



NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 7870 ROTARIANS EARN PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

By Erin Holdgate, ShelterBox USA



SARASOTA, Fla., March 22, 2013 – Bill and Dennie Dyer, Rotarians in District 7870, have been recognized by President Obama and ShelterBox USA with Presidential Volunteer Service Awards for their efforts during 2012 to provide shelter, warmth and dignity for survivors of natural and other disasters worldwide.

As we witness the aftermath of disasters like Typhoon Bopha in the Philippines and the Syrian refugee crisis throughout the Middle East, many wish they could make a difference. The Dyers knew [ShelterBox](#), an international disaster relief organization, would be on the ground delivering its [iconic green boxes](#) containing emergency tented shelter and other lifesaving supplies.

Their efforts of raising awareness and funds for ShelterBox enabled the organization to respond to more than 30 disasters in 23 countries last year, providing families with disaster relief tents, cook stoves, water purification units, blankets, mosquito nets, children's packs and other essential equipment.

"I am truly proud to honor our volunteers, who work hard year-round to support ShelterBox and our efforts to help families rebuild their lives across the globe," Emily Sperling, ShelterBox USA President, said. "It is through the continuous efforts of our volunteers like Bill and Dennie that we are able to help so many vulnerable families each year."

The President's Volunteer Service Award is a special recognition presented on behalf of President Barack Obama. The award is part of a national recognition program created in 2003 through the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation for individuals of all ages who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer activities.

ABOUT SHELTERBOX USA

Since 2000, ShelterBox has provided shelter, warmth and dignity following more than 200 disasters in over 85 countries. ShelterBox instantly responds to earthquake, volcano, flood, hurricane, cyclone, tsunami or conflict by delivering boxes of aid. Each iconic green ShelterBox contains a disaster relief tent for an extended family, stove, blankets and water filtration system, among other tools for survival. ShelterBox's American affiliate, ShelterBox USA is headquartered in Sarasota, Florida. Individual tax-deductible donations to ShelterBox USA can be made at www.shelterboxusa.org, 941-907-6036 or via text message by sending SHELTER to 20222 for a one-time \$10 donation.

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HELLO FROM SCOTLAND

By Nick Normandin, District 7870 Ambassadorial Scholar

I've now been representing District 7870 in Scotland for more than 6 months. I find myself at approximately my halfway point here, and am able to say with confidence that this year has already been extremely formative, educational, and enjoyable!

I've been able to travel all around Scotland visiting Rotary clubs. I've had the privilege of attending meetings in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Tranent, Polmont, Corstorphine, and of course my host club of Hawick. Clubs in my area are very active, and seek to involve Ambassadorial Scholars in activities whenever possible. My fellow scholars in Scotland have formed a tight-knit group. We regularly see each other for coffee, dinner, or a pint of ale at one of the many local pubs. Through the incredible social networking power of Facebook, scholars from across the world are constantly in active communication. I have had great fun visiting fellow scholars in London, and have reciprocated by hosting them in my Edinburgh flat when they are in town.

While the immersion in Scottish culture has been a learning experience that was well worth the trip, I think that the greatest advantage of being in the United Kingdom is the incredible diversity of the student population. My degree program has approximately 75 students in it, and they hail from 20 different countries. At a friendly gathering in my flat last Friday evening, I hosted students from Scotland, England, Ireland, Germany, Greece, China, Austria, Cyprus, Russia, South Africa, Lithuania, Poland, the Netherlands, and Syria. I was the only American in the room, which is a feeling I have slowly become accustomed to!

Of course, with such a diverse population there are bound to be conflicting opinions. I remember that while applying for this scholarship, I wrote about the unique opportunity I had to represent both the United States and the United States Military while abroad. I looked forward to that opportunity, but at times this has been a significant obstacle in building effective relationships in both academic and social settings. I learned quickly that holding a position within the military of the

United Kingdom does not always hold the same level of prestige that it would in the United States. On one occasion, I explained my profession as a US Army officer to a woman I had recently met. She interrupted me and said, "Wait... but I thought you were smart?"

I've also learned the extent to which the international reputation of the United States has been damaged by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. On my first day of classes, I was told by a self-professed Greek anarchist that he hated me for my allegiance to the United States. Shortly after meeting me, one of my Turkish classmates even went so far as to post graphic anti-American propaganda on Facebook. In the case of both students, I've been able to foster a sense of mutual understanding and have even begun to forge a friendship. The Greek student recently told me that I made it "harder for him to hate America", which I think gets to the very root of what the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship program is all about.

Since coming to Scotland, I've also started participating in a sport called Powerlifting. I train with a team of accomplished Polish, Russian, Scottish, and Irish lifters. On January 27th, I had the opportunity to compete at the 2013 Scottish Powerlifting Opens in Glasgow. I ended up breaking the Scottish junior records in the Bench Press and Deadlift for my weight class, and qualified for the United Kingdom National Championships this summer, where I'll attempt to break a couple of UK records. I am also competing in "Scotland's Strongest Man Under 200lbs" this Spring. I've found strength sports to be a great release from the complex mathematics and computer algorithms I spend all day on, and it's something that a lot of Scottish people are passionate about.

Thank you to all of the District 7870 committee members who made my experience here possible. I am very excited to share with NH/VT clubs when I make it back to the US!



ROTARY CLUB & BOARD OF REALTORS COLLABORATE ON CHARITY EVENT

By Karen Renik, President Rotary Club of Londonderry

The Rotary Club of Londonderry and Granite State South Board of REALTORS (GSSBR) have created a new collaboration to benefit Veterans Charities. GSSBR, located in Londonderry, is now working with the Londonderry Rotary Club to make a difference in not only their local town, but the state and region, creating greater visibility for how REALTORS and ROTARIANS are giving back to our communities. The collaboration is holding a comedy night featuring Tony Pace, a Las Vegas performer, to raise funds to be donated back to the Liberty House, Vet to Vet programs, Homes for our Troops, and a fun barbeque to honor our servicemen and servicewomen.

This collaboration hopes to raise over \$10,000 from this one event to be held on April 26th at the Yard Restaurant. Tickets can be purchased by going to www.gssbr.org and clicking on the link to purchase tickets on the home page.

Presented by
Granite State South Board of REALTORS®
& Rotary Club of Londonderry

Spring Fling: Veterans Matter



with **Tony Pace**

An Evening Where Energy, Music, & Comedy Collide

Known as the *Ultimate Performer* and the *Man with the Voice who just happens to be funny!*
Tony Pace currently performs at the FAME Theater in Las Vegas.

Benefiting Local Veterans

Friday, April 26th - 8pm at The Yard Restaurant, Manchester

Signature Sponsor



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Tickets

Inner Circle: \$50
General Admission: \$40

Use the QR code or visit the www.gssbr.org home page to buy your tickets today!



**Live Auctions, Raffles, Food, &
a Fantastic Show!**



Presented by Granite State South Board of REALTORS® & Rotary Club of Londonderry.
Contact Caron (603) 765-7735 or Deb Waitt (603) 490-6133 with questions.



Calendar

April - Magazine Month

Apr 6, 2013

District Assembly Keene, NH

Chester Rotary's Andy Ladd Memorial
Vertical Dinner Fullerton Inn

Raymond Area Rotary Dinner & Auction
Candia Woods Golf Course

April 13, 2013

Rotary Leadership Institute Part I, II, III
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Lebanon, NH

Merrimack Rotary Rabies Clinic
Ambulance Garage at Town Hall

Henniker Rabies Clinic
Fire Station

Bedford Pasta Festival
Bedford High School

April 14, 2013

District Four Way Speech Contest
Henniker Community Center

April 27, 2013

Ludlow Rotary 57th Annual Penny Sale
Black River High School

May

May 24 - 31, 2013

District Conference - Norwegian Dawn
Cruise to Bermuda

June - Rotary Fellowships Month

Jun 23 - 26, 2013

2013 Rotary International Convention,
Lisbon, Portugal

AS ROTARY CELEBRATES 108TH ANNIVERSARY, GAINS AGAINST POLIO CONTINUE



*Rotarians in Toronto, Ontario, Canada,
raise a banner outside city hall to publicize
the polio eradication effort. Photo by Walter Psotka*

Rotary's 108th anniversary on 23 February marks a year of both achievements in the fight to eradicate polio and a stepped-up commitment to finish the job.

Worldwide, 222 polio cases were reported in 2012, a little more than one-third of the 650 cases reported in 2011. India marked its second year without polio on 13 January. Overall, the annual incidence of polio has decreased more than 99 percent since the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was launched in 1988. Then polio infected about 350,000 children per year.

Although the wild poliovirus is now endemic only in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria, it could spread from there back to other countries.

Among Rotary's chief responsibilities in the eradication initiative is advocacy, an increasingly important element of this latter stage of the effort. In addition to contributing more than US\$1 billion to the GPEI, Rotary has helped secure over \$9 billion from donor governments since the initiative began in 1988. Rotary is boosting its advocacy work in the 200 countries and regions where Rotary clubs exist to encourage every national government to help meet a \$700 million shortfall (as of 1 February) in funding the GPEI through 2013.

Rotarians in Canada, for example, have used letter writing campaigns to persuade members of Parliament to support polio eradication. In August 2012, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair and Past RI President Wilfrid Wilkinson and International PolioPlus Committee Chair Robert Scott, both Canadians, took the lead by writing Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Every Rotarian in the country received a copy of the letter and another that asked them to contact their own members of parliament.

Within three days, Wilkinson heard back from Rotarians who had conveyed the message to the prime minister or friends serving in other government positions.

In September, the Canadian government announced the Pennies and More for Polio initiative at a high-level side meeting on polio eradication during the United Nations General Assembly. Through the initiative, which runs until 1 March, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are each contributing C\$1 to the GPEI for every dollar raised by Canadian Rotarians, up to \$1 million. By the end of December, Rotarians had already exceeded the \$1 million potential match, with the combined effort generating more than \$3 million for the GPEI.



District Assembly

District 7870

Saturday, April 6, 2013

Keene High School, 43 Arch Street, Keene, New Hampshire

7:45 AM - Registration – Coffee & Pastries

8:30 AM – Opening Plenary Session
“2013 Theme”- DGE David Hoopes

Speaker Greg Garofolo, Founding Chair
Rotary E-Club of New England

9:25 – 10:15 AM– New Generations (Panel Discussions)

1. RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Award
2. Rotaract
3. Ambassadorial Scholar
4. Youth Exchange
5. Interact

10:20 - 10:35 AM– Peace Videos by Interact Students

10:35 – 10:50 AM – Break

10:55 – 11:40 AM – District and Global Grants

10:55 AM– 12:30 PM – Interact Assembly

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM – Break Out Sessions

1. President Elects, AGs, and RLI (Rotary Leadership Institute)
2. Secretaries and Treasurers workshop
3. New Generations – RYLA, Rotaract
4. Ambassadorial Scholars
5. Membership -Attraction – Engagement
6. Amigos de Honduras

12:40 – 12:55 PM – Closing Plenary Session

1. 2013 District Conference in Bermuda
2. Closing Remarks by DGE David Hoopes

1:00 PM Lunch is provided by Keene Interact Club



The Rotary Club of Lakes Region Laconia
Will be meeting at
Lakes Region General Hospital in Laconia
While the
Water Street Cafe is being renovated