

District 5770 Peacemaker

Volume 1 No. 6



Phil Moss, District Governor



From Governor Phil

Honoring Service, Promoting Peace

Greetings, Rotarians -

Ordinarily, the work of the District Governor begins to wind down after all the club visits are done, and the completion of the District Conference (and the completion of the required reports associated with the conference!). The Rotary year 2012-13 is winding up a bit differently – certainly a winding up instead of down.

I want to thank all the Rotarians and their guests who came and participated in the District Conference last month. While no event that involves human beings is ever perfect, I was really pleased with how our conference flowed, and the good things that we experienced. And while Governors are seldom (if ever) satisfied with the attendance numbers, we had a good gathering from across the district (although I do wish we could have had more of you there!). RI President Sakuji Tanaka did our district a great service by appointing Dr. Bob Scott as his representative. Bob is a remarkable Rotarian and leader, and I am glad he and Ann were able to get to know Rotarians in 5770 and experience our hospitality. I think we certainly benefited from his being here.

As you know, parts of our district were profoundly and tragically affected by the destructive storms in May. Among other places feeling the impact, the communities of Shawnee and Moore, home to two of the clubs in District 5770, were hit hard by the tornadoes. At just about the same time as the news of the destruction and the aftermath began to emerge, I began to get messages and calls from Rotarians expressing concern and offering to help. One of the first emails was from a Rotarian from New Jersey – someone who had experienced losses in Superstorm Sandy, who wanted to help us, just as they had received help during their recovery. I also got calls from fellow governors in Texas, including DG Ricky Price from District 5870 – offering help and assistance based on their district's experiences in dealing with the deadly explosions in West, Texas, in his district.

Messages and offers to help also came from across the world – from people I have met over the last few years, plus many others who just saw the needs and wanted to offer to help. Particularly this year, when there is any news about Oklahoma (and our district), many Rotarians around the world think of Ron Burton, and he also began getting notes and calls. The outpouring of concern and generosity has been phenomenal.

Even in the midst of the tragic events and the losses, it is hard not to be grateful – for the expressions of concern and offers of support, for the willingness of Rotarians in Moore, Shawnee, elsewhere in the district, and across the country to step up and provide assistance. The stories of service and assistance are simply too numerous to mention. I am also grateful for our fellow Rotarians in District 5750 who have partnered with us to help in the recovery efforts.

The Bi-District effort is just getting underway, and I expect it to be a positive force for renewal and rebuilding of the communities affected. Our representatives on the coordinating committee are: Marilyn Geiger (chair, from Norman Cross Timbers), Jolene Curry (Moore), Bob Dill (Norman Sooner), Neil Schemmer (Norman), and David Shirley (Norman Sooner). I will be serving as an Ex-Officio member, as will DGE Terry Godfrey. Donations are being collected, and we have probably received close to \$100,000 already. More will be coming in, along with some opportunities for one or more Global Grants through the Rotary Foundation. Rotary will help those communities in restoration efforts, and help restore their peace.

It will be a long term effort, so I am grateful for the above individuals who have agreed to serve, and would ask all Rotarians to be ready if called upon to help.

This year has been a phenomenal experience. Peggy and I have been so blessed by the many new friends we've made through our visits to your clubs. One begins to understand the impact Rotary has when you can see it in each community, along with the big picture of the work being done at the international level. Rotary is a local and global enterprise. It is, quite literally, an awesome organization.

Thank you for your service – in your clubs, communities, vocations, in the district and beyond. I have been honored to serve as your Governor this year. I would simply encourage you to keep up such good work, keep an eye out for new ways to serve, and be supportive of DGE Terry when he begins his year on July 1.

I am grateful that our clubs and our district were part of the effort this year in promoting *Peace through Service*.



DGE Terry Godfrey Installation Set June 18 At Cyril Rotary Club

Terry Godfrey, Rotary International Governor, 2013-14, for District 5770 will be formally installed in a luncheon ceremony at his home club in Cyril, at Noon on Tuesday, June 18, 2013.



DGE Godfrey

District Governor-Elect Terry invites Rotarians across the district to join him and the other members of the Cyril Rotary Club for this special event. The luncheon will be at the regular club meeting location at the Cyril Senior and Community Center, 3 Ohio Street, in Cyril.

Lunch will be \$10.

Please let DGE Terry know if you will be attending by contacting him by email at terry_godfrey@sbcglobal.net or by phone at [405 538-9047](tel:405-538-9047).

June Lisbon Convention Nears

Rotarians from across the world gather at the annual convention June 23-26, held this year in Lisbon, Portugal.

Norman Rotary Club incoming president Andy Rieger will be on stage with others from his club and the district to celebrate the start of the new Rotary year with our own District 5770 Rotarian Ron Burton as RI President in 2013-14.

A good representation from District 5770 is expected, and those in attendance from the district will participate in the ceremonial exchange of the RI presidential banner at the close of the convention.



Above are members of the OU Rotaract Club along with other attendees at the District Conference. At right, Norman Rotarian Dennis Brigham accepts the Presidential Citation as sponsor of the OU Rotaract Club.



Conference photos by CE Jones



Past District Governor Winston M. Higgs Services Held June 1 at Altus

Funeral services for PDG Winston M. Higgs, 87, Altus, who died May 29, following a brief illness, were June 1, at the First United Methodist Church in Altus with Revs. David Player and Margie Van Oostrum officiating. Burial, with military honors, followed at the Altus City Cemetery under the direction of Kincannon Funeral Home.

Winston Higgs was born December 19, 1925 to Kelcy Higgs and Iva O. (Muse) Higgs in Burneyville, Oklahoma near Marietta, Oklahoma. He died May 29, 2013 at Bradford Village Nursing Home in Edmond.

The youngest of four children, he grew up on a farm and attended Martha Public Schools. In high school, he participated in all sports and was president of the Martha student body for two years.

Winston joined the Martha Methodist Church at a young age and was very active in youth activities. One of his favorite missions was to visit other Methodist churches in the area and give programs to youth groups encouraging them to become active in the Methodist Church.

He attended Altus Junior College, now Western Oklahoma State College and was president of the college student council before being drafted into the Army in March of

1944. He spent 27 months in the service, was overseas 19 months and in active combat six months of that time in Germany. During this time he received the [Bronze Star](#) in addition to other medals and honors.



PDG Higgs

After returning from Germany in 1946, Winston returned to Altus and attended and was graduated from Draughon's Business College in Wichita Falls, Texas. He married Ethelda Hestand, the love of his life, while on leave August 2, 1944 at the Martha Methodist Church. He and Ethelda, married for almost 69 years, have both been active in the First United Methodist Church in Altus.

He worked with Burl Brumley for seventeen years before purchasing his interest in Altus Finance Company. He has been active in finance, insurance and

the sales business in Altus since that time. A few years ago he sold his interest in the business to Charlene Firth, a longtime friend and employee.

Rotary has been a very important part of Winston's life and he was very active in that organization, serving as president of the Rotary Club of Altus in 1982-83. He was district governor twice: 1989-90 and 1995-96. He served on the Altus City Council for eight years and remained active in city government.

Winston was preceded in death by his parents; brothers James Higgs and Charles Higgs. He is survived by his wife, Ethelda; two sons, Larry and wife Kappy of Sapulpa, OK and Gary and wife Gayle of Oklahoma City; sister, Evie Clinkscales of Altus; six grandchildren including Steven and wife Dorothy of Denver, CO, Kevin and wife Jennifer of Oklahoma City, Ryan and wife Miranda of Kansas City, MO, Kyle and wife Jacki of New York City, Kristi and husband Brian Morton of Edmond, OK, and Ryan Matthias of Sapulpa, OK; as well as 10 great grandchildren. Online tributes may be made at kincannonfuneralhome.com The family suggests donations to Western Oklahoma State College or the First United Methodist Church of Altus as appropriate for memorials.

District 5770 Peacemaker

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Persons with information for the newsletter can contact:

Chuck Bacon, Editor



Rotarians Support Relief and Recovery Efforts In Moore

Rotary International Districts 5770 and 5750 are supporting the relief and recovery efforts related to the tragic events in Moore, Oklahoma, and the destruction from the tornado that hit there on May 20. Many families and friends have suffered great loss. It is estimated that there were between 12,000 and 13,000 homes destroyed or damaged, in addition to businesses and schools.

Tax-deductible donations to help in those efforts are being accepted. Those who would like to help by donating may send checks to :

Foundation for Oklahoma Rotary, Inc.
Attention: Bi-District Tornado Disaster Fund
P.O. Box 13800
Oklahoma City OK
73113-3800 USA

Contributions may also be made online using VISA, MasterCard or Discover by clicking the "Donate Now" link on the District 5770 web site.

Funds received by our Rotary Bi-District 501(c)3 Foundation will be used exclusively for the benefit of those affected by this terrible event. Donations are tax deductible and all donations will be acknowledged.

Don't Forget!

- June 17-21: RYLA Camp** – Goddard Youth Camp, Sulphur
- June 18: District Governor Induction Ceremony** - Cyril
- June 23-26: Rotary International Convention** – Lisbon



The effort in helping the community and individuals who have been affected by these destructive forces is being coordinated by leaders from Rotary District 5770 (which includes Moore and Cleve-

land County) and Rotary District 5750 (which includes south Oklahoma City), and will work in conjunction with and in support of the Moore Rotary Club and local and state officials.



Receiving recognition for their hard work in ensuring a successful District Conference are Christi Moore, Conference Chair, and Linda Holt, Registration Coordinator, both from the Norman Sooner Rotary Club.



Ada Sunrise Rotarians Create Program To Deal With Bullying at School

Using resources through a District Grant and the Rotary Foundation, the Ada Sunrise Rotary Club has helped get a program started in their schools that deals with the problem of bullying.

“Powered Up” was an effort led by the club to train club members in how to educate young people about bullying and what they can do to help prevent or stop it.

Pictured are members of the club, including President Ben Harper and President-Elect Jack Green, along with District Governor Phil, following their club assembly June 7 where a report of the project was presented. The Governor was with the club to present them with their Presidential Citation certificate for 2012-13, and the club presented him with a Powered Up t-shirt.



Marilyn Geiger, District Governor Nominee Designate and member of the Norman Cross Timbers Rotary Club, presents four tickets for the OKC Thunder playoff game for auction to support the Rotary Foundation and the End Polio Now campaign.



Members of the Purcell Rotary Club accept the travelling trophy for best attendance in the large club category. The Purcell club averaged over 90% attendance in 2012-13. Accepting the trophy from DG Phil are Pat Martin, President Justin Blankenship, PDG Ron Fishburn, and Nita Fishburn.



Major Kris Evans, Oklahoma National Guard, Sooner Rotarian and Veteran Jen Tregarthen, and Lt. Colonel Warren Griffis.



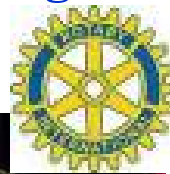
Assistant Governors serving 2012-13 who attended the awards luncheon on Saturday received recognition, thanks, and a Rotary portfolio from DG Phil. Pictured are Jerry Stover (Binger), Carter Waid (Waurika), and Ricky Brewer (Altus).



PDG Mary Sherman receives the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

District 5770 Conference Highlights

Photos by CE Jones



DG Phil presents Presidential Citation Certificates to club presidents in attendance at Saturday's luncheon. Receiving the citations are Ron Erickson from Durant, Chuck Webber from Greater Lawton, Shari Kinney from Norman, James Harp from Norman Sooner, Justin Blankenship from Purcell, and Carter Waid from Waurika. Ada Sunrise Rotary Club also achieved a Presidential



DG Phil recognizes and honors PDG Mike Blevins from Sayre for his service as Governor for District 5770 in 2011-12.



East Central University Rotaract attends District conference.



Rotarian Arlie Daniel from the Ada Rotary Club presents the first place award and recognition to Charlotte Howard, who won the District Four-Way Test Speech Contest.



Rotarian Bob Usry (upper left) from the Norman Sooner Rotary Club presents RYLA scholarship checks.



PDG Larry Duffy of Altus leads a song at Saturday morning's plenary session.



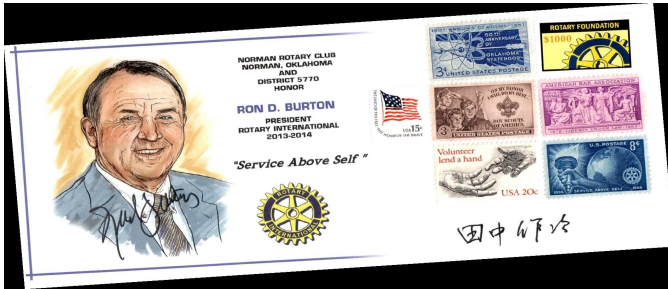
Rotary International President's Rep. (left) Bob Scott greets Conference attendees.



Inbound Youth Exchange Students.



Outbound YE Students



TO HONOR OUR OWN RON BURTON And to further the work of the Rotary Foundation

Ron D. Burton will take office as President of Rotary International on July 1, 2013. It is an honor to the Norman Rotary Club that a member of our club has been recognized for his leadership abilities and dedication to the purposes of Rotary. His willingness to take on this worldwide responsibility is indeed an honor to all of the clubs in Norman, District 5770, and Oklahoma.

To mark this momentous occasion a unique envelope with stamps reflecting on some of Ron's life achievements will be cancelled "Norman Rotary Club Station." Individuals, Rotary clubs, or groups making contribution of \$1000 will receive the cover personally signed by Ron and RI President Sakugi Tanaka. Contributors of \$100 will receive the cover personally signed by Ron.

Friends of Ron and his wife, Jetta, are invited to honor them by contributing to their endowed fund within the Permanent Fund.

The Burton-Rotary Foundation Recognition form below lists ways contribution may be made. All proceeds will go to the Rotary Foundation.

BURTON-ROTARY FOUNDATION RECOGNITION

DONOR OF CONTRIBUTION: (Questions to: Norman Rotary Club at: clarandjan@att.net)

Type of Donor (check one): Individual Rotary Club District

Name: _____ Donor ID#: _____

Club Name: _____ Club Number: _____ District number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ email address: _____

DESIGNATION: (check one)

Permanent Fund-World Fund (Ron Burton's preference) Annual Fund-Share Polio Plus

CONTRIBUTION DETAILS:

\$1,000 \$100 USA Currency Type of Payment: Check Credit Card (below)

Visa Master Card American Express Discover

Name on card: _____

Card number: _____

Expiration Date (MM/YY) _____ CVN* _____

Signature: _____

* card verification number: three-digit number on the back of Visa, Master Card or Discover or a four-digit number on the front of American Express.

I want to become a Paul Harris Sustaining Member. I authorize my Rotary Club Treasurer to add \$25.00 each quarter to my dues. Signature _____

RECOGNITION MATERIALS SHIPPING INFORMATION:

Send recognition to: Donor Club President

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Send form to: Norman Rotary Club; c/o 3009 Millbury Rd.; Norman, OK 73071 USA

DEADLINE: Purchase at any time - Orders obligated when received - Shipped July 1, 2013