

Big Sky Rotary News



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Montana Rotary District 5390 Newsletter

March 2018

Joe Bear's Broadcasts

A Message from District Governor Joe McBride

Events

[District Conference
2018, Anaconda](#)

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

[RYLA Camp 2018](#)

Luccock Park Camp
Jul 10, 2018 1:00 PM –
Jul 14, 2018 1:00 PM

[SCRYE Conference,
Billings](#)

Northern Hotel Billings
Jul 13, 2018 – Jul 15,
2018

[District Training As-
sembly, Butte](#)

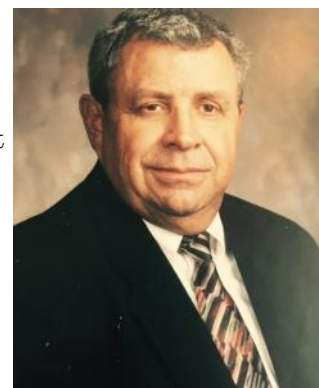
Comfort Inn
Aug 10, 2018 – Aug 11,
2018

[Rotary Zone Institute,
Boise, ID](#)

Grove Hotel
Sep 04, 2018 – Sep 09,
2018

I am pleased to report that by the time you get this newsletter, I will have visited every Rotary club in Montana! I'll begin this message where I left off in February.

Wow! While attending the Missoula Rotary Club, we awarded over twenty Paul Harris fellows. Missoula celebrated its 100th birthday last year and over the years they've accomplished hundreds of projects. They're currently involved in a number of park and garden projects led by their A-1 president, Jim Hutcheson.



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

The Missoula club also has the second-oldest Montana Rotarian. Robert H. "Ty" Robinson will be 102 this year. He joined Rotary in 1949 and has always enjoyed the fact that programs cover areas of interest beyond just business focus. He vividly remembers when the club finally began to include women: "Some of the 'old guard,' grumbled, but I don't remember anyone leaving." "Over the years," he said, "the international focus moved most of the club's energies toward the eradication of polio, but we continued to support school and local programs." What a champion Ty still is!

Because I was an Assistant Governor before my District Governor year, I have attended Whitehall meetings for a few years. They are organized. As an example, led by their president Ed Handl, they set 35 goals for this year and have already accomplished 23 of them. I'm sure they'll finish the rest. This is a club of doers. In addition, the Whitehall club boasts Arlene Weber. Some might ask, "What does Arlene do? What's her

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Rotary Club News

Great Falls Club Mixes Philanthropy with Pleasure

For some time, Rotary Club of Great Falls has designated the last Wednesday of the month as the date for a club social. In recent months, they've paired that purpose with a philanthropic cause.

Recently Rotarian Ryan Carroll hosted the club at his home for a salute to Paul Harris fellows and to Paul Harris himself. In late February, the club met at the Mighty Mo to "raise a pint for Polio Plus." This month, Rotarian Diane Wright has invited the club to celebrate her birthday and contribute to Red Cross with an end-of-the-month social at Buffalo Wild Wings. The restaurant will dedicate 20% of its sales to American Red Cross of Montana.

What a great way to make giving fun and make fun a little more giving!

Great Falls President a Highlight at PETS

Like many clubs throughout the Northwest, Great Falls Rotary sent its officers to the PETS training this month. Like the other clubs, they found the experience invaluable. The Great Falls club also had a little fun with it.

Great Falls President Dean Boyle was selected to be a panelist for the forum featuring past presidents. The topic was "What I want you to know before becoming a club president."

Each panelist fielded a series of questions from upcoming club presidents and provided a wealth of information for those about to assume the leadership role. Sensing that the depth of information might be getting overwhelming, Dean seized an opportunity to lighten the load.

Asked, "How can we get our club members to use our online services?" Dean responded, "I don't think we have the internet in Montana." The room broke out in laughter and the session continued in a more light-hearted vein.



Whitehall Keeps Active and Innovative

The Whitehall Rotary Club is trying out a new meeting schedule. On the first and third Monday evenings, the club will hold regular meetings and the second or fourth Mondays will be reserved for a service project. One week each month there will be no meeting.

The club launched the new schedule in February. The first service project was assisting at the local public library. With a lot of colds and flu in town, members helped disinfect as many surfaces as possible in the library on the evening of February 26. The next service project will also be at the library with the assignments to be determined on March 26. When the weather is warmer, outdoor service projects will be emphasized. A schedule of meeting dates and service project dates is posted on the club's website at www.rotaryclubofwhitehall.org.

The club held their first of four blood drives for the year on March 8th. **Erv Hedegaard**, PDG, organizes the drives. **Marlene Sanborn** and **Arlene Weber** work the registration desk in between donating blood themselves. Other club members are also regular donors at each blood drive. The next drive will be in late July. The Whitehall Interact Club sponsored a school blood drive on Monday, March 12th.

Former Helena Rotarian on Road to Recovery

The Helena Rotary Club was sorry to lose long-time member **Daniel Bingham** last year when he left his position as dean of Helena College to serve in Australia as Sydney South Mission President for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

They were even sorrier to learn that, earlier this month, Daniel was severely injured in a bicycle crash, suffering a broken neck that required surgery and intensive care.

We are pleased to report that Daniel is now back in his home country. Earlier this month he returned to Salt Lake City. At last report he was still in the ICU, but if you know Daniel's work ethic, you know he's working hard to get off his trach tube and regain mobility. When he left Sydney, he was determined to wave good-bye to all the nurses and doctors who had cared for him there, and the family was delighted to see that he did – with a new, small movement of his left thumb.

The road to recovery will be long. Please keep Daniel in your prayers, and if you have time to send him a text or email, please do. Little things mean so much.



Missoula Sunrise Rotary honored by renaming of local children's home

On **March 15** the Missoula non-profit, Partnership for Children, officially renamed the Sherry Mahon Francetich Therapeutic Children's Home to honor the decades-long commitment of **Missoula Sunrise Rotary**. The new name of the home is the Sunrise Children's Home.

The home primarily works with boys and girls, aged 4 to 14, who have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence, caretaker addiction and/or extreme neglect. At an average age of 9, many of these kids have experienced more grief and heartache than many of us do in a lifetime. To benefit from the treatment the home provides, it is crucial that these children feel safe, supported, loved and cared for.



Over twenty years ago, the Sunrise Rotary Club chose to "adopt" the Francetich Children's Home, becoming an active supporting partner helping with the children's diverse needs. Throughout the last two decades, Rotarians have become increasingly involved, sponsoring numerous outings and activities and making sure the home is well-kept.

The Partnership for Children wanted to honor Sunrise Rotary Club's commitment to these children, and on March 15 they did. The renaming ceremony was followed with a tour of the Sunrise Children's home and a ribbon-cutting of the children's new bike shelter, also made possible by Missoula Sunrise Rotary's funding and volunteerism.



A spokesman for the Partnership commented, "The energy that Missoula Sunrise Rotary has dedicated to the children served by this home is amazing, but what is truly inspiring is the real difference that the club has made in the lives of children through its steadfast support."

Sunrise is a good name for this club. They truly shine!

*April is
Maternal and Child Health Month*

Interact Club News

RYLA Reaps Results in Townsend

In February the Rotary Club of Townsend and District 5390 District Governor **Joe McBride** recognized a special group of Broadwater High School students. These students came back from last summer's Rotary Youth Leadership Academy fired up to do something special. Noting that the incoming freshman class had some "issues," the RYLA students and some of their friends worked with **Beth Ihle**, their Rotary Club of Townsend Advisor, to develop and execute a Team Building and Leadership Training session for the Class of 2021

A professional leadership consultant was contacted for a suggested agenda. School administrators were informed and not only gave their blessing to the idea, but provided \$1,000 to help pay for the training. The Broadwater County Development Corporation and Broadwater Community Foundation provided additional funding. In January 62 freshmen gathered in the old Masonic Lodge for a training experience they all found so positive that the school wants to continue this type of training in future years.

District Governor Joe McBride presented a certificate of appreciation to these six special students for their efforts. In addition, the students completed all paperwork required to form an Interact Club, which is a Rotary Club for students 12-18 years of age. Joe was honored to formally sign his first Interact Club Charter with the students present. The District Governor and his wife Libby also presented each student an Interact pin and invited the new "Interactors" to the District Assembly and Interact Conference at Fairmont Hot Springs April 27-28.



Inspiration

AROUND
EVERY CORNER

REGISTER TODAY!

Rotary |

District 5390 News

Innovation: 5-Minute Talk on “How We Met”

Many of our clubs are experimenting with ways to use their meetings more effectively to help members get to know each other better. The Great Falls club, for instance, has instituted a tradition they call “senior moments.” They ask a veteran member of the club to introduce himself or herself as he or she did when they first joined, before most of the club were members, and to reminisce a bit about “way back when.”

Victoria Emmons, of the Missoula club, is leading an innovation at that club called “How We Met.” In these 5-minute presentations, a Rotarian tells the story of how he or she first got involved with Rotary and what those first impressions were. Victoria provides an example of her “How We Met” talk at the Valentine’s Day meeting in Missoula for this issue.

It was just another business obligation. The Warm Springs Rotary Club breakfast began at 7:15 a.m. and my boss liked to be early. I wanted to arrive before he did to assure the audio-visual was in place.

I stood in the doorway of the small room at the back of the restaurant. It was 6:45, and the club’s Sargent-at-arms was busily hanging banners and arranging a heavy, brass bell with a Rotary emblem on it at the head table. He looked up as I entered the room.

“Hello!” he smiled. “You must be our speaker.”

“I’m not your speaker today,” I explained, “just the speaker’s PR director. My name is Victoria Emmons. Your speaker, Mr. Warren, will arrive shortly. I need to set up the presentation for him.”

“Of course,” the friendly man said. “I was just about to bring out the projector.” He introduced himself as Bob and we shook hands. Together we made certain that all the technical aspects of the program would work.

Dick Warren filled the room upon arrival. The tall Texan with his signature sweeping, white hair was well known in the Fremont, California, community. As chief executive officer of the local district hospital for 25 years, he was an icon. Mr. Warren and I greeted one another and I explained how the projector’s remote control worked. Rotary members began to arrive as the room filled with morning banter. Mr. Warren joined in the conversation as if he were one of them. And he was. He had been a member of the Niles Rotary Club for most of his career. He understood the Rotary culture.

The warning bell sounded to start the meeting and everyone took their places. We were ushered to the head table and remained standing for introductions and the Pledge of

(Continued on page 7)

Allegiance. As guests were being named, the waiter brought a plate of cold scrambled eggs, sausage and toast and placed it on the table in front of me. After we sat down, I picked up my fork and began to push the rubbery yellow mass around my plate, allowing at least one bite to make it into my mouth just to be polite. I washed down a small bit of toast with a gulp of black coffee. As I stared out at the crowd eating breakfast, I was saddled with the sensation that everyone must be looking at me.

Once the announcements ended, the club president asked the program chair to introduce the speaker. Mr. Warren began by telling the group all about the hospital's new cardiovascular program and how it would enhance the community's medical care. The audience focused on the speaker's words, the only other sound in the room an occasional fork scraping across a plate.

My seat at the head table offered an uncomfortable view of the Rotary Club members as Mr. Warren continued his presentation. My fork had been retired at this point and I sat politely listening to my boss. Now and then, I would glance at the audience to gauge reactions. On one such glance, my heart jumped into my throat. I noticed something was moving on my plate. Not wanting to call attention to it, I subtly lowered my eyes to get a better look. Waltzing across the remaining scrambled eggs was a small, brown roach.

I grew up in Florida, so I know a roach when I see one. I didn't quite know how to react. I couldn't upset Mr. Warren's presentation, but I was equally startled and queasy. My public relations half-smile stayed glued to my face.

After the club president rang the bell to mark the end of the meeting, Mr. Warren turned to me and whispered, "Why don't you join this club? This is a nice little club."

Indeed, many of the members came up afterward to thank us for being there. The club president stayed around to tell me about the benefits of Rotary membership. He handed me a brochure and invited me to come back the next week for another visit. I smiled and thought about the small, brown creature with whom I had shared my breakfast.

Despite that first meeting, Rotary and I became friends. I gave it a try that next week. Eventually, the club relocated to a better restaurant. The dating continued for several weeks and one day, Rotary and I were wed. Rotary was to become a part of my life for decades to come. I served on the board of that club for six years and eventually became its president. Four other Rotary Clubs offered me membership as years passed by and new jobs took me to new towns. The one constant in all my relocations was Rotary Club. We had fallen in love with one another.

I am happy that I met Rotary that day. It has enriched my life and the lives of those who became my Rotary friends. So on Valentine's Day, I send a big kiss to Paul Harris for having the foresight to create our organization. And to my boss, Dick Warren, who set up that first blind date.

The Faces of Rotary

When it comes to Service Above Self, Beth Fortenberry-Kornick of Kalispell is a shining star. In spite of her very demanding job as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of School District 5, she dedicates an amazing amount of time to service projects as a Rotarian.

When Beth joined the Kalispell Rotary a few years ago, she jumped right in to chair the Program Committee. In that capacity, she not only seeks out great programs for every meeting, but she also finds Rotarians to introduce each program, occasionally filling in herself as needed.

But that's not all. Beth works diligently year-round on the club's fundraising initiatives. Last year alone, she helped with the annual Instant Wine Cellar event and was also a key member of the group that developed the Great Bear Festival beer-tasting event last fall. In its debut year, that event took Kalispell by storm. Beth coordinated, cajoled and orchestrated efforts to get a huge number of volunteers in place for the event. She demonstrated a knack for making sure everyone was having a good time while navigating the tricky waters of the first year of a big event.

And that's not all. Every holiday season, Beth can be found with other Rotarians volunteering for the Salvation Army kettle bell-ringing. Beth is now dedicating her energy to recruiting new members to the club. On top of her coordinating activities, she can always be relied on to add fun and energy to every event, whether it is a weekly meeting or a special get-together like a "Dinner for Eight."

Laura O'Connor recruited Beth to Rotary three years ago and marvels at her good luck: "Beth has made me, and our Rotary Club, look good every day since that day. She is a dream as a new Rotarian."



Beth (left) and fellow Rotarians



Beth and family

(Joe Bear's Broadcasts continued from page 1)

title?" I think the real question is, "What doesn't Arlene do?" Without Arlene, District 5390 would be "on the ropes." She is brilliant.

Leading our district membership growth is the Anaconda club. Led by anew Montanan, Rick Powers, this club is on the move. During my visit they inducted two new members and by the end of February had inducted at least five more. They have started some new membership options, including family, corporate and associated memberships. Rick will also be the new Assistant Governor for the area.

Jackie LaValle is the president of the Deer Lodge club. She was good enough to step up and serve another year after their president elect was unable to continue in the presidency. Jackie was an able hostess for the Tasmanian groups that have visited Montana. Deer Lodge hosts a Rotary Talent Show fund raiser. I was hoping to see Rotarians on the stage, but it turns out that the talent comes primarily from students.

Libby and I visited also Twin Bridges for dinner. Their president, Faye Kneeland, is pioneering new ideas. They are looking at teaming with another club to install playground equipment. Led by "Grandma" Lois Smith-Lehwalder, Twin Bridges has been a strong supporter of RYLA for years. In addition to at least two junior campers, they will also sponsor a junior counselor this year. They have two new members, one from Kansas and one from Czechoslovakia.

My last visit will be a familiar one. I'll finish up my tour in Butte on the Ides of March. I thank all of you for inviting Libby and me to meet your clubs. You provided a welcoming that we greatly appreciated.

We are so fortunate to be members of Montana Rotary. All of you are doing and have done things that are "Making a Difference." You're all stunning, and we would be proud to join any of your clubs. It's been a year that has changed our lives.

Remember to register for the District Conference later this spring. We are planning on a fun event and a celebration of 2017-2018. Thank you for all you do!





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**

Happy Birthday Rotaract!

Have you ever wondered how Rotaract came to be? It's largely because of the demand from Interactors. Interact was founded in 1962 and as many Interactors started reaching the age limit for the program, they decided to continue being part of Rotary by initiating clubs called "Senior Interact." By 1968, this demographic was formally recognized with the name "Rotaract," and on March 13, 1968, the first Rotaract Club was chartered in North Carolina.

Today there are more than 8,000 Rotaract clubs in 167 countries. Rotaract has grown so big that Rotaractors combined their organizations on an international level with the creation of Multi-District International Organizations (MDIO) around the world. Rotaract is strong in Asia, Africa, and South America, as well as Europe.

Oddly, in the United States, where it was initially created, Rotaract clubs are much less common. MDIOs, such as Rocky Mountain and Big West, have been created with the purpose of supporting districts and clubs by providing Rotaract-focused training, resources, guidance and networking.

It's time for us to start promoting Rotaract in our communities and make it strong again. Rotaract week is coming and there are many fun things your club could do. Here are ways you can celebrate Rotaract's 50th Birthday: Invite Rotaractors to club meetings, conduct a joint project with a Rotaract Club in your community, encourage a nearby Rotary club to sponsor a new Rotaract club in its area, give a presentation about Rotaract to a Rotary club that does not sponsor a Rotaract club, promote Rotaract in local media, partner with international Rotaract clubs, or introduce potential members from Interact by inviting them to a meeting or a project.

Rotaract is Rotary's next generation. Let's work hard to make the Rotarian family bigger!