



RI PRESIDENT GARY K.R. "RAVI" RAVINDRAN'S MONTHLY MESSAGE



Some years ago, I was asked to speak at an Interact club in my home city of Colombo, Sri Lanka. I have always taken my interactions with Rotary youth very seriously, so I prepared my remarks carefully and put the same effort into my presentation that I would for any other event. After the meeting, I stayed to chat with a few of the Interactors, answering their questions and wishing them well.

I came out of the classroom where we had met into the autumn afternoon. The bright sun was shining directly into my eyes, so I found a bit of shade behind a pillar where I could wait for my ride.

As I stood there, hidden from view, I overheard a group of the very Interactors who had just listened to my speech. Naturally I was curious: What would they be saying? What had they taken away from my presentation? I quickly realized that what they had taken away was not at all what I had intended.

They were not talking about what I had said, the stories I had told, or the lessons I had come to their school to impart. To my astonishment, the major topic of conversation was my tie! I listened with amusement as they chattered about my Western clothes, my background, my business; every aspect of my appearance and behavior was dissected and discussed. Just as they began to speculate about what car I drove, my ride arrived and I stepped out into view. They were perhaps a bit embarrassed, but I just smiled, got into the car, and drove off with a wave.

Whatever they learned from me that day, I learned far more. I learned that the lessons we teach with our examples are far more powerful than those we teach with words. I realized that as a Rotary leader, and a prominent person in the community, I had, for better or worse, become a role model for these young people. Their eyes were on me in a way that I had never before appreciated. If they chose to emulate me, they would model themselves on what they saw, not what I told them.

All of us in Rotary are leaders, in one way or another, in our communities. All of us bear the responsibility that comes with that. Our Rotary values, our Rotary ideals, cannot be left within the confines of our Rotary clubs. They must be carried with us every day. Wherever we are, whoever we are with, whether we are involved in Rotary work – we are always representing Rotary. We must conduct ourselves accordingly: in what we think, what we say, what we do, and how we do it. Our communities, and our children, deserve no less.

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MEMBERSHIP RETENTION - RECOGNIZE YOUR MENTORS

By Richard S. Robe, District Membership Chair

In the current issue of the Rotarian, John Germ, the President -Elect of Rotary International states in a frank and enlightening interview that membership is our biggest challenge. Nothing new here. Our own district has suffered a 10-year decline in membership until last year when it finally reversed that trend and squeaked out a modest increase. In all those bad years our clubs lost more members than they gained.

The membership process includes three elements: Recruitment, Orientation and Retention. Net gains are difficult despite our best efforts. Some members leave for reasons out of our control due to the age demographics of our region. This further demands that we perform more effectively in order to retain the new members welcomed at our clubs.

What we can control and improve in many cases is the retention rate of new members. Unfortunately, almost 10% of new members leave clubs during their first year of membership. That is on us.

RIPE Germ opines that Rotary should be managed more like a business, recognizing that membership dues are a primary source of income. In our business experience we would be sharing high-fives when we land a good piece of new business and we would also fight like crazy to retain that business. New members are our “new business.”

But why are we terminating 200 members in our district annually during their first year of membership? Was the prospect qualified carefully? Did they share our goals? Were they intending to join Rotary for altruistic reasons? And when they joined how well did we make them feel welcome by integrating them with others of shared interests and encouraging them to contribute their unique skills sets on committees that would value their efforts?

Did the new member have an active MENTOR?

In many clubs the sponsor of a new member automatically becomes the Mentor. In my club I have initiated a tag to recognize the importance of this responsibility. This is how it looks. The Mentor wears it for one year from the induction date of their new member.



In our district fewer than 10% of our membership have sponsored new members in recent years. Sponsors have demonstrated their commitment and as Mentors they are in a unique and important position to make certain that membership in Rotary meets the expectations of new members. It is essential that they guide them in the selection of club activities and assure that the integration is smooth and satisfying. As we know, engaged Rotarians, stay Rotarians.

RIPE Germ implores each of us to repay the opportunity someone gave us by asking another person to become a Rotarian. While we are trying to increase the number of Rotarians sponsoring others, let’s recognize the important role mentors play in developing Rotarians for life.

CLUB & DISTRICT EVENTS



The Rotary Club of Manchester is pleased to announce the Gear Up For Lyme Mt. Equinox Uphill Bike Climb is being held on August 6, 2016. A 5.4 mile bike race up the fully paved and scenic Mt. Equinox Skyline Drive auto road in Manchester, Vermont, this race can provide a unique training opportunity or a challenging single event. While the average overall grade of 12% is equivalent to that of Mt. Washington, it does include a brief downhill section. The base elevation is 600 feet and the summit elevation is 3,848 feet.

This is the 12th race of the club which has provided over \$70,000 to date to benefit the Lyme Disease Association (LDA). LDA supports research and treatment of Lyme Disease which effects thousands throughout the US every year. Pat Smith, the President of the Lyme Disease Association will be here for the event and is presenting a free community wide afternoon information session and Q & A event open to the public. The LDA funded research has appeared in 35 scientific journal publications to date and includes patient support. More information on the LDA is available via www.lymediseaseassociation.org.


Additional Information: Adult 20 and over \$65.00 – Youth 19 and under \$20 – Tandem \$100. T-Shirts guaranteed to all entrants registered by July 30, 2016. Award ceremony and delicious lunch (free to all entrants) following race. Additional meal tickets can be purchased for \$7.00 per guest or \$5.00 for children 12 and under. Free parking and bottled water provided.








Registration is via www.bikereg.com. and all information can be found on the event web site www.gearupforlyme.com. Club contact information is via showardmvtrotary@gmail.com or 802-430-1608.

All Rotarians who would like to help the day of the race will be provided with a free lunch and a donation to the Rotary Foundation in their name.

An Evening in Paradise

Join us for a fun-filled evening of sun & sand (in the middle of winter!)
with *The Island Castaways*
(a Jimmy Buffet tribute band)
Saturday, April 2, 2016
5:30 pm • \$50/person • \$90/Couple
at the **Gilford Youth Center**
19 Potter Hill Rd., Gilford, NH
Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Special Island Drinks
Caribbean Style Buffet
Tickets at www.gilfordrotaryevents.weebly.com
Order By Phone From Gilford Rotary: 986-0806



Sponsored by Gilford Rotary

All proceeds to benefit the Gilford Youth Center & other local charities

DISTRICT 7870 DENTAL MISSION TO MAGGOTY, JAMAICA

Following a chance meeting of DG Sandra and Sister Rita of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church (pictures in first photo with AG Douglas Arnold and Dr. Berryman) on a Jamaica beach in the fall of 2015, PDG Rich Berryman DDS and a dental team consisting of Chandler Jones DMD (Gilford NH Rotary) and dental assistants Beth Hamel and Erica Vanson traveled to Maggoty, Jamaica to provide dental care for the people there.



In four days 155 patients were treated (mostly tooth

extractions) and preventative dental disease education was provided to approximately 650 medical/dental patients.



The InterLakes InterAct Club provided a suitcase full of “Children’s bags” filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloth and a toy.



PDG Rich is working on a Rotary Global Grant Application in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Santa Cruz (President Dr. Lyndon Rose pictured) to update the equipment and supplies in the dental clinic.

The Holy Spirit Church project began under Msgr. Marek Przybocki and Sisters Rita, Emilia, Gabrielle from Poland and Sister Clare-Marie from West Virginia, USA in 1999. With the assistance of donations from several Catholic churches in Pennsylvania and the government of Japan, the program now includes an expanded health clinic which serves approximately 300 people per week, sponsorship of more that 250 local students in the Maggoty public school, an after school homework session and a recently expanded computer lab.



In the near future a polish sausage processing plant will open on the campus and will provide job opportunities for more that 300 people (raising and slaughtering pigs, growing spices and processing the sausage).

The team also attended the Santa Cruz Rotary meeting and observed the induction of the officers of the InterAct Clubs of the boys and girls high schools.





DISTRICT 7870 EXCHANGE STUDENT INVITED TO AUDITION FOR "THE VOICE"

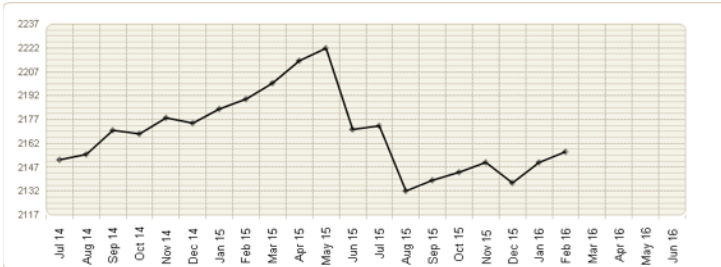
WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Harrison	Steve	Bellows Falls
Fraser	Donna	Claremont-Sugar River
Brunn	Jamie	Deerfield Valley
Brown	Ashley	Fair Haven
Rasco	Jason	Fair Haven
Davis	Harold	Jaffrey-Rindge
Wilson	Benjamin	Lakes Region Laconia
Wilkins	Andrew	Merrimack
McCarthy	David	Queen City Manchester
Parnell	Rory	Queen City-Manchester
Coppola	Andrea	Rutland
Marsan	Russ	Rutland
Sgalia	Dan	Rutland

District Calendar

- April 3
4-Way Speech Contest Semi-finals Henniker NH
- April 9
District Training Assembly Keene High School
Bedford
- April 9
38th Pasta Festival Bedford HS Cafeteria
- April 24
Spring Forward Rotary Run Hudson-Litchfield
Hills House Hudson
- April 29 - May 1
District Conference
Sheraton Harbourside, Portsmouth NH
- May 7
Souhegan Valley Happy Hour
Kentucky Derby Party Boston Billiards Club
- May 9
Battle of the Boards Brattleboro Sunrise
American Legion
- May 14
Annual Open Car Show Concord Group Insurance
Bow
- May 27 - 31
Rotary International Convention Seoul Korea

Membership History Report



HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE ENTIRE DISTRICT?

Updates and short (1-2 pages) articles, along with images may be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, Dennis McMann, at dennis@mcmann.net to be included in our Monthly Newsletter. The District Newsletter is a means of communicating to other clubs in our district; items of interest, upcoming events, fundraisers or opportunities for service.

Deadline for next Newsletter Submissions: April 22nd.

Register for District Conference

Save the Date April 29 - May 1

Be a gift to the world

Rotary

2016 • District Conference
Portsmouth, New Hampshire