

**We hope you celebrated Thanksgiving in a meaningful way**

By Pat and Skip Doyle



We hope you all celebrated Thanksgiving in a meaningful way. It is a day that is celebrated on many different levels by each one of us. For us, it has always been a day for family.

Our family is a relatively small one and so we celebrate with three generations, including many in-laws and outlaws (as Skip calls them). Our day is always filled with good food and shared memories. Thanksgiving has also signaled the beginning of the magical Christmas season for us.

In the photography business, this was the busiest, happiest season of our year. The day after Thanksgiving, our studio was always packed with families - many, with students home from college - wanting us to capture their Christmas-card memories.

Reflecting back on all of this brought us to thoughts of our Rotary family. We most certainly are thankful for it, but how healthy is it at this time? The latest statistics, unscientific as they may seem, has our Rotary family with a net gain of four members. We have, however, inducted more than 50 members since last July 1.

This statistic should be a red flag for all of us. We all need to look at our own clubs and see what has caused this lack of real growth. Why are we just treading water? Continuing the analogy of how healthy are we as a family, it would seem that we are in need of a check-up. What steps ought we to take?



On **November 22**, the **District Membership Committee** (shown, right) met and discussed this very topic. The proposal was put forward to continue the successful format of four **Membership Workshops** in four areas of the district.  This additional set of workshops will be held **next March** on a date to be announced.  It was the consensus of the committee that these workshops will be aimed at the generation of an action plan aimed at increasing membership and retention.

This may be the beginning of our path to recovery.

**Thank You! Thank You!! Thank You!!!**

Our **District Food Packaging Event**on **November 12** at the **Solomon Pond Mall** in Marlborough was a solid success.

**More than 100 volunteers**from around the district packaged **20,000 meals**, which will be sent to **Haiti** to help feed the **children left homeless by the hurricane**. These volunteers were Rotarians and their friends and families, young and old There were Interactors from local clubs, passersby who wanted to help and past and present participants of Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. We raised **more than $4,000** toward our goal of **$5,000**-so we are still **actively seeking donations**.

[**VIEW ALL PHOTOS**](https://goo.gl/photos/gx3rigvA3TtHAbG18)

It is hard to pick out a highlight from the event, there were so many. One is perhaps the numbers of people with whom we were able to talk about what Rotary is - the reality of Rotary, not the perception. This event puts us a little further toward our goal of making Rotary more visible and more real in our district. Thank you also to the Solomon Pond Mall for allowing us to utilize their space for this event.

Always remember, you can **call us with questions** at**508-393-9031**.

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respectively.

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