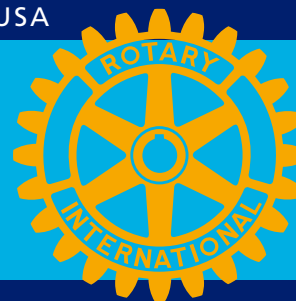




Rotary

ZONES 21 - 27



Larry Dimmitt, RI Director 2018-2020

APRIL 2019
Number 4

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BE THE INSPIRATION

Inspired by P.E.T.S.

by Steve Long DGE D4730

As District Governor-Elect, I had the privilege of attending the fabulous Lonestar P.E.T.S. in Dallas February 28-March 3. The Presidents'-Elect (PE) from my district went above and beyond to get excited and ready for a new year of Rotary and connecting the world. I was called to the training room where 14 of my PE's were in training. I was told that the group was challenged to go out and gather "dollars" for Polio. I was asked to sit in a chair and the facilitators Rhonda Kerby and Michelle Bohreer let me know what had happened. The group accepted the challenge and, working together, they had \$811.00 in cash to give to PolioPlus. I was challenge to bring the amount up to \$1,000.00 and I did very quickly. This means that a group of PE's has changed the world with a total gift of \$3,000.00 to PolioPlus. When I

told my PE's (14 members of the group) that their Foundation Goals just went up for 2019-20, they didn't flinch.

We are going to have a great year together. I want everyone in Zone 21b to know that we are ready for the challenge. I am holding the cash and trying not to fling it in the air. Thanks to Kurt Shlunegger of Pecos, Rick Zinn of Littlefield, Wanda Brooks of Dumas, Lisa Crenshaw of Odessa, Mel Darnell of Amarillo, Shane Harris of Canadian, Jay Hobbs of Midland, Alycyn Keeling of Levelland, Linda McMurry of Lubbock, Jeannie McPherson of Sweetwater, Courtney Oxley of Pampa, Steven Palma of Midland, Sandra Pelfrey of Amarillo and Kristy Tyra of Big Spring. Watch out! These Presidents ready to connect for good!



A Message from your RI Director

by RI Director
Larry Dimmitt
larrydimmitt@gmail.com



Leadership Development Opportunities

As our two zones prepare for zone "realignment" July 1, 2019, there are a number of leadership development opportunities on the horizon. For those who will be in new Zone 29 (Districts 5610, 5630, 5680 and 5710 plus 12 Districts in the upper

midwest) we are holding a Zone 29 District Leadership Institute at the Embassy Suites in Kansas City July 12 and 13. (See 28-29.org) This will be patterned after District Leadership Institutes previously held in Denver. It will involve training for all District leaders, including DGs, DGEs, DGNs, and District Foundation, Membership and Public Image Chairs. Our featured speaker will be Brian King, Rotary Leader in charge of membership. This will be a great opportunity to meet with old friends from our existing Zone plus Rotarians from the new Zone we are joining. For those of you joining new Zones 26 and 27 July 1, see Zone 2526.org for training events. For you Oklahoma folks joining Zones 30/31 July 1, see rizoness30-31.org for information about future training events.

Those of you from Texas and Oklahoma, you should attend the 2019 Rotary Multi-District Training Institute (RMDTI) in Austin August 2-3. For information about the event and hotel information, please go to the RMDTI website.

Goin' to Kansas City!

(See Kansas City picture below/)

It's time to make plans to attend our Zones 25B/29 Zone Institute to be held in Kansas City (Overland Park, KS) September 24-29, 2019, where the theme will be "The Future is Ours." Our institute will feature quality leadership development for District leaders; outstanding speakers, including Rotary President-Elect Sushil Gupta, Past Rotary Vice-President Jennifer Jones and Past Rotary Director Larry Lunsford; fun luncheons and dinners with outstanding local entertainment; and world-class attractions, including the National World War I Museum and the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library. This Institute will include Rotarians from Texas, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and folks from the new zone we are joining, from North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Iowa and even folks from Canada. The venue for this year's Institute will be the Overland Park Sheraton Hotel. Institute Chair Ronney Reynolds from Austin and Vice-Chair Holly Callen from Minnesota and--their committees--are working hard to make this an historic event you will long remember. (See 28-29.org to register for the Institute.) Ronney and Holly are inviting all Rotarians and their families to attend.

For those of you joining Zones 26 and 27, your Zone Institute will be September 4-8 in Denver. (See Zone 26-27.org.)

For you folks in Oklahoma, your 2019 Zone Institute will be October 10-13 in Ft. Wayne, IND. (See rizoness30-31.org.)

HELLO fellow Rotarians!

Spring is finally here and we have survived (for some of us) a long hard winter. And many things are happening in the Rotary World! We have just concluded a highly successful PETS season and our club presidents-elect are eagerly preparing to lead their clubs under Rotary President-Elect Mark Maloney's theme, "Rotary Connects the World." But before that, we are looking forward to meeting June 1, 2019 in Hamburg, Germany for the International Convention. Registration is proceeding at a record pace, and I encourage all of you to join Lois and me in as we "Capture the Moment" in Hamburg. (see Hamburg info next page)

"The Future is Ours" in Kansas City





CAPTURE THE MOMENT IN HAMBURG

HAMBURG GERMANY | 1-5 JUNE 2019



REGISTER TODAY AT [RICONVENTION.ORG](https://Riconvention.org)
#rotary19



Rotary Multi-District Training Institute

Fickett BSA Service Center and Conference Center
12500 North IH-35, Austin TX 78753

August 2 -3, 2019

REGISTER AT: <http://bit.ly/RMDTI>
RESERVE YOUR ROOM: <http://bit.ly/RMDTIHOTEL>

**THIS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ROTARY DISTRICT
ROLES AND PREPARE FOR THE COMING YEAR. REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN
AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF LONE STAR PETS.**

Our Zone Coordinators – RRFC Art Zeitler, RC Debbie High, and RPIC Eric Liu – will put on training for District Leaders – DRFCs, Membership Chairs, Public Image Chairs, PolioPlus Chairs, Grant Chairs, Scholarship Chairs and Fundraising Chairs. RI Director-Elect Suze Howe will present training for DGEs and DGNs. Guest speakers include RI Director Johrita Solari and Past RI Director and Aide to RI President Mark Maloney, Larry Lunsford.

2019 ROTARY MULTI-DISTRICT TRAINING INSTITUTE

FRIDAY August 2 and SATURDAY August 3, 2019



**Where - Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center
12500 N IH35 Austin, TX**

**Hotel - SpringHill Suites Austin North
12520 N IH-35, Austin, TX**

Registration Opens March 4, 2019

**For Information contact: PDG Rich Kaye
(254) 291-4890 or richkaye@hotmail.com**

It's our honor and privilege to extend an invitation to all current and future leaders of your district to attend the **Rotary Multi-District Training Institute** in Austin, Texas on August 2-3, 2019. Rotary Multi-District Training Institutes are designed to support incoming DGEs and DGNs in building and preparing their critical leadership teams for their year of service. It's energetic, fun, and valuable - with the very best speakers and very high-quality training.

Registration is **\$90** per person and lodging is **\$119** per night (not including taxes)

We are honored to have an all-star cast to lead our interactive training. This includes our Rotary International Leadership: RI Director Larry Dimmitt, RI Director Johrita Solari, Past Rotary International Director and Aide to RI President Larry Lunsford, Past RI Director Don Mebus, and Past RI Director and Treasurer Andy Smallwood.

Our targeted training for specific District positions will be led by our Rotary Regional Leadership teams who bring a wealth of knowledge to share.

- RI Director-Elect Suzi Howe, RI Director Larry Dimmitt, Past RI Director and Treasurer Andy Smallwood and Past RI Director Don Mebus will lead training for DGEs and DGNs.
- RRFC Art Zeitler and his team will lead the Rotary Foundation training.
- RC Debbie High and her team will offer new and innovative Membership training.
- RPIC Eric Liu and his team will lead the Public Image sessions.

Saturday, August 3, will be a full day of training for all groups starting at 8:15 AM



**Optional Foundation Pre-Session
Friday afternoon, August 2, 2019
(1:30 PM to 5:30 PM)**

The Flamingos of Change-

Rotary District 5870's Annual Foundation Dinner Features Rotary International President Barry Rassin

by Bob Crouch, Assistant District Governor, D5870

On February 2, 2019, 404 Rotarians and friends from Rotary District 5870 (Central Texas) gathered for dinner at the Austin Hilton to celebrate the District's support to The Rotary Foundation in Calendar Year 2018. The attendees experienced an uncommon treat, as Rotary International President Barry Rassin served as the guest speaker; it is not every day that the RI President visits an event in one of Rotary's 539 individual Districts!



Rotary International President, Barry Rassin at the District 5870 2019 Foundation Gala

President Rassin shared amazing stories about our progress towards polio eradication, the importance of the Rotary Peace Fellows program, how work within our Areas of Focus helps bring peace to the world, and how Rotary was the first organization to respond to the earthquake in Haiti. He challenged us, as Rotarians, to think bigger - to find even more ways to have impact on our communities and the world. Finally, he described the cover photo from the July 2018 issue of The Rotarian Magazine to the audience. In that picture, Rassin and his wife Esther are standing in front of seven flamingos, six of which face left, and the seventh faces right. He described the seventh flamingo as "the Flamingo of Change" - the individual that chooses to go against the flow despite the challenges and difficulty. Interestingly enough, the other six

flamingos all performed an about-face and began following the Flamingo of Change just a few minutes after the photo. Rassin's analogy was that we need a Flamingo of Change in every Rotary club, someone who will ask whether the club is relevant today and if it is taking the steps to remain relevant in the future. President Rassin concluded by describing three ways our clubs can embrace change today to remain relevant in the future: deliberately attract young professionals; encourage diversity among our membership; and ensure we provide value to each of our members.

The night was not just about speeches, it was also about recognizing and honoring the selfless contributions made by District 5870 Rotarians



District 5870 Governor Jerry Chapman with Rotary Public Information Chair, Eric Liu and his wife Sandra

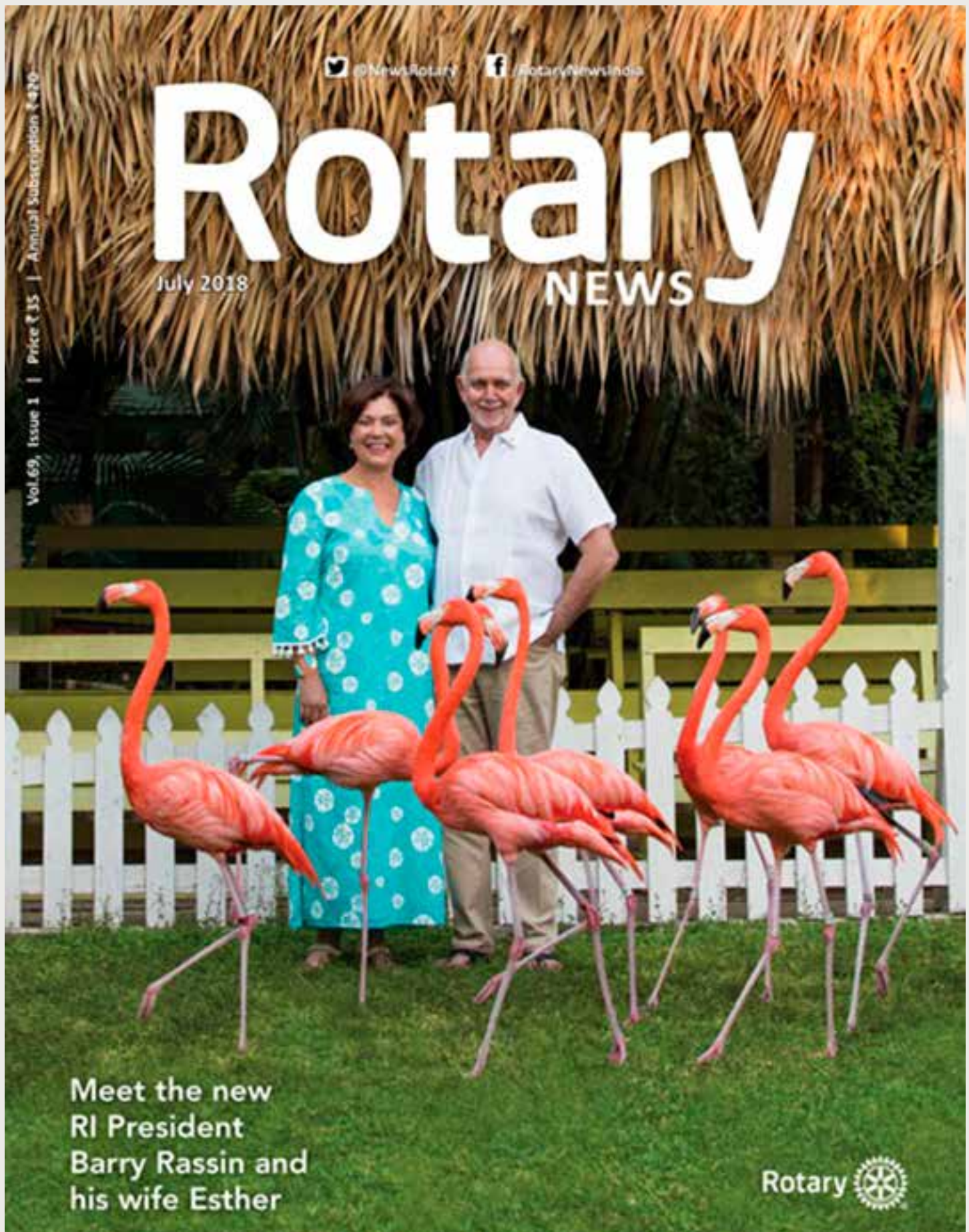
to The Rotary Foundation. RY 2017-2018 was a great year for our District, with over \$499,000 raised for the Foundation; we're poised for an even better year in RY 2018-2019, with more than \$468 thousand raised in the first six months alone! These accomplishments are not possible without the dedication of our individual Rotarians, many of whom were honored in person during the dinner. Across our District in CY 2018, 22 Rotarians achieved a new level of

Major Donor status, four achieved a new level of Bequest Society status, 12 achieved a new level of White Hat status, and 561 achieved a new level of Paul Harris Fellow!

Recognition is important, but Service Above Self is what truly drives Rotarians. Each Rotarian in District 5870 understands that three years after contributing to The Rotary Foundation, a portion of their gift returns to their Club by way of the District Assistance Program (DAP) program, and potentially via the Global Grants program. District 5870 clubs are very active in each of these programs. In prior years, Global Grants awarded to our clubs have funded international water projects, literacy projects, and many others; DAP grants have helped our local communities by funding projects at homeless shelters, food pantries, schools, and the Early Act First Knight (EAFK) program. Our giving to The Rotary Foundation is what allows us to "Be the Inspiration" in our communities and around the world!



Past Rotary International Directors Mike Pinson and Don Mebus with Rotary International Director-Elect, Suzi Howe



P.E.T.S. Materials now available to all on Website created by District 5400

by Rich Kirkham, DGE D5400

We've all been to great Rotary Training events. We come home with big binders full of wonderful handouts and other resources. Then we go to another meeting and wish we had that binder with us! Unfortunately, it's sitting at home in a drawer where you can't get to it just when you need it.

Now that's all changed! This year for PETS, D5400 launched a website with all its training materials, schedules, slide shows, and handouts for the entire training event all in

one place: www.5400pets.com. "This is a great way to put all the material where Club President and club officers can find it easily. The site will stay active for their Rotary year. They can access it at a board meeting or when they are in a club meeting. Share a video. Print a handout. This method saves paper. It makes it easy to correct typos and add information quickly before, during, or after the event," says District Governor Elect Rich Kirkham. The site is set up as a Google Site, a free collaborative software product, that multiple

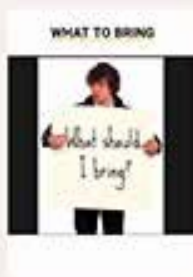
district presenters can work on simultaneously to create the content. All content is housed on the District's free Google Drive. Content can be viewed on desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile devices. "We paid \$1 for our domain name and everything else was free," Kirkham says. "I definitely recommend it to other Districts. It's a great way to go!"

To tour the site go to www.5400pets.com



What is Rotary Club Leadership Summit (RLS)? This is a once-a-year training retreat for ALL club leaders and emerging leaders in District 5400. Club President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) is combined with RLS and includes FOUNDATION, MEMBERSHIP, PUBLIC IMAGE, AND CLUB ADMINISTRATION training tracks. ALL Rotary Members are welcome! Please come! Get better trained in Rotary! Bring the whole club team!

Lets have some fun together and do MORE good in the world!



Rotary District 5710's Global Scholars report on their year to date

by Blanche Parks

Rotary District 5710 is incredibly proud to support two amazing scholars this year with Global Grant Scholarships. Genevieve Akins is sponsored by the Downtown Topeka Rotary Club and is studying in Dublin. Gloria Funcheon is sponsored by the Lawrence Rotary Club and is studying in London. Their recent reports are featured below.

Genevieve Akins

It's hard to believe that I left for Dublin almost six months ago. Over the course of those months I have had the opportunity to see the difference Rotarians and Rotary scholars are making all over the world. Living in Dublin is an exciting and rewarding experience. The Equality Studies program at the University College Dublin offers courses in human rights law, peace and conflict, the economics of equality, and social justice policy. I am enjoying the opportunity to take a variety of classes and discuss issues with people from a wide range of backgrounds.

Within a few weeks of arriving in Dublin, I attended a Rotary Global Grant Scholars weekend in Coventry, England. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow scholars from all over the world who had also just arrived in the U.K. and Ireland to study. My host family for the weekend went out of their way to make me feel welcome. We stayed in touch after the Scholars weekend and in November I joined them on a visit to the Rotary Peace Centre in Bradford, England. It was amazing to hear about the Peace Scholars' work around the world and inspiring to hear what they are planning to do in the next stage of their lives.

I am very grateful to Rotary International and specifically the Rotary Club of Topeka Downtown and Rotary



District 5710 Global Grant Scholars Genevieve Akins and Gloria Funcheon.

Club of Dublin-Fingal for being my sponsor and host clubs respectively. The experience to live and study abroad, meeting Rotarians and Rotary scholars from around the world who are united by a desire to create change, has been truly life-changing. I am forever grateful for Rotary's support and kindness.

Gloria Funcheon

(report for February)

I took advantage of reading week (no classes February 11-15) and spent a few days in Scotland, just for a change of pace. Edinburgh is a lot quieter than

London, and it was nice to have a few days of walking slowly and some time to catch up.

From February 19-25 I had the opportunity to serve as an elections observer in Moldova. Moldova is a small country located in between Romania and Ukraine. Up until 1940 it was part of Romania, and then it was part of the Soviet Union. So, it is still a very new country transitioning from the Soviet system. I was specially chosen to visit a polling station in the town of Vanitsa, which is on the border with disputed territory Transnistria - a militarized zone. I'm lucky that I could blend in relatively well (most of the time people guess that I am Ukrainian) - and thus overhear conversations in Russian - about vote buying and intimidation that people had experienced.

I have three more weeks of classes! I absolutely cannot believe that I'm so close to the end of classes (but of course not assigned papers) - soon I will be able to just focus on my individual research and writing my dissertation until September deadline.

I cannot express how grateful I am for this opportunity. I feel so lucky to be living here and receiving this education. I'm really looking forward to the rest of the year!



Rotary Global Grant Scholars and Rotarians at the Scholars Weekend in Coventry England.

A Life-Altering Experience

by Juan Lira & Ellison Crider

Can one person's dream make a profound difference in the lives of others? In 2014-2015, Art Zeitler (District 5930 Governor) shared with the District Scholarship Committee (DSC) a dream he had. College students from District 5930 who had completed at least 2 years of college work and were working towards a degree in a field connected to one of the Rotary Foundation's Areas of Focus could apply for a scholarship. The scholarship would allow them to spend two weeks in Costa Rica (a stable and democratic country) as members of an interdisciplinary medical brigade that would treat individuals in need. The Committee agreed this experience would be invaluable.

Since then, at least two students each year have participated in this two-week experience. The DSC works closely with the International Service Learning (ISL) organization that coordinates this activity to ensure students have a rewarding experience. The DSC pays for each student's registration fee, room and board (some meals), round-trip coach air fare, and travel insurance. The DSC also provides an orientation prior to the trip and assistance, as needed.

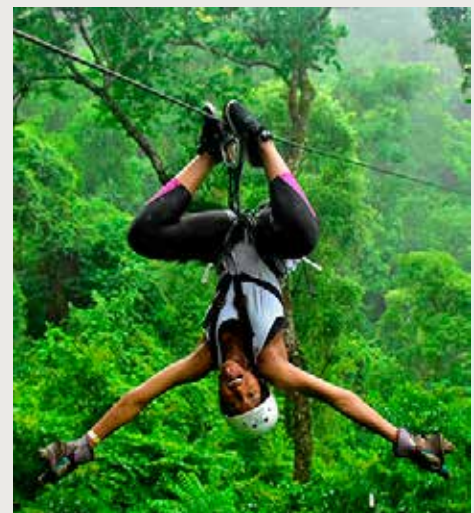
ISL also provides invaluable support. These services include 24-hour accompaniment by professional bilingual staff, airport pick-up and drop-off, ground transportation, lodging, two-meals per day, and drinking water. ISL also provides licensed medical professionals to supervise the students, medications and supplies, and a quality international learning experience.

Students also fulfill important responsibilities. These include ensuring their passports and

vaccination records are current, registering on the ISL website, and serving as volunteer members of the Medical Brigade Team. Among students' duties are surveying communities to identify their needs and referring individuals to an ISL clinic, as appropriate; participating in patient interviews and taking their vital signs; and closely observing the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of patients. They also participate in seminars on prevention and treatment of diseases common to the area and play with community children. Students also remain in communication with members of the DSC and engage in Rotary activities prior to, during, and after their trip to the extent possible.

Feedback from the students who participated in the May 26 to June 8, 2018 experience is particularly impactful. They viewed the trip as life-altering because it enabled them to understand how serving others helped improve their own lives and the lives of the people they helped. They are strongly committed to provide support to others in need and encourage college/university students to apply to participate in this experience. Students also enjoyed the recreational and sight-seeing activities provided, as well as interacting with and learning from other members of the medical brigade.

The District 5930 Leadership Team is firmly committed to continue this initiative, since it can help develop strongly committed servant leaders. By now, we are confident you can respond with a resounding YES to the initial question and affirm that one person's dream can evolve into a significant and positive experience for others.



District 5930 Gifts Peace Pole to Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

(Reprinted with permission)

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – University campuses are more than just a place of learning – they are a place of self-discovery, pushing boundaries, and making life-long connections with people from different corners of the map. This spirit of unity, as well as diversity, was celebrated during the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Peace Pole Dedication as student leaders from a variety of Islander clubs, along with campus representatives and members of South Texas Rotary District 5930 joined together to commemorate the pole's permanent placement on campus.

The Peace Pole, gifted to the Island University by Rotary District 5930, features the phrase “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in eight different languages, plus Braille. The languages were selected based on the native languages of the most populous groups on campus and include Arabic, English, German, Hindi, Mandarin, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese. The Peace Pole is a white multi-sided post that stands nearly 8-feet-tall and is centrally located near the University Center – between the East Lawn and Anchor Plaza.

“This Peace Pole serves as a beacon for deep discussion and the strong hope of all who gather around it,” said Dr. Kelly M. Quintanilla, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi President. “As Islanders, we strive to not only appreciate our commonalities, but to rejoice in our differences. It is my sincere hope that this pole will be a display of the respect and acceptance we have for each other – leading the way for our communities, our state, our nation, and our world.”

Dr. Marilyn Spencer, retired professor and department chair of economics at A&M-Corpus Christi, and past



district governor for Rotary District 5930, led the force bringing the Peace Pole to the Island University.

“I’m so excited to be back on campus for this dedication,” said Spencer, who currently serves as Rotary District 5930’s peace chair. “Peace is an opportunity for boy and girls, men and women, to enjoy life without fear.”

Kayla Stovall, `17 Island alumna, Rotary Global Scholar, and A&M-Corpus Christi Coordinator of Prevention Programs, attended the Peace Pole ceremony. Stovall has been involved with Rotary since she was 15-years-old, and joined Rotaract, the collegiate arm of Rotary, when she started school at A&M-Corpus Christi. Rotary sponsored Stovall’s 2015 medical mission to Costa Rica; and in 2017, Rotary fully-funded Stovall’s Master of Public Health at

the University of Edinburgh.

“For me, peace means harmony – for today and for the future,” said Stovall. “This pole represents so much to me, not just because of what Rotary has done for me personally, but for what they have done internationally to promote peace and conflict resolution.”

Peace Poles were first constructed in Japan in 1955 and since then, more than 200,000 have been placed around the world in nearly 200 countries.

“The phrase ‘May Peace Prevail on Earth’ celebrates diversity, yet oneness in strength,” said Andrew Hagan, Rotary District 5930 District Governor. “This phrase embodies the mission of this University to foster and teach peaceful ways to resolve conflict, seek equitable solutions to what may seem to be insurmountable challenges, and actively engage in initiatives emphasizing the importance of our humanitarian service with a purpose.”

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi student body is comprised of students from 51 different nations and 48 states.

“Our students are here to find solutions to world problems, learn how to be leaders, and make an Islander Impact,” Quintanilla concluded. “This pole is going to be a popular gathering place and also a visible symbol and a daily reminder of the values of our great institution.”

At the end of the Peace Pole dedication ceremony, attendees locked arms and sang “Let there be Peace on Earth,” in a moving tribute to the part each individual plays in the promotion of peace throughout the world.

In Celebration of New Zone Director!

by Bobbe Barnes

Suzi Howe—intelligent, warm, engaging and a true LEADER! She is our Director-Elect serving on the Board of Directors of Rotary International for 2020 - 2022! She represents our paired Zones 25 and 29 (covering from Michigan to Colombia).

Serving will be quite a commitment of her time as a Rotarian and the position is well deserved. No telling the amount of time her husband, Bill, will have to commit to her appointment travels. He is philosophical about it commenting, "I will go wherever she sends me—to play golf!"



Donor and Bequest Society Member, member of Space Center Rotary Club, recipient of the Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award, The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service, Service Above

Self Award, and the Dome City Award on behalf of all Houston-area Rotarians after Hurricane Katrina.

It does not include the local and international humanitarian projects she led or with which she was involved. She certainly has committed much of her time to Rotary Service, all while running her South Shore

Montessori School!

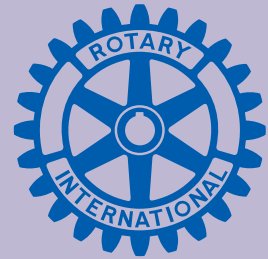
Many ask what does it take to become a Rotary International Director? In simple terms, a commitment to the philosophy of Rotary and a tremendous commitment of time, energy and resources to creating a better world!

Suzi's accomplishments include serving as an International Assembly Training Leader, presenter at International Convention breakout sessions, lead trainer for the Rotary Leadership Institute, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, Rotary District Governor 2006-2007, Major

Though it is a straightforward list; the amount of time and effort invested to be placed in these roles belies the enormous amount of talent, energy, time and commitment required. Well done Suzi!

In the little time she is not working on Rotary or spending time with Bill, she is well known in the insect world of her personal garden for being a Tomato Hornworm assassin. If you are not an insect, you will be just fine!

Congratulations Suzi, and THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



Rotary International Director

Zones 21 - 27

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2018-2020

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BE THE INSPIRATION

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