



CROSS CURRENTS-NEW FORMAT

DISTRICT 5580 GOVERNOR, HERB SCHMIDT 2016-2017



FEBRUARY 2017

Seven months already gone from the Rotary year! That means we're on the downhill run toward PETS, District Conference and the Rotary International Conference. Bonnie and I have completed all 67 of the club visits. We continue to be amazed at all the things are clubs do for their home communities and international communities. One of the last clubs visited was the Duluth-Superior Eco Rotary Club. Their focus is on their community and the environment and their many projects include those for recycling, composting, and river, beach and highway cleanup. A neat project was white pine budcapping to prevent deer from destroying white pine seedlings. If you're looking for new projects think about projects that make a positive difference to our environment. The Wadena Rotary club does an Empty Stocking Christmas project supplying Christmas gifts to kids that would otherwise go without, they support needy seniors by distributing foodstuffs to them and they support scholarships for high school students in the fine arts. For a fundraiser they do a highly successful corn and chicken feed fundraiser in August.

With Pre-PETS and PETS coming up your president-elects need to be thinking of their goals (targets) for their clubs in the coming year. This means being realistic but progressive in areas like membership, foundation support, public image and providing a focus for community and international service to your clubs. District leaders are available to help out with this so please utilize them if help is needed.

Before long spring will be arriving and District Conference time will be here. The District Conference Committee has a great program put together with the conference theme being "The Great Spirit in Rotary" The registration forms and directions as well as the program are

on the district website so please sign up for a great time April 28-29 at Fortune Bay Resort/Casino at Tower, MN. And don't forget a club item for the silent auction to support PolioPlus.

Speaking of Polio – we have now gone four consecutive weeks without a case of polio being reported in the world. The first time that's ever happened! But even after we no longer see polio we need to continually support the monitoring and vaccinations till we are sure the beast is dead!

Don't forget the Rotary International Conference in Atlanta, GA June 10-14. This is a great opportunity to experience the international flavor of Rotary and be inspired by the awesome work Rotarians do in the world.

The February monthly theme is Peace and Conflict Resolution and the March theme is Water and Sanitation. These are two of Rotary's Six Areas of Focus. As you plan your programs and projects for the remainder of February and March please keep in mind how we can make others aware of the global needs in these areas and stimulate action to address them.

Thank you all for the great work you all do to make this a better world for all of us!

Happy Valentine's day!

Herb Schmidt

D5580 District Governor



ASK DIANE



Fellow

Thank You!

Rotarians,

As many of you know, January was a difficult month for me and for my family. I caught what I initially thought was a simple cold, and after several days, I also began dropping things and then falling.

My husband, Al, took me to the ER at our local hospital in Brainerd, and I was immediately diagnosed with viral pneumonia. However, the larger problem was that my body was almost completely filled with CO2 instead of Oxygen, and that's what was causing to drop items and my falling. The ER began by pumping oxygen into me for 24 hours, and I spent two weeks in the hospital, with more than one week in the Intensive Care Unit. After a few days, because my heart and lung were working so hard for every breath, my internist and pulmonologist decided the best course of treatment would be to insert a breathing tube and feeding tube, and allow my heart to get some rest because they knew I was wearing myself out and that I could not continue that way for much longer. My family was called in because we simply didn't know how things would turn out. I went into a deep sleep. During my more wakeful moments, I was able to hear and feel the nursing staff as they gently cared for me, and after 3 days, they removed the tubes to see how I would do. Miraculously, I was able to breathe much easier.

There were some additional hurdles, which included several pints of fluid that had to be drained off. I probably had just as many pints of antibiotics given to me, and although Viral Pneumonia does not respond to antibiotics, it was the doctors' hope that this might keep any additional "bugs" away that might try to sneak in. I was eventually moved out of Intensive Care, and then came the physical work of learning to walk again. So many of my fellow Rotarians, some of whom I've never met, prayed for me and for my recovery, and I am so grateful. I received cards from almost every club in the District! I am grateful to District Governor, Herb, who showed his outstanding leadership with his officers



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and committee chairs as he prepared for the Mid-Winter Meetings in Walker. Thank you to my good friend, Bob McLean, who called my husband every day to check up on me so he could bring a report to DG Herb and my own Rotary Club. Thank you to PDG Craig Loughery who chaired the District Nominating Committee, and a very special thanks to Treasurer, Elaine Hansen, for making sure that the things I would have been doing, had I been able, got done for both the Mid-Winter Meeting and the Grants Meeting. There are so many people who stepped up to help, and to all of you, I say, "Thank you!" Rotarians are amazing people who I am proud to call my family. I know I will never be able to repay you for all your kindness, but if I can do something for you in the future, please just let me know. Although my hours are still somewhat limited, I am glad to be back at my desk. I'm feeling great and very blessed!

Here are some reminders for you:

- March 1: RYLA Camper fees are due to District Treasurer, Elaine Hansen.
- March 15: Club Secretaries submit Memorial Service information to District Office.
- March 20: Final Deadline to register for P.E.T.S. Training (see article in this issue).
- March 22: World Water Day (see article in this issue).
- March 31: World Community Service Grants are due in the District Office.

If you have not yet registered for the District Conference, please do so as soon as possible and also reserve your lodging at one of the hotels listed on the District Conference Site Page, located on the HOME page of the District Website at

www.clubrunner.ca/5580 in the EVENTS Section.

In Rotary Service,
Diane

Diane Collins, Executive Secretary
Rotary District 5580 Email:
bigfish@uslink.net / 218.568.6027

P.E.T.S. (President-Elect Training Seminar) April 5, 6, 7, 8, 2017



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

- Wednesday, April 5, 2017 – Bismarck, ND (Bismarck Ramada)
- Thursday, April 6, 2017 – Fargo, ND (Expressway Suites of Fargo)
- Friday, April 7, 2017 – Brainerd, MN (Arrowwood Lodge)
- Saturday, April 8, 2017 - Duluth, MN (Inn on Lake Superior)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017. To register, login to the District Website at www.clubrunner.ca/5580 and on the HOME page, click on the P.E.T.S. Venue you wish to attend.

(Note: If you do not have a login and password to the District Website, now is the time to get one. At the top of the HOME page, click on Member, and then use your email as your login. Click on the blue link for a new user and set up your new password. Use this login and password whenever you visit the District Website.

The following message is from District Governor-Elect, Debra Warner:

It is my honor to welcome you, on behalf of myself and the District Training Team, to the 2017 President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS). We are excited to have you attend PETS; it is such an important training for you because being the **club president is undeniably the most important position in Rotary.**

[read more...](#)



The 26th annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Program is scheduled for July 9-15, 2017 at the University of MN Crookston Campus.

IMPORTANT

Dates:

MARCH 1, 2017 - Submit payment for



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all participants. Rotary clubs need to submit payment for the number of students they plan to send. The rate is \$475.00 per participant.

Please send ALL CHECKS to our District Treasurer: Elaine Hansen, Treasurer District 5580 Rotary, 906 Ridgewood Road, Duluth, MN 55804. Indicate in the memo this is for RYLA. Limited spots are available! No refunds are available after March 1. [read more...](#)

A Request from the Literacy Chair

The Host Clubs are busy organizing the 2017 Rotary District 5580 Conference which takes place April 27-29. There will be many great speakers, Breakout Sessions, good food, a chance to renew friendship and create new ones, and to exchange ideas.

One of the important parts of Conference activity is always the Project Fair. I know that many of your Clubs have great Literacy Projects as part of your Community Service and I would like to see many of these highlighted at this Conference. Will you please notify me as soon as possible as to the Project you could display and how much space you need so that I can be sure we have sufficient display space available. As I hear from you I can supply details you will need to know. Please contact me at McPeak@northlc.com, or 218-753-3503, or at 1597 McKinley Park Acres Road, Tower, MN, 55790.

I look forward to hearing from many of you! Marge McPeak-District 5580 Literacy Chair

Interested in the adventure of a lifetime? Join one of two 5580 international service trips to Bolivia in 2017!

lives, especially from their parents or care givers. [read more...](#)



Come and experience the colorful and vibrant culture of Bolivia and the beauty of

the Andes Mountains.

March 25th – April 8th

The first team will travel to Bolivia to participate



in the building of an elementary school in the Andes mountain village of Guitarrani.

June 9th – June 18th The second team will travel to Bolivia for the grand opening and community celebration of the Guitarrani School.

[read more...](#)

Literacy Corner

Recently I have highlighted and defined a number of various Literacy Areas, most of which are adult-oriented. Another area of Literacy which is highly important is Early Literacy--what children learn about reading and writing very early in their