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A Sincere Thank You

As I sit here and reflect on this past Rotary year, I am truly humbled and honored to have had the opportunity to serve you as your District Governor. My travels around the District, visiting your clubs, getting to meet all of you, and making new friends was an experience I will never forget.

As we talked and I had the opportunity to see the great work your clubs are doing, the mark that you are leaving in your communities, it has inspired me to do more as a Rotarian.

Having said that, I want to remind you to embrace the changes that will lift your clubs up to greater heights. Be innovative; be bold in your ideas. Remember to focus on the experience that you provide your members and potential members. Make sure they are getting value for the time and money they invest, and above all, make sure that you continue to inspire your families, your communities, and each other.

I thank you for the experience of a lifetime,

Chuck Rutenberg
District Governor 2018-2019
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Chuck



District 5440 Conference - May 16-18, 2019 - Gering, NE

The inspiration was given by Kammi Shaw of the Casper Reveille Rotary Club, colors presented by a local Troop, welcome by PP Zac Karpf and the 4-way Test by PE Mike Hohl.



District 5440 Conference



"Be the Inspiration" is this year's theme and Diane Knight, PDG of D5450 and member of the Fort Collins Breakfast, gave a wonderful presentation on "30 years of Women in Rotary" on Saturday morning.



DG Chuck welcomed DGE Chris Woodruff to the podium to say a few words about the 2019-2020 year and next year's conference. DGE Chris and his Rotarian wife Karoline are both members of the Greeley Centennial Rotary Club. Be watching for more information for their 2020 district conference!! Thanks to all who attended this year's district conference. It was a blast!

District 5440 Conference

Assistant District Governor Recognition



DG Chuck thanked and honored outgoing Assistant Governors Shurie Scheel, Brenda McGinnis, Julie Johnson Haffner and Karoline Woodruff.



District 5440 Conference Awards and Recognition



The Saturday evening gala was a fun time with humor, entertainment of our youth exchange students and awards. Fort Collins club president Steve Laine did a fantastic job being the emcee for the evening.



Conference chair Marty Bachman and conference project manager Lee Varra-Nelson with DG Chuck.



Carolyn Johnson was the keynote speaker on Saturday evening and her presentation was on Literacy.



Jackson Hole club president Tony Paulus received the outstanding club president of a large club award. Congratulations Tony!



Casper 5 Trails club president Albon Shaw received the outstanding club president of a medium/small club award. Congratulations Albon!



Lander Rotary Club received the outstanding large club award. PE Deb Nunnink accepted the award on behalf of the club.



PDG Bill Emslie presented a token from India to DG Chuck. This was brought back from the recent friendship exchange.

District 5440 Conference Awards and Recognition



Fort Collins Breakfast Rotarian Lee Varra-Nelson was presented the Service Above Self Award. Lee has served on various club and district committees over the years and most recently accepted the co-chair position of our district membership committee as well as being project manager for this conference. Congrats Lee!



DGN Bill Schilling was presented his Rotary Foundation major donor certificate. Thank you Bill for your generous donations to TRF!



Casper Rotarian Liz Becher received the Rotarian of the Year for District 5440 award! Liz has served as Assistant Governor and Paul Harris Society chair for our district and most recently took over as administrator for High Country PETS. Congratulations Liz!



Cheyenne Community Rotaract member and Cheyenne Rotarian Kirsten Malm (she holds dual membership) received the first ever District 5440 Spirit of Rotary award. Congratulations Kirsten!



A challenge was issued this Rotary year for members to sign up for the Paul Harris Society and their name was placed in a drawing for a trip for 2 to RI headquarters in Evanston, IL. Casper Rotarian Barry Johnson won the trip. Congrats Barry!

District 5440 Conference

Casino Night



Rotarian and Conference Chair, Marty Bachman, said "One of the best memories that I have from the District 5440 Conference in Scottsbluff/ Gering was Casino Night. Specifically, watching the Exchange Students become the leaders. The students were asked to trade places with the professional dealers and the entire room was surprised. As the students dealt a few hands their confidence grew. A few more hands and true leadership shined through and so did our trust in them."

District 5440 Conference

Memorial Service

Each year we honor the Rotarians who have passed during the current Rotary year by placing a rose in their memory at some point during the conference. This year it was done on Saturday and members of their club and/or district representatives placed the roses in their memory. These Rotarians will truly be missed.



District 5440 Conference

Community Service Project

This year District Conference attendees were encouraged to bring comfortable gardening clothes and participate in a community service project. On Friday morning District Governor Chuck provided new work gloves and invited everyone to help plant bushes and trees at a community park in Gering. Even though we had a morning rain storm over 50 Rotarians including all the Youth Exchange Students participated in the community service project and had a great time!



Resolution to Support RI Action on a Polio-Like Disease Approved at District Conference

A resolution calling for Rotary to encourage research, education and funding for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) received unanimous approval from club representatives at the District 5440 conference in Gering, Nebraska, on May 18th. The resolution will now be submitted to the worldwide RI Council on Resolutions this fall. If approved by a majority of the 535 voting delegates, it will be sent to the RI Board for their consideration.

The Greeley After Hours Rotary Club initiated the resolution, which was unanimously approved by their board of directors and then by the club's membership. Club member Pam Lutey is mostly home bound and on a leave of absence due to a 2-1/2 year struggle with ME/CFS.

District Governor Chuck Rutenberg endorsed the resolution which required the approval at a district conference or other gathering of most clubs in the district. If acted upon by Rotary International, it would leverage Rotary's worldwide reputation and expertise on polio eradication. ME/CFS is a form of non-paralytic polio.

Greeley After Hours president Ken Grack said his club acted on the initiative after they became aware of the need to educate the public and medical practitioners on the importance of treating and ultimately finding a cure for those suffering from ME/CFS.

"An estimated 15-30 million people worldwide, predominantly women, have ME/CFS." He said. "Seventy-five percent of those suffering from this devastating neurological condition cannot work

or attend school and thirty-five percent are bedridden. Government and organization funding for research and education to recognize and treat ME/CFS is woefully inadequate. The virus that most often triggers ME/CFS is closely related to the one that causes polio," Grack said.

"Rotary's achievements and infrastructure geared toward polio eradication uniquely qualifies District 5440 to endorse this initiative," according to District Council on Resolutions representative Mike Forney. "About 75% of all ME/CFS cases affect women which adds further importance for Rotary involvement in this year's celebration marking 30 years of Women in Rotary," he said.



Greeley After Hours members continued to show its support for ME/CFS by promoting the #MillionsMissing rally at their April meeting. #MillionsMissing rallies occurred at the Colorado State Capitol and over 100 other cities worldwide in May. The rallies promoted the awareness and encouraged funding for research and education for ME/CFS.



ShelterBox Nominated for 2019 Nobel Peace Prize



Lake Chad Basin refugees - Cameroon

ShelterBox has been nominated for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition for humanitarian efforts in areas of extreme conflict.

ShelterBox is honored to learn of this nomination, which is a great acknowledgment that ShelterBox provides much more than material aid – we provide the foundation for recovery and the stability needed for peace, one family at a time. This is the second year ShelterBox has been nominated.

As Rotary International's official project partner for disaster relief, this nomination is an example of supporting Rotary's Area of Focus on promoting peace.

The nomination reflects the incredible work done by the ShelterBox staff and volunteers around the world, many of whom are Rotarians, and those who have supported them, especially the many Rotary Clubs and Rotarians worldwide.

For more information about how building peace is integral to ShelterBox's vision, click here: www.shelterboxusa.org/peace



ShelterBox and Rotary - Partnership in Action

90%. That is the percentage of natural disasters where ShelterBox works directly with Rotarians in the disaster area as partners in the relief effort. Rotarian and ShelterBox Response Team member Jeff Deatherage explains:

"Rotary has played a significant role in every disaster that I have deployed to as part of the ShelterBox Response Team. In the summer of 2018, I was called upon to be a part of the first team responding to the eruption of Volcan de Fuego in Guatemala. Many Rotarians and Rotaractors led by District Governor Julio Grazioso helped us with our mission throughout our deployment. In fact, Julio had been storing ShelterBox aid left in Guatemala from a previous disaster response in his own warehouse free of charge! We used that aid in this deployment. Rotarians and Rotaractors drove us everywhere. They assisted us to obtain key meetings with customs officials, government disaster officials, translations and much more."



Rotaract members being trained prior to a tent distribution in Guatemala

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ShelterBox (Continued)



More recently, Rotarians have been instrumental in the response work following Tropical Storm Usman in the Philippines and Cyclone Idai in Malawi.

"On behalf of Rotary Club Malawi, it was indeed a great experience to work with Shelter Box. Partnership is great, we have not only walked a mile in reaching out to the many Malawians who faced hardship, but both SB and Rotary, we restored confidence in the displaced persons that all was not lost!!!

We worked together and agreed on which team had to handle specific assignments. We scored pretty good successes through this understanding of specialization."

Rotarian Eric, Chairperson Disaster Relief Committee, District 9210.

ShelterBox at the RI Convention in Hamburg

The ShelterBox team was at the RI Convention and those that attended heard from our Response Team Volunteers about their experiences!



ShelterBox USA Volunteers

With your help we can reach more families every day who have lost everything in a disaster or from conflict. There are several ways you can use your skills, knowledge and spare time for ShelterBox:



Ambassador: Engage and activate on every level, fundraising, awareness and action. **Rotary Club**

Champion: We keep you informed so you can keep your club informed.

Advocate: We keep you informed so you can get the message across multiple platforms.

Changemaker: Coordinate a fundraiser, Donate a special occasion, Do something spectacular.

Response Team: Deploy to disaster areas and deliver ShelterBox aid.

Office / Intern: Assist us in our CA or FL office. www.shelterboxusa.org/volunteer

"It's not about the aid we deliver, it's about the people we help." -Response Team Member Tim Osburn

To stay up to date with our latest deployments, stories and activities you can join our weekly operations update on Facebook Live every Tuesday.

We hope you enjoy reading the stories in this newsletter and we wish you all the very best.

ShelterBox USA depends on donations from individual Rotarians and clubs. Thanks for your gift.
www.shelterboxusa.org/donate

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2015, Kathmandu, Nepal



Upcoming District Events

- [Rotary Zone Institute](#)
Sept. 5, 2019, 8:00 AM – Sept. 8, 2019, 12:00 PM
Denver Marriott Tech Center Hotel
- [Rotary District 5440 Conference - 2020](#)
May 28, 2020 – May 30, 2020
- [Rotary District 5440 Conference - 2021](#)
May 20, 2021 5:00 PM – May 22, 2021 9:00 PM



Service Above Self



<https://rotary5440.org/>

District Governor—Chuck Rutenberg