school.

Missoula Club Hears Foundation Report

Bob Minto had addressed Missoula Rotarians in July to share his 90-mile walking adventure around the U.S. National Parks. He came back to the club recently to provide an update in his role as president of the Missoula Rotary Foundation.

The Missoula Rotary Foundation was established in 2007 as a 501(c)(3) corporation with the mission of achieving charitable giving to worthwhile community projects. The nonprofit organization is a partnership with all three Rotary Clubs in Missoula — the Sunrise, Centennial and Missoula Clubs. The clubs' giving to both local and international projects is accomplished through the Foundation where fundraising proceeds and individual gifts are managed and distributed to worthy causes.



Great Falls Rotarians Hit the Holidays Hardy and Happy

The holiday season got to a great start for the Great Falls club when Mike Wier, Harvest Howl Chairman, presented the Camp Rotary Foundation with a check for \$71,000 – the highest proceeds level ever from the club’s signature event.

The club also celebrated with a beautiful holiday luncheon featuring the Great Falls High School’s select girls choir. Decorating the tables at the event were notes from third-graders throughout the Golden Triangle, expressing their appreciation for the dictionaries Rotarians gave them this fall.

Between celebrations, our newest inductees organized a fundraiser for the KaBoom Park that we had helped get under way in the fall. It was impressive to see the can-do of our new members!

Finally, continuing a tradition started many years ago, Rotarians donated their time shortly before Christmas to the Salvation Army, ringing bells for shopper donations at several locations across town. It’s a “three-fer”: Rotarians (1) help the worthy causes at the core of the Salvation Army mission, (2) enhance the visibility of the club in the community, and (3) get into the holi-



Mike Wier, Harvest Howl Chairman (right) and Tom Nelson, HH Music Chairman (center) present Ken Munski of the Camp Rotary Foundation with a handsome check reflecting this year’s proceeds.

Past Club President Brett Doney and Cat Graphics designer Carey Gray ring in the holiday spirit for Salvation Army.

Bozeman Highlights One Member at a Time

Club Member **Ed Kibbey** was the first recipient of our club's "We Notice You" program, implemented by our District 5390 Membership chair as a retention tool for clubs.

Club member Kristy Buckley "noticed" Ed and we found out that Ed worked directly for President Lyndon B. Johnson in the early 1960's while he was in the military. After Ed was "noticed" he then told some more fascinating and personal stories relating to the former president. Overall, it was a great start to our club's "We Notice You" program!



Rotaract Club News

How Missoula Rotaract Club Places Service Above Self

Established by the Council of Legislation, "Service Above Self" has been the principal motto of Rotary since 1989. But is it clear that, as part of this organization, we are willing to serve others to make a difference in our community?

For many people around the world, the holidays is a time to give and share with others. For Rotarians and Rotaractors, however, we are dedicated to those ideas all year long. Making a difference in our communities is part of our lives; it makes us who we are. Still, sometimes "Service Above Self" is harder than it sounds. How often do you really sacrifice yourself for the service of others? How often do you give up the convenient for the important? That is what our motto calls us to do, and the holidays are a great time to consider how well we live out "Service Above Self."

The Rotaract Club of Missoula, Montana has taken our motto to heart with its annual Caroling For A Cause fundraiser. Each year, these Rotaractors wear Santa hats and parade along the streets of downtown Missoula, singing carols to the public and collecting donations along the way. All the money they raise goes to a local charity. The Rotaractors sacrifice their comfort and stand out in the cold to advance the wellbeing of others. And if you have not been to Montana in the winter, "cold" is an understatement. Last year, the Rotary clubs of Missoula matched donations from the community, and this Rotaract club was able to donate more than \$1,200 to the Ronald McDonald House.

So ask yourself: What are you willing to do to



January is Vocational Service Month

February is Peace and Conflict Resolution Month

District 5390 News

Get Involved in “People of Action” Campaign

In December 2017, Ian Riseley, Rotary International (RI) President, sent out a notice to all Rotarians about the new “We are Rotary. We are People of Action” campaign. What a holiday present for Rotarians and the World! Rotary Club and District public image chairs are now able to better communicate what People of Action do with a consistent, powerful message. Those who attended the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta saw the RI People of Action campaign examples on billboards and on digital displays in the airport in Atlanta.

Montana District 5390 leaders invite all clubs to start using the new People of Action templates to create messages in your communities. The Townsend club has created a couple of powerful visuals using the template (see accompanying photo), and your club can too! Here’s how:

Sign in to <https://my.rotary.org/en> and visit the Brand Centre to start creating your own messages. You will have questions. Send your questions to graphics@rotary.org. Please send your creations to be used in the District Newsletters and to post on the District Facebook page and website. Please bring digital and hard copies of your new People of Action examples to load into a PowerPoint display and to post at the 2018 District Conference at Fairmont Hot Springs April 27-28, 2018.

At the District Conference, we will have a training session on how to create your own club examples using the People of Action templates. Send your club public image chairs with their computers and action photos from your club events to the District Conference to show off the local examples that they have created and/or to help the Montana District 5390 Public Image Chair teach other club members how to use the templates.



Faces of Rotary

Brad Lancaster is Habitat for Humanity Volunteer of the Year

Brad Lancaster began his rotary career as most Rotarians did years ago as a young professional hoping to network with other professionals in his community. As one of the charter members of the Rotary Club of Helena, Sunrise (1985) he has served as President twice and dedicated thousands of hours to Rotary and other Helena community projects and activities. During Brad's second term as President a few years ago he revived the club by focusing on membership. Today the club is a diverse mix of "new" and "old" members. Brad retired from a career in banking in 2014 and has not rested since. Some days you will find him hiking up Mount Helena but more often than not he dedicates his "free" time to Rotary, his church, United Way, Prickly Pear Land Trust trail work, AARP Tax-Aide Elderly/Low Income tax preparation, and Helena Area Habitat for Humanity.

Putting his carpentry skills to work he volunteers each Wednesday on whatever projects are scheduled at the Habitat work site. He is currently assisting in rehabbing (?) a Helena Habitat home that was built in The 1990's. A new Habitat homeowner will be moving in when the work is all done. He also keeps former coworkers and friends informed of Habitat projects to recruit more volunteers. He has donated so much time and energy that he was honored recently as the Helena Habitat for Humanity Volunteer of the year.

Brad summed up his Rotary and volunteer experience recently by saying..."**Service *and* the 4-Way Test** are guiding principles in my life – When I speak... Is it the **Truth**, Is it **Fair** to all concerned, Will it build **Good Will** and **Better Friendships** and Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned".



Brad was working at Habitat for Humanity when the Rotary Club of Helena Sunrise presented a "Trivia Night" check to Habitat for Humanity. From left to right: Helena Sunrise Rotary Club President Marie Mullarkey, Brad Lancaster, Habitat for Humanity Staff.

(Joe Bear's Broadcast continued from page 1)

Every year the Columbia Falls Rotary Club focuses on three main events: Falls Fall Fest- a significant fund raiser; Night of Lights, a Christmas parade (who doesn't love a parade?); and Brunch with Santa, which involves all the children in the community. They take pictures and raise about \$7,000. **Vern Kiser** leads this club, which gives scholarships to its RYLA students. Member **Dave Renfro** has been the driving force that sends over 300 bikes to Guatemala, where they are converted into many useful machines. Google Ma-ya Pedal to learn more. Columbia Falls is a "Cracking Club."

If you want to energize your day, attend Kalispell Daybreak Club, led by **Pierre Kaptanian**. They have an excellent sound and video system and they sing LOUD-
LY. Through Millennium Madness they raised \$48,000 this year, which they distribute in many ways---look on their web site for details. This club is a champion in every way.

The other Kalispell club is a terrific group led by its crackerjack president, **Lucy Smith**. They have been heavily involved in youth sports and recently received an international matching grant to help build Miracle Field. They have teamed up with the Daybreak club to sponsor the first annual Great Bear Festival--a significant fundraiser. Rotary Basketball has 800-1000 participants every year. Kalispell also has our oldest member (I think). He is **Neil VonSickle**, a former 3-star general, who was born in 1915. That's the same year the Butte club was chartered. Wow!

Betsy Mulligan-Dague is a blue-chip president of another morning club. These morning clubs seem to wake up running. They are involved in many youth activities, the biggest being a youth home. The Missoula Youth Home and Partnership will be renaming the Francetich Children's Home in Missoula to the Sunrise Children's Home in honor of the 20-year relationship that the Missoula Sunrise Rotary Club has with the home and the kids who reside there. The home is a therapeutic home for children ages 4-14 who have experienced significant early childhood trauma--abuse, neglect, homelessness and/or multiple placements outside their birth families. The members of the Sunrise club provide close to monthly events and activities to help the kids and build relationships with them. Quite a feat!!

The Hamilton Club has a unique relationship with the Salvation Army, using over 90 Interactors to collect monies for the club and the Army. Recently Hamilton was honored by the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce at their annual gala. They helped raise \$25,000 for the Backpack Program. They also host a successful golf tourney and have a fair booth. This is an energetic club with thirty active members led by priceless president **Mark Jergens**.

On the southern shore of Flathead Lake sits Polson. The Polson club has fun with an interesting weekly fundraiser called "Spin for Justice". They spin a wheel and it appears everyone loses – at least, everyone I saw did, including me! Their large fundraiser is called Festival for Youth, and they also sponsor a chili cookoff. Led by **Gypsy Ray**, this group is

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(Joe Bear's Broadcast continued from page 8)

well-organized. As a visitor I could feel their extraordinary energy.

Libby and I met with the Malta club for an early breakfast. We were staying in the same hotel so we only had to walk downstairs. The club is small in number (11), but mighty in what they do. One of their fundraisers, which nets over \$5000, is a sports book. They also run an Easter Egg Hunt. They give two Kindles a year to the elementary school as part of their literacy project, and they've also given a lot of playground equipment to the local park. **David Miller** is President of the club and also president of a bank. He leads a committed group.

On the way to Chicago, we stopped in Havre. It is an active club. A golf tourney with a limit of 72 players raises over \$20,000. They also sell corn and lemonade at the fair with a net of \$11,000. They use all their monies in projects ranging from building a restroom in Rotary Park to a Christmas party for 2nd graders and a Halloween party for 3rd graders. Led by **Ginger Zanto**, they love to party but they're also a first-class community contributor.

We drove to Chicago to attend our zone meeting, which had been postponed because of the hurricane in Houston. Along with Libby, my daughter-in-law Katarinna and my grandsons Brady and Henry, I attended Rotary's Number One Club. Just being there was an ecstatic experience.

The Bigfork Club contributes to many facets of the city. If you hear music coming from their school band, it probably is being played on instruments they donated. They sponsor 60 children in a backpack and grocery program. The members of Bigfork are always on the move, as their web-site documents. **Frank Ashley** runs an outstanding operation.

A hidden gem: That's how I would describe the Philipsburg Club. They are not on any of the main Montana highways, but they've been in operation almost 91 years and they're very active. Their 28 members led by **John Barbara** raise a significant amount of money through their Summer Concert in mid-August. They've also teamed up the Great Falls Club in exchanging volunteers for their big projects – great idea! The Pburg club has donated much to its city, including the medical facility and an ice rink. They even own a Zamboni.

There are not many clubs in 5390 that have a strategic plan. Whitefish has one and they work at it. They are committed to their literacy project. Led by their president, **Tim Dahlstrom**, Whitefish is involved in a sponsorship in Nepal, Special Olympics, RYLA, and health and wellness in the community. This is another group that is a smashing success,

Thanks to all of you for all you do, a special thanks to all the Assistant Governors for attending the club meetings.

Happy New Year!

Joe McBride



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?

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Service above Self



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

The Top Ten Reasons to Attend the Toronto Convention

1. The breathtaking Lake Ontario **skyline**
2. **Diversity** - 1/2 of the residents were born in other countries
3. A trip to see **Niagara Falls** before or after the Convention
4. **Great food**—all kinds including Sushi Pizza
5. **The Arts**—Toronto is called “The Broadway of Canada”
6. Ease of getting around—Toronto is a **walking city**
7. **Fun Events** planned by the Host Organizing Committee (HOC)
8. Hear **RI President Ian Riseley** and other Rotary leaders
9. Toronto is the “**IT City**”
10. And most importantly, you’ll find

Inspiration Around Every Corner

