

Big Sky Rotary News



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Montana Rotary District 5390 Newsletter
September 2017

Joe Bear's Broadcasts

A Message from District Governor Joe McBride

Events

Townsend Fall Fest
Heritage Park
Sep 29, 2017 – Oct 01, 2017

Harvest Howl 2017
Four Seasons Arena
Oct 27, 2017
5:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Butte Rotary YOGA CLASS
and/or Raffle
Aldersgate United Methodist
Church
Nov 13, 2017
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

PETS 2018
Renaissance Stapleton Hotel
Mar 02, 2018 8:00 AM –
Mar 04, 2018 11:45 PM

September is usually back to school, start of football season, a time of beginnings. It tends to be on the docile side. This September is roaring in like a lion.

Some of the DGs in our zone have been affected personally by "Harvey" and their districts have been devastated. We have sent information on how to help either through RI or with Districts directly.

We now have "Irma" bearing down on Florida, Georgia and maybe other states.

How about us? Our District is filled with smoke from the raging wildfires and some parts of our state have severe drought conditions.

What are the best ways we can help? I am not sure if I am able to answer that question. I am planning on having a few conference calls to discuss the situations. I welcome your input--should we respond as a "District," a "Club," or "Individually"?

In October I will start visiting our clubs. Please prepare your thoughts on the topic, "What can 5390 do for your club?" Leadership requires action. My hope is that I can and will do what is necessary for us to be a vibrant group.

Shakespeare said: "We know what we are but we do not know what we may be."

So let's give some deep thoughts and actions that we could pursue over the next few weeks and months. ***Let's Make A Difference.***



Joe McBride
District Governor
2017—2018
Rotary Club of Butte

Inside this issue:

Rotary Club News	2-5
Interact Club News	6
Rotaract Club News	6
District News	7-8
Foundation News	9

October is

Economic and Community Development Month

Rotary Club News

Rotary District Grant Helps Deer Lodge!

Over a period of three consecutive Monday evenings in late July and early August, the Deer Lodge Rotary Club undertook a project to replace the wood for seating for approximately one third of the Tri-County Fair grandstands at located in Deer Lodge. President Jacque Lavelle applied for and received a Centennial Grant from Rotary to fund the paint and screws. Sun Mountain Lumber of Deer Lodge who is a corporate rotary member donated all the lumber. The local Rotarians donated their time and tools to replacing very old lumber with new lumber. The project was finished in time for the start of the Tri County Fair in August. New seating on fresh lumber was highly appreciated by the community and county. Events at the grandstands for this fair included a concert, three rodeos, and a demolition derby.



Before



After

Rotary Basketball Season Beginning in the Flathead

Rotary Club of Basketball is set to continue a unique club project this year: Rotary Basketball. The principal entry-level basketball program in the Flathead Valley, Rotary Basketball is organized and operated by Kalispell Rotarian Scott Williams.

Between 800 and 1,000 youngsters are expected to participate this year. Third- and fourth-graders have one practice and one game per week. The officiating is user-friendly, the coaching is fundamental, and the goal is to create an enjoyment for the game. Fifth-graders get a little more basketball, alternating between one game and one practice one week, and two games and one practice the alternating week. Sixth-graders get still more basketball, playing two games per week and one practice per week. They conclude their session with a double elimination tournament with two officials, a clock, and all the trimmings of big-time basketball.

Every child receives a shirt, coaching, gyms, good company, good sportsmanship, and at least seven weeks of basketball. The Rotary name is on all team shirts and in the venues, so the players, their parents and local basketball fans are exposed to the Rotary ideals.

This is quite an ambitious project, but what a wonderful benefit it provides to the area youth! To find out more, visit the [Kalispell Rotary Basketball](#) website for additional information.

Rotary Club of Philipsburg

Philipsburg Rotarians have been busy! BeRotarian Steve Immenschuh presented a check for \$23,845.65 to Mayor Brett Hamilton during the opening ceremony of the Philipsburg SesqCentennial celebration recently. The funds are designated to be used for procuring needed infrastructure repair materials.



The club also hosted once again the annual visit of the Ability Experience cycling team. The cycling team is composed of college men from the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and raises money for the handicapped. This year they raised over \$640,000 dollars! Thanks to Rotarians Jim Christensen and Dennis Cox and their spouses for organizing the effort!

The Beat Goes On!

Loyal fans braved smoke and highway delays to attend the annual Rotary Concert at Winninghoff Park in Philipsburg. The concert is a major project of the Philipsburg Rotary. Happily, the smoke abated and the concert was a success.

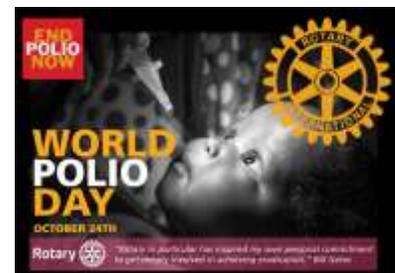
Several Rotarians from Great Falls drove down again this year to help their fellow Rotarians out with logistics for the concert. Pictured here, from left, are Great Falls club president Dean Boyle, Susan Wolff, Todd Neighbor, and Nicole Michelotti. Seated behind the **Rotarians, looking pretty in pink, is Susan's mother, who put in nearly 8 hours at the concert and was recognized with an award for her loyalty at the end of the concert.**



Philipsburg Rotary used the occasion of the concert to **make a pledge to the local hospital's CT Scanner project.** Rotarians Steve Immenschuh and Mark Ransford presented a pledge check to hospital administrator Maria Stoppler during the concert. The CT Scanner has been established as a much-needed function for the hospital and Rotary was proud to pitch in.

World Polio Day is October 24th

[Four Ways to Celebrate Video](#)



Rotary Club of Whitehall Rotary Centennial Grant Project

Whitehall Rotarians spent many of their summer meeting nights working on the historic fish pond in the center of downtown Whitehall. The club has served as caretaker of the pond since the 1950s. As their Rotary Centennial project, the club decided to put in a new sidewalk around the pond with engraved granite tiles; but, the project did not stop there. More than a decade later, the pond area is now surrounded by city park with two Rotary metal benches and a new masonry bench with engraved granite tiles. A masonry wall was also built and it contains engraved tiles as well as a brass Rotary wheel, a brass plaque explaining the history of the pond, engraved tiles with a dedication from the club, the Rotary 4-Way Test and a large engraved mural on the south facing side of the wall.



Southwest Montana Clubs Pool for Party

As they have for the past four years, the Whitehall and Twin Bridges Rotary Clubs hosted their annual BBQ at the Lewis and Clark Caverns Pavilion on Monday, August 14. The Whitehall club has traditionally had a summer picnic and invited Twin Bridges to join them because it allows the District Governor to visit two clubs at once.

DG Joe McBride and his wife Libby were in attendance, along with members of the Dillon and Butte clubs. Joe presented the attending presidents with a Rotary coin (Pictured: Faye Kneeland of Twin Bridges, Dustin Lewis of Whitehall, and Deb Hedeem of Dillon. Not pictured but also attending: President David Armstrong of Butte). Not to be outdone, the Whitehall club presented Joe with a wheelchair certificate; the club had purchased a wheelchair in his name for a deserving person served by the Wheelchair Foundation.



Over 40 Rotarians were on hand to revel in the fun, food, and Rotary fellowship. It doesn't get any better than that!

Rotary Club of Helena is Making a Difference

By Ann Dooling, President

I am President of the Rotary Club of Helena this year, and, in keeping with RI's theme this year, *Rotary: Making a Difference*, I have and will devote the 4th Wednesday every month for an in-meeting project that will make a difference in our community.

The first 4th Wednesday was July 26th. I bought a number of items that I brought to that meeting, and set them up on a few long tables. After the preliminary things in the beginning of the meeting, I had some members go to the far side of the table to hand out items, and the rest in the near side to collect them, assembly style. First, there were large Birthday Gift bags, then we put in them cake mixes, frostings, paper plates, cups and napkins to match, then 60-packs of candles, all for a birthday party. We assembled 48 Birthday bags for Food Share. At the end of the table, we stuffed tissue paper on the top and stapled a business-size card to the bags which had the Rotary symbol, and said "Happy Birthday, Courtesy of the Rotary Club of Helena". It was a very fun event and everyone had a great time. One member even said "Trick or Treat" as she was going down the line.



The second 4th Wednesday, was quite different. For the previous 2 weeks or so, I contacted the volunteer coordinators at 28 non-profit entities in town, recording their phone numbers, emails and addresses, and asked each one of them if they would like some Rotarians to go to their business to volunteer any number of hours, also asking them what they would have them do, etc. As the club members came to the meeting, I gave each one of them a number - 4 1s, 4 2s, 4 3s, etc so that there would be several teams of 4 Rotarians each. The reason I gave them the numbers as they came in randomly was so that they would get a chance to work with others in the club they might not have worked with before. When the time came to start the project, I told them to move to the table with their corresponding number. So everyone got up and moved around till they were sitting in teams of 4. I then gave each team 5 or 6 strips of paper with different non-profit names and contact information, not in any specific order, but randomly. I then asked each team to nominate a Team Leader, and choose which entity they wanted to go to and do whatever that entity wanted them to do. They had to choose at least one, but more than one if they could. They had one month to complete their project, and on the 4th Wednesday of September, they were to reassemble in their Teams, and bring with them someone from the

(Continued on page 10)

I n t e r a c t C l u b N e w s

Whitehall Interact Club Projects

The Whitehall Interact club officers held their first meeting of the school year and announced they are conducting a fundraising project to help Montana families affected by the many wildfires in Montana so far this year. They will be placing donation jars at several Whitehall businesses and encouraging the grade school and high school students to donate as well. Their on-going international project is supporting a young woman through high school. Rio Mae, who lives in the Philippines, is now in her senior year of high school thanks to the financial support of Whitehall Interactors.



R o t a r a c t C l u b N e w s

Missoula Rotaract Club International Project

The Rotaract and Rotary clubs of Missoula have created a partnership with the Freetown Sunset Rotary Club to further the efforts of The Bangura Project in Sierra Leone.

The Bangura Project is a non-profit organization founded by a Rotaractor in Missoula, Usifu Bangura. The Bangura project initially focuses on community development in the Kambia District of Sierra Leone, but it aims to expand its efforts to communities throughout the country.

Usifu has been in Sierra Leone for the past 3 months, establishing a strong foundation for the project by registering it with the Sierra Leonean government and distributing needs assessments to village leaders. In this visit, Usifu will also distribute Water Hippo Rollers and water filters to the village of Malbolo in order to relieve villagers of their water access hardships and help solve their water sanitation issues.

Usifu will continue his stay until early 2018 in order to foster relationships with the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Freetown while also opening doors of support from other aid organizations. For more information about The Bangura Project please visit the website at: <http://www.banguraproject.org/>

District 5390 News



September Focus: Retention (Specific, Attainable, Measurable Goal)

Goal (Retention): By September 25, 2017, the District Membership Committee members shall identify 20 clubs in the District who are willing to adopt a “We Notice You” program, in which two people are recognized by the Club Sargeant At Arms, Immediate Past President, or other member assigned by the current Club President monthly. In clubs with 51 or more members, four people are to be recognized by the club monthly.

THE PLAN:

1. Each Sargeant At Arms, Immediate Past President or other appointed member will research something about each club member from family, friends or work associates that may NOT be known at large.
2. Either weekly or twice a month, said appointee will relate to the club one thing he/ she learns about the club member being ‘noticed’ while the member is present during the meeting. The information about the member may be funny or not, but the purpose is to have club members feel more connected to the ‘noticed’ individuals and be a conversation starter to encourage interaction/engagement between members.
3. The District Membership Committee will provide a supply of items, such as Rotary sticky pads, to be presented to the ‘noticed’ persons after the announcement during the club meeting.
4. On or before April 30, 2018, the District Membership Committee will distribute a report with membership retention figures as recorded on RI website, to each of 20 clubs who adopted the ‘We Notice You’ program, to measure the impact of the program on retention, and assist clubs in planning for the upcoming Rotary year goals.

Email your District Membership Committee by September 22, 2017, to receive Rotary Sticky Pads to use in your Club; indicate club size: Membership@district5390.org .

Youth Exchange News

On the Weekend of August 18 to 20 we held our Youth Exchange inbound and rebound orientations at Camp Rotary outside of Monarch Montana. All 9 inbound students were in attendance to meet and bond with each other and to learn about our expectations of them during their year in our District. WE had Rotarians Dale and Gayle Palmer and Elana Wexall from Big Sky and Roy Beekman from Kalispell and also Gary Huntsberger from Kootenai Valley and Host Mom Niki Keuch there to help cook clean and teach these you adults. Our inbound students are Dayana from Ecuador, Daniel from Taiwan, Matthias and Klara from Austria, Marcus, Luciano and Theo from Brazil, Marion from France and Adriano from Italy and they will be spending most of the next year in 8 communities around our state. If you need a program please contact me and we will try to get one of these students to come talk to your club. WE had two of our outbounds who had not left yet in attendance to help learn their new language and to meet their counterparts and help them with our language. As far as rebounds we had two of the four that were able to come and relate to us their experiences in an effort to improve our program.



Applications for next school year are at deadline so if you get calls about the program please be ready to step up and help them out.

District Literacy Project

It's time to order your Reference Books (a.k.a. Dictionaries). Every effort should be taken to ensure that reference materials or any digital materials are delivered to the schools no later than the Thanksgiving break. The earlier in the current school year they are delivered the better, preferably within the first quarter of the school year. No orders for books will be accepted by the District Literacy Committee later than November 15th of that year. Clubs ordering reference books will need to provide with their order, the list of schools that will be receiving the books and the number of students in each school. Likewise, clubs furnishing other means of materials needs to record what was delivered and how many students were affected.

The complete Literacy Project Guidelines are available on the [District Website](#). Clubs should make sure that they are familiar with the requirements described in the Guidelines.

The Rotary Foundation News

Global Service

George Gerard, International Service Chair

First, thanks to all clubs and individuals who are working to make our world a safer more educated, and healthier place to live. International service work is important and there is no greater organization or group of people to carry out that work than Rotary and Rotarians.

This month, as we are sweltering in the heat and experiencing concerns with fire **danger and lack of rain, it is easy to forget last winter's deep snows and below zero temperatures.** However, I would like you to take a moment for a quick flashback to last January and how nice it would have been to be sitting on a warm beach with a cold beer watching **the sun set over the Caribbean. Let's sweeten the pot even more. How about that same scenario while also furthering the goals of Rotary?**

On January 25 – 27, 2018 in the beautiful Central American country of Belize, Rotary Districts 4240 and 4250 will be hosting a Project Fair where Central American clubs will showcase their projects and seek partnerships with North American clubs. And, Montanans will be there. The Rotary Club of Kalispell will be co-hosting a booth with the Rotary Club of Mazatenango and Fundazucar, a non-profit supported by the sugar industry. Linda and I are planning to attend and it would give us great pleasure to have some of our Montana friends join us. Please contact me for additional information.

Switching to a completely different topic, I would like to remind all clubs considering applying for a Global Grant that there is an application form on montanarotary.org that must be completed and sent to me if any DDF funds will be sought. Clubs must also meet the same qualifying criteria as required for District Grants. A phone call or email to me is always a good place to begin. I can be reached at (406) 293-9213 or gowgerard@frontiernet.net.

Hurricane Relief Fund

The Rotary Foundation and clubs along the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana, USA, are collecting emergency relief funds to help flood victims of Hurricane Harvey. "The power of Rotary is in the foundation's ability to pull help from around the world while local clubs provide immediate relief in their own communities," says Don Mebus of the Rotary Club of Arlington, Texas. "Harnessing the help of the world through The Rotary Foundation with the aid local Rotarians are providing on the ground demonstrates the power of Rotary," Contributions can be made to [Gulf Coast Disaster Relief Donor Advised Fund](#).



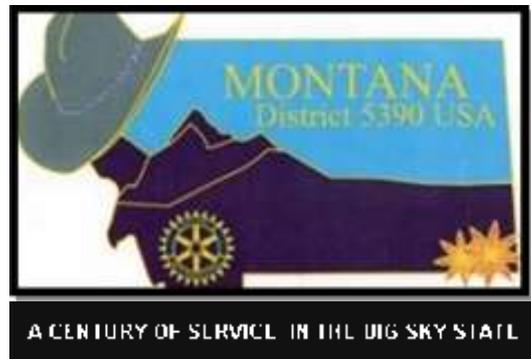
The Rotarian's The 4-Way Test
of the things we think, say, or do:

- 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**

(Rotary Club of Helena Continued from page 5)

entity they volunteered at. Each Team Leader would then tell the group where they went and what they did. Then each non-profit representative would tell the group what their non-profit did and how excited they were to have Rotarians come and volunteer. I told the members that I would give each non-profit representative information about our corporate membership and other information about Rotary, and invite them to join Rotary. I also told the members that I would personally take Team that had the most hours (they needed to record the hours) out to lunch, but advised that we were not going to London or Paris, but to lunch somewhere in Helena! It was very well received, so much so that several members said that we needed to do that again sometime.

Make Your Hotel Reservations Now for the Rotary Convention in Toronto!

Toronto is hosting a separate citywide event during the Rotary Convention that is raising demand and prices for hotels. To make sure you find a room at a rate that meets your needs, we encourage you to book your hotel through the link on the [RI Web](#) site as soon as possible.

Rotary negotiates with hotels for the guaranteed lowest nightly rate for 23-27 June, including **applicable taxes and fees. We want to make sure you're getting the best deal possible.** Should you find a lower rate for those dates at one of the properties listed on our website, please contact us at rotary@experient-inc.com.