

Another month gone and the holidays are fast approaching! November is The Rotary Foundation Month. This is the time to emphasize and focus on The Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Foundation is the backbone of much of the good we do in the world. But YOU are the ones who make The Rotary Foundation possible. December will be Disease Prevention and Treatment month. Don't forget your annual flu shot and, especially for our senior members, the pneumonia prevention vaccination.

Bonnie and I have now visited 48 of the 66 clubs in our district. Here are a few of the really neat projects and fundraisers the clubs are doing. Grand Forks Noon has a "Rotary Wraps" project in which they supply vouchers to needy kids so they can purchase winter clothing. Perham does a "Tuesdaytilla", a social and makeup at a local bar and restaurant and they have a "Taste of Perham" booth at the annual Home and Cabin show. Quad Cities sponsored an illusionist/magician show for the community which was an outstanding success. They sponsored 4 kids to Camp Vermillion, an alternative to RYLA, and they worked at the "Land of Loon Festival". Moorhead served dinners at the Dorothy Day House and Churches United for the Homeless. Their annual "Travel Giveaway" has been a continual success. Devils Lake sponsors a free 4th of July picnic for the community and support the "Fishing has no Boundaries" program along with providing "Life Fishing Camp" scholarships. The Minot Sunrise club has a "Strive for 5" program in which each member is encouraged to bring 5 member prospects to a meeting throughout the year. And they continue with the "Rotary Planting Hope" project planting grass and trees to beautify and restore pride in the community that was devastated by a flood five years ago. Long Prairie did a local law enforcement appreciation event to thank and show support their law enforcement people. They also refurbished the local boat landing dock. To support their projects this small club in a small community sold 1000 dozen roses! Staples participates in the Railroad Days "Chili Cookoff" and has won it several years in a row. They helped established a "Veterans Park" and partnered with Little Falls for a "Veterans Standdown", supplying personal care items for homeless veterans. Fargo-Moorhead AM is a major organizer for the "Rotary Ride", a bike ride fundraiser. And they volunteer with Rebuilding Together to repair houses to keep the elderly and veterans in their homes as long as possible.

It's hard to imagine but the District Conference at Tower, MN is less than 6 months away. This year's district conference theme is "The Great Spirit in Rotary" and promises to be a little different and a lot of fun. This is a great opportunity for new members especially to experience the fellowship, camaraderie and learning opportunities of a district conference. And, please be thinking of a club donation for the silent auction. We're fortunate to have the Rotary International convention in Atlanta, Georgia June 10-14, 2017. This will be a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Foundation. If you've never experienced an international convention, this is the one to attend. Atlanta is a convention city so facilities are built for large conventions and the cost will be reasonable.

We are an awesome district and it's only because YOU believe in and support the good we do in this world. Thank you for the gifts of your time and resources to serve humanity and make this a better world.

Herb