



Rotary International Zones 24-32

Beyond Borders



• Bermuda • Canada • France • Russia • United States



Julia Phelps

RI Director 2014-2016
Rotary Club of Malden, MA
jphelps7930@comcast.net

H. Dean Rohrs, Director-elect
Rotary Club of Langley Central, BC
dean@cbrplus.com

Zone 24: Canada,
Alaska and parts of northern U.S.,
Russia (east of the Urals),
St. Pierre and Miquelon

Zone 32: Bermuda,
Northeastern United States

www.rotaryzones24-32.org
Facebook: Rotary Zones 24 and 32
http://greatideastoshare.com
http://tinyurl.com/2016Institute

May 2016

Rotary's Youth: Today's Leaders

As I've traveled throughout our two Zones these past few months and attended a number of District and club events, I've had the pleasure to meet Youth Exchange students, Interactors, RYLarians, and Rotarctors. These students and young professionals are often introduced as the **Future of Rotary**. So many times when I hear about the projects, the fundraisers and the plans they are implementing I say to myself (and sometimes to them); *"What the heck was I doing when I was your age?"* And having thought this many times, I've come to the conclusion that these youth are not our **future**; these youth are our **now**. They are Rotary's leaders today — not tomorrow or down the road. But how many of these leaders are we losing along the way?

I recently heard a university president describe the volunteer service that students in his university provided on a daily basis. Service was part of the culture at their university. When I asked if they had a Rotaract Club on campus; I was surprised that the answer was "no;" but it was quickly followed with, *"but we are going to get busy starting one."*

On page 5 of this newsletter, you can read about the 24-hour bike-a-thon at Strathcona High School in Edmonton, Alberta where \$449,000, was raised for ShelterBox Canada. These students had participated in a District-sponsored leadership program and were part of leadership / service course at their high school. Once again, service is part of the culture at their school but they have no Interact Club.

These two examples caused me to wonder, are there other colleges, universities, high schools and communities that have a culture of service that we're not fully tapping into? How many young leaders are we missing out on, not identifying or connecting with? That's why I'm excited that the most recent Council on Legislation provided a pathway for Rotaractors to become Rotarians. In many cases, Rotaractors have years of experience in their club and have participated in numerous projects and programs. They have a heart for service and they know our organization. Making the road to Rotary club membership seamless only makes sense.

However, while we are working to create these clubs for our youth and young professionals, and making transitions easier, we need to make sure that the clubs in our districts are vibrant. In my conversations with some (not all) Rotaractors, they don't hesitate to tell me that they don't want to be part of the Rotary Club(s) in their area. Their reasons why boil down to the belief that many of the clubs they visit don't have a culture of service. Rotaractors are not interested in eating breakfast or lunch with a group of people who aren't making a difference in their community. They are more interested in the "doing, making a difference and giving back." They are looking for a culture of **active service** and in many cases they can do that without joining a Rotary Club. That's why, when they hit age 30; they choose to leave the Rotary family.

Now tell me, how many times have you heard these young leaders and Rotaractors tell you that their Rotary experiences have *"changed their lives?"* Too many times for most of us to count! Our task is to make sure that we stay in contact with these young leaders; that we support them; that we meet their needs; and that we engage them and always remind them that they are a **"Gift to the World"** right now.

—Julia

2016 COL Gives Flexibility to Clubs

By PDGs Penny and Chris Offer, District 5040

The Council on Legislation approved two key measures that will give clubs greater flexibility in their meetings and membership. Both were proposed by the RI Board of Directors and passed overwhelmingly after vigorous debate.

The first measure gives clubs greater autonomy as to when and how often they meet, how often they cancel meetings, and what constitutes a meeting, as long as they meet at least twice a month. Clubs may also meet twice a week. A model being used in several locations offers members a choice of meeting times.

The second change gives clubs flexibility to experiment with

districts share an area. The enactment was passed and then reconsidered and rescinded.

There were long debates about the role of the Vice Governor. Many districts asked for clearer rules on how the person will be selected and when they would take over management of the district. No substantive changes were made.

The RI Board presented a persuasive case for a dues increase. The Council approved three \$4 increases in the annual per capita dues that clubs pay to RI. The increase sets the annual dues at \$60 in 2017-18, \$64 in 2018-19, and \$68 in 2019-20.



membership models. The new membership opportunities are included in "active" membership, which means they must pay RI and District dues. Clubs may adjust club dues for the new membership types if they wish.

Clubs must opt in to these new models of meeting times and membership and change their club bylaws. They are not imposed on clubs unless the club chooses to make the changes.

The COL agreed to simplify the qualifications for membership in a Rotary club. The measure removes six membership criteria from the RI Constitution, replacing them with *"adult persons who demonstrate good character, integrity, and leadership; possess good reputation within their business, professions, and /or community; and are willing to serve in their community and /or around the world"*. Advocates argued that the amendment will give power back to clubs to choose their own members without a checklist and encourage membership growth.

An enactment would have allowed districts to add a descriptive name; such as District 5040 British Columbia. There is nothing stopping districts from currently doing this. The enactment would make this official and could create many problems when

The Council approved the creation of a Council on Resolutions, a separate governing body that will meet online every year. It will review resolutions sent by clubs and districts to the RI Board. This leaves the triennial COL to deal solely with enactments, which change Rotary's governing documents. The change could save \$300,000 by shortening the Council on Legislation by a day.

Representatives also voted to allow Rotaractors to concurrently be members of Rotaract and Rotary clubs. This will assist Rotaractors moving to Rotary without the loss of their friends and network. Only about 5 percent of Rotaractors join Rotary, and the hope is to raise this number. Suggestions to change the age of Rotaract membership — both to decrease and increase the maximum age — were defeated.

Representatives from 530 Districts around the world debated and voted on 181 proposed enactments and resolutions at the 2016 COL April 10 to 15 in Chicago. The decisions made provide flexibility to clubs and an opportunity for the future of Rotary — Rotary democracy in action!



Are You Ready for Seoul?

It's not too late to register for the 2016 Rotary International Convention which will take place May 28 – June 1, in Seoul, South Korea.

You can still join us in Korea by registering online at

www.riconvention.org. You'll be inspired by exceptional speakers, meet Rotarians from around the globe, and enjoy dazzling Korean cultural performances and unforgettable dining. Come see why Seoul is one of the 10 most visited cities in the world.



Once You've Registered...

- Sign up for the [convention news-letter](#).
- Get the latest updates by following the Insiders' blog at <https://riconventionblog.org/>
- Sign up for [Host Organization Committee events](#) to enjoy the hospitality of local Rotarians.
- Download the Rotary Events app onto your smartphone or tablet to plan your schedule and view maps, speaker bios, and more.
- Learn how to navigate the Convention at this link: <http://www.riconvention.org/en/seoul/first-time-attendees>
- Pack your bags and prepare for adventure!

—PDG Don Lee

Seoul Convention Zone Coordinator

Upcoming Events

Calling Young Leaders to Winnipeg!

A very special Young Rotary Leaders Forum will be part of the 2016 Zone 24-32 Institute in Winnipeg

Who should attend:

Youth leaders aged 17 or older who have a "heart for service" and would like to learn alongside Rotary Leaders. Discussions will focus on human rights learning and discovery, but also will be a forum for designing a new era of Rotary global human rights leadership in our Zones. The event will include inspiring encounters with human rights issues through speakers, workshops and tours of the newly opened, world class, Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Delegates will be immersed in interactive experiences that offer both the inspiration and tools to make a difference in the lives of others.

What you will do:

- ◆ **Meet Mitty Chang, web designer**, former Rotaractor and Rotarian from Silicon Valley. Mitty has a passion for growing Rotary and service; prepare to have fun and be inspired.
- ◆ **Visit the new Canadian Museum for Human Rights** and explore complex human rights issues from multiple perspectives. Attendees will be immersed in a multisensory experience: The visit will conclude with a reception and dinner at the Museum and an opportunity to meet with the leaders who made the museum a reality. Prepare to be amazed.
- ◆ **Hear RI President John Germ and Dr. Cindy Blackstock** at the Rotary Club of Winnipeg. Cindy pursued a successful human rights complaint, alleging that the government of Canada consistently underfunds child welfare on First Nation reserves.
- ◆ **Meet Rotary Leaders from your District and Mpho Tutu** Founder and Executive Director of the Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage. Rev. Tutu recently coauthored the book, Made for Goodness, with her father, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Rev. Tutu's life work has focused on her commitment as a global citizen.
- ◆ **Join leaders to collaborate, connect and form a network** of passionate "heart for service" young professional leaders; learn how together we can strengthen Rotary and "do good in the world!"



Mitty Chang



John Germ



Cindy Blackstock



Mpho Tutu

Register now!

Who: Youth leaders aged 17 and older
Dates: September 30-October 1, 2016
Register at this [link](#): \$300
Accommodations: \$250 (shared room) [Humphrey Hotel](#)

You may be eligible for a scholarship through The Rotary Foundation's District Grant funding. Check with your District's Scholarship Chair or District Grant Coordinator to see if these scholarships are available in your District.

FMI: Jackie Hobal, Zone 24W Rotary Coordinator, jackiehobal@gmail.com



Final Call for Nominations Don MacRae Peace Award

Each of our Zones annually celebrates a person or organization for outstanding achievement consistent with the ideas expressed in the Fourth Object of Rotary: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through humanitarian activity of international significance.

Every Rotary Club and District in Zones 24 and 32 is encouraged to submit one application for the Donald MacRae Peace Award. The awards will be presented at the Zone Institute in Winnipeg next fall.

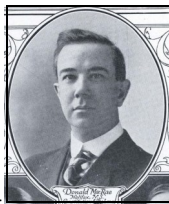
Candidates for the award will have demonstrated the advancement of international goodwill, understanding and peace through peace-making efforts or humanitarian activity of international significance. The award is open to Rotarians and non-Rotarians, but the applicant must have a relationship with the Club or District that is nominating him/her.

Complete details, a list of past recipients and application are available on the Zone website. Deadline for applications is May 15, 2016; email them to:

Zone 24 applications: PDG Joan Hayward, rhayward@sympatico.ca

Zone 32 applications: PDG Marty Helman; martyrotary@gmail.com

The award honors the contributions of Halifax Rotarian Donald MacRae who, at the International Convention in 1918, proposed that Rotary become an agent for the promotion of goodwill and peace among nations. This was the first time that this vision of Rotary had been publically expressed.



Youth Services

Young Leaders “Renew and Discover” Rotary

By Zone 32 Assistant Rotary Coordinator Drew Kessler

A “5 & 5 Young Professionals Summit” for Districts 7210, 7230, and 7255 will take place this August at Bear Mountain, NY. The summit is the result of a grant that was offered to District and club-level leadership in our Zones to receive up to \$15,000 from Rotary International to host a young professionals summit this calendar year.

These funds resulted from a generous gift by an American donor to either **Renew Rotary** for young leaders who already know Rotary or **Discover Rotary** for young leaders who aren’t familiar with Rotary. A total of 150 grant applications were submitted for programs featuring young professionals and Rotary, of which 19 grants were approved for funding.

Only one was approved in our two Zones, and this is it!

The goal of the 5 & 5 Young Professionals Summit is to understand how Rotary International can become more

relevant to young professionals, and how Rotary needs to evolve to continue to attract members of all ages and demographic groups. We are looking for eager, motivated people with a true sense of “Service Above Self” who are ready to “throw away the book” and work together to improve their community and the world through Rotary.

The weekend promises an action-packed agenda. Participants will network with one another and with leadership of the sponsoring Districts, participate in a service project, enjoy the surrounding countryside of Bear Mountain with outdoor activities, and participate in a program to hone their leadership skills. This training is designed to help attendees work more effectively with others. The overall goal of the weekend, however, is to help provide the insights Rotary needs to continue and thrive.

Each of the three participating Districts will be represented by ten young professionals (aged 25-40): five will be Rotarians, and five will be non-Rotarians/Rotaractors. Rotary clubs will endorse the Rotarians who apply for the event, and each sponsored Rotarian will, in turn, recommend a non-Rotarian friend or colleague to participate in the event. Final selection of participants and the planning of the summit are being handled by a committee made up of two representatives from each District involved in the program. The budget is \$550 per attendee, but each participant is personally responsible for only \$50. The remaining \$500 will be paid out of the grant.

Leadership in the three Districts involved are extremely excited about the program and look forward to presenting the results at our upcoming Zone Institute in Winnipeg. Look for a breakout session covering this program as well as other successful Young Professional Summits that have occurred throughout North America.

If you are interested in learning more, or how your club or District could put on a similar event, please contact me at dkessler@mtb.com.



Rotary Coordinators

Lynda Ryder, Zone 24 East
lryder@silicates.com
Jackie Hobal, Zone 24 West
jhobal@mcnet.ca
Karien Ziegler, Zone 32
karien@karienziegler.net

Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinators

Duncan C. Conrad, Zone 24 East
duncanconrad@eastlink.ca
Betty L. Screpnek, Zone 24 West
bettyscrepnek@gmail.com
Ronald Smith, Zone 32
rsmith.rotary@gmail.com

Public Image Coordinators

Tanya Wolff, Zone 24 East
Tanya@rotary6330.org
Sean Hogan, Zone 24 West
shogan@buckleyhogan.com
David I. Clifton, Jr., Zone 32
diclifton@comcast.net

End Polio Now Coordinators

Karen L. Oakes, Zone 24 East
Oakes.kl@sympatico.ca
Pat Killoran, Zone 24 West
Killoran.rotary@shaw.ca
Carol Toomey, Zone 32
carolrotary@aol.com

Endowment/Major Gifts Advisors

Richard Levert, Zone 24 East
richardlevert@levert.ca
Chris Offer, Zone 24 West
Chris Offer@live.ca
Mac Leask, Zone 32
mac@leaskbv.com

Zone Newsletter Editor

Marty Peak Helman
martyrotary@gmail.com

Website Administrator

Hans Granholm
hgrdane@telusplanet.net

Zone Directory Editor

B.J. Metz
bjmetz@metzcompany.com

Zone Facebook Administrator

Kevin Hilgers
wave@telus.net

Youth Services

School Bikeathon Smashes Fundraising Records

By Jackie Hobal, Rotary Coordinator Zone 24W

Kudos to 1200 high school students who raised almost half a million dollars during a 24-hour bikeathon at Strathcona High School! The total \$449,000 raised for ShelterBox Canada beats last year's record of \$352,000.

As District 5370 Governor-elect Laura Morie notes, "one never knows when hearts will be touched by Rotary."

Each year, District 5370 hosts RYLE, Rotary Youth Leadership Experience, a leadership event for youth. Despite the similarity of logos, RYLE is not RYLA — it is a homegrown District 5370 version of Rotary Leadership Institute especially for youth. RYLE 2015 showcased ShelterBox, and two students from the Strathcona High School in Edmon-



ton, AB, brought back information on the charity to their leadership team. With support from their advisors and staff, the students decided to turn the proceeds of their annual bikeathon over to the disaster recovery charity.

This school has raised more than one million dollars for various charities during the past eight years of the bikeathon. Last year, the event was declared Canada's largest school service project, and raised \$352,000 for Edmonton's Bissell Centre. And this year, it was even bigger!

To make their numbers, students dressed in costumes filled the school's gymnasium, some napping as their teammates pedaled in shifts.

Student Michelle Luong said the pain is worth the payoff. "Generally, the reaction is all the same, it's 'Ow, my butt really hurts,'" she said. "You are tired by the end of it but ... you feel good when that cheque comes through!"

"You realize that the things you've accomplished in the past 24 hours were totally worth a couple of hours of pain on the bike."

Congratulations to student leader, Liku McFarlane, one of the RYLE 2015 participants who was instrumental in making this happen!

Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 12, 2016, 10:00-11:00 CST: Webinar on how to achieve fund-raising success, sponsored by The Rotary Foundation. Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5241320626464911105>

Sunday, May 15, 2016 — Deadline for applications for the Donald MacRae Peace Award. See article page 4 and the Zone website for details. Zone 24 nominations: rhayward@sympatico.ca; Zone 32 nominations: martyrotary@gmail.com.

May 29-June 1, 2016 — RI Convention in Seoul. Beyond Borders dinner: Sunday, May 29. (*Note: Dinner is now sold out!*)

May 29-June 6, 2016 — Early registration costs \$265 for the Atlanta Convention during these eight days only. The dates of this special price run from the beginning of the Seoul Convention (May 29) to the birthday of Arch Klumpf (June 6), the RI President who started The Rotary Foundation in 1917.

September 27-October 2, 2016 — Rotary Zone 24-32 Pre-Institute and Institute in Winnipeg, Manitoba. <http://tinyurl.com/2016Institute>.

Sunday, October 23, 2016 — TRF Centennial Celebration Concert and Dinner in Cleveland, Ohio, the hometown of Arch Klumpf. FMI: 222.trf100.org.

Sunday, October 23, 2016 — World Polio Day.

Saturday, November 12, 2016 — Rotary UN Day.

January 15-21, 2017 — International Assembly, San Diego, CA.

Thursday, February 23, 2017 — World Peace and Understanding Day.

February 23-24, 2017 — Mid-Atlantic PETS, Valley Forge Casino Resorts, King of Prussia, PA.

February 24-26, 2017 — Pacific Northwest PETS, Doubletree Hotel, Seattle, WA.

March 9-11, 2017 — Northeast PETS, Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, Framingham, MA.

Membership Matters

Teamwork: Key to implementing a Strategic Plan

By District 7010 Governor-elect Margaret Walton

This is the second part of a two-part series on strategic planning at the District level. Last month, Governor-elect Margaret Walton discussed the benefits of developing a District strategic plan, and the process to do so. Here, she talks about the really hard part: Implementing the plan!

When we started on the District strategic plan I was involved because I was an active Rotarian and a planner by profession. Now, part way into this process, I was selected to be District Governor in 2016. This gave me the ideal platform to put the planning process in place. The Governors before me



were committed to the plan and to working as a team to implement it. In my governor year I will have a chance to work with the District leadership, assess how the process is working and adjust accordingly. During my team training, president-elect training and most importantly, my club visits, I will have an ongoing opportunity to engage directly with Rotarians so they support and have ownership of the plan.

This is key. Strategic planning is more than just putting together a plan. It is easy to plan; what is difficult is implementation, maintaining focus, building ownership, measuring success and being sufficiently flexible to “stay the course” while being responsive to the need to change and adjust. This is particularly true in Rotary, where leadership changes on an annual basis.

Those involved must also understand strategic planning is a process that is never done. It is an iterative process that must be inclusive, ongoing, flexible, responsive to change and nimble enough to address unanticipated problems while remaining focused on agreed upon goals. Success must be measurable and relevant to all levels of the organization.

How do you achieve all of this? You must do it as a team. As I move toward my year as District Governor, I have involved the District team in confirming our goals as a District and specifying the tasks each of them will address to contribute to the achievement of these goals. We have tied the budget to these goals so there are resources available and concrete measures to gauge success. The clubs approve this budget and in doing so understand how the District will use their dues to support them.

In all of this, I have the support of the current DG and those who will come after me. The Governor chain anchors the team. We work together on an ongoing basis to articulate common goals that implement the direction from RI, put an individual touch on our year, and strengthen the District over time.

Goals must be shared over a period of time. The leadership must work together. Successful strategic planning is the embodiment of the Four-Way Test. It is a true reflection of what we do, it is fair to all concerned, it builds goodwill and better friendships, and it is beneficial to all concerned on an ongoing basis. It is the tool that allows us to rise above a singular focus during one year of leadership to work together over time to provide Service Above Self.

Membership Change — 2013 to 2015

District	July 1, 2013	July 1, 2014	2015-16				Cumulative Total	
			July 1 2015	Apr 25 2016	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
					July 1 2015 to Apr 25 2016		Jul 1 2013 to Apr 25 2016	
2225	469	501	446	482	36	8.07%	13	2.77%
5010	1734	1726	1686	1760	74	4.39%	26	1.50%
5040	1514	1477	1432	1472	40	2.79%	-42	-2.77%
5050	2604	2635	2565	2625	60	2.34%	21	0.81%
5060	2662	2582	2653	2772	119	4.49%	110	4.13%
5360	2038	1983	1946	1923	-23	-1.18%	-115	-5.64%
5370	2265	2247	2266	2264	-2	-0.09%	-1	-0.04%
5550	1584	1513	1495	1508	13	0.87%	-76	-4.80%
Total Zone 24W	14,870	14,664	14,489	14,806	317	2.19%	-64	-0.43%
6330	1957	1827	1800	1794	-6	-0.33%	-163	-8.33%
7010	1554	1556	1553	1581	28	1.80%	27	1.74%
7040	1964	1915	1886	1914	28	1.48%	-50	-2.55%
7070	2026	2006	2015	2031	16	0.79%	5	0.25%
7080	1761	1704	1700	1708	8	0.47%	-53	-3.01%
7090	2403	2411	2323	2334	11	0.47%	-69	-2.87%
7790 ①	1761	1745	1745	1762	17	0.97%	1	0.06%
7810	1200	1180	1192	1156	-36	-3.02%	-44	-3.67%
7820	1591	1557	1573	1638	65	4.13%	47	2.95%
Total Zone 24E	16,217	15,901	15,787	15,918	131	4.13%	-299	-1.84%
7210	1693	1643	1646	1668	22	1.34%	-25	-1.48%
7230	1404	1376	1283	1308	25	1.95%	-96	-6.84%
7255	1799	1826	1853	1864	11	0.59%	65	3.61%
7390	2344	2335	2338	2251	-87	-3.72%	-93	-3.97%
7410	1078	1059	1115	1166	51	4.57%	88	8.16%
7430	1837	1768	1755	1755	0	0.00%	-82	-4.46%
7450	1502	1508	1485	1508	23	1.55%	6	0.40%
7470	1223	1177	1196	1202	6	0.50%	-21	-1.72%
7490	1267	1270	1244	1249	5	0.40%	-18	-1.42%
7500	1194	1158	1145	1174	29	2.53%	-20	-1.68%
7510	1108	1096	1038	1046	8	0.77%	-62	-5.60%
7640	1160	1125	1095	1108	13	1.19%	-52	-4.48%
7780	1641	1613	1636	1666	30	1.83%	25	1.52%
7850 ①	1664	1536	1476	1496	20	1.36%	-168	-10.10%
7870	2181	2118	2126	2189	63	2.96%	8	0.37%
7890	2227	2155	2098	2145	47	2.24%	-82	-3.68%
7910	1493	1575	1498	1496	-2	-0.13%	3	0.20%
7930	1913	1955	1948	1906	-42	-2.16%	-7	-0.37%
7950	2357	2315	2263	2271	8	0.35%	-86	-3.65%
7980	2369	2209	2218	2207	-11	-0.50%	-162	-6.84%
Total Zone 32	33,454	32,817	32,456	32,675	219	0.67%	-779	-2.33%
Total 24 & 32	64,541	63,382	62,732	63,399	667	1.06%	-1142	-1.77%

① Reflects transfer of one club from 7850 to 7790, effective 1 July 2015. Data based on official RI reports on dates indicated.

A District Grant Helps Provide Clean Water to a Village in Cuba

By President Rachael MacDonnell, Rotary Club of Exeter

"There's good news and there's bad news..." was a phrase 11 Rotarians from District 7780 became very familiar with during our recent trip to Cuba. Poor sanitation, transportation issues, missing toilet seats, stray animals, non-existent wifi and concerns of contaminated food may not sound like the elements of a fun trip, but actually it was, and most of the travelers would even go so far as to say that it was life-changing.

It was quite a trip to pull off! District grants are, of course, standalone projects that don't require participation from another Rotary club in the host country. And there is no Rotary in Cuba— in 1979 the government shut down the 60-plus clubs that had been in the country. Even so, U.S. State Department requirements created hurdles that the club — supported by Rotary's legal department in Evanston — had to overcome. It was only a few weeks before their scheduled departure in April— with

President Obama's trip to Havana making headlines — that final approval was received for the District grant.

Exeter Club's International Chair, the Rev.

Mark Pendleton, led the trip. He attended seminary and has maintained close connections with friends on the island and led several church groups over the years. Mark's connections allowed us to install three water filtration systems and send three additional systems to remote villages we did not have time to reach. Medical supplies were also distributed to two medical clinics and one senior center.

The good news/bad news part of the trip was the fact that one must be very flexible in Cuba. Vehicles broke down or became unavailable. There were time delays and uncontrolled changes in plans. We quickly learned to roll with the punches and in almost every case the change turned out better than the original.

The people of Cuba are very warm, welcoming and interested in exchanging information about our two cultures. In Limonar, the group spent time with 12 women from the local Episcopal church who shared their needs for daily life, their struggles with diabetes and other health problems, and most inspiring, their hopes for their children. The women said that they worry daily about work and health, but not about food insecurity. Food may not be the best, they said, but they never go hungry.

In Amarillas, the team met 10 teens and lots of elementary age children at a local church that was hosting a vacation bible school during school break. We presented the teens with letters from Exeter High School students taking Spanish classes and they read them aloud and reacted to the letters. A teenager is a teenager! Then, this group of teens gave us an impromptu concert; a singer, two flutists, a keyboardist, guitarist and drummer performed wonderful songs.

In the clinics where the team distributed medical supplies, we received an overwhelming expression of gratitude. In fact, every interaction between the Rotarians and the Cuban people — whether it was making donations, working jointly on a project, talking around a dinner table or with driver of the horse-drawn carriages that were our main mode of transportation while in Cardenas — was eye-opening, authentic, and motivating.

Overall, there is a positive attitude among the Cuban people, but it is clear that they have been through a lot. The seniors we talked with smiled when asked about change. They have hope, but

are understandably skeptical about sustainable change. There have been reasons to hope for change in the past that have not panned out.

By sheer coincidence, Exeter's trip coincided with the 100th anniversary of the chartering of the Havana Rotary Club, the first non-English-speaking club. Rotary played a huge role in the betterment of Cuban society and communities until club charters were revoked. Over the years since then, Rotarians from abroad have completed club projects in Cuba, but The Rotary Foundation has been largely absent.

Things are changing! Rotary and the rest of the world will be paying attention in the coming months and years to see where obstacles are removed and where new and continued opportunities to help may exist. And, although it's beyond the purview of this District Grant project, we understand that senior Rotary leaders in Evanston are looking closely at the possibility of re-starting Rotary in Cuba.

For more information regarding our District Grant project, contact Rachael MacDonnell at Rachael.exeterrotary@outlook.com



A VTT to Share Best Practices in Early Childhood Curriculum

By VTT Team Leader Elizabeth Cannone, District 7890

"The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper." This quote from W.B. Yeats could not have been truer for our Vocational Training Team from Connecticut representing District 7890. The total value of the Global Grant that supported the VTT was \$30,000.

At the beginning of February I was privileged to lead a team of five early childhood educators who traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, to work with our peers in Cape Town and the Western Cape area.

The relationship with Cape Town was developed by PDG Mike Barnett, who is originally from South Africa. He made the initial connections when he was in-country visiting his family, and continued to work to make this project a reality for a year after his return.

The team began to prepare for the trip months before. Sometimes it was frustrating: We had tried to communicate with the schools we would be visiting but did not hear back from them until two weeks prior to our departure. The team, comprising individuals who were enthusiastic about sharing knowledge about best practices in our own teaching, went ahead and compiled curriculum, assessment, and research materials we hoped would best meet the needs of the educators at our destination. Our work was made easier because the South African government had recently rolled out new National Early Childhood Curriculum Framework that we knew the teachers were learning to use, and we planned accordingly.

We arrived in Cape Town and were welcomed by our Rotarian hosts at 10:30 PM after a 30-hour trip and were up the next morning at 9 AM to head off to a briefing, and then to the first of the schools involved.

We were surprised to discover our hosts' level of involvement and commitment to Early Childhood Educational opportunities and the vast scope of their Injongo project. Injongo encompasses 47 Early Childhood Development Centers. The Claremont Rotary had involved a non-government organization known as



ELRU (Early Learning Resource Unit) to be a service provider on the project. This organization was tasked with insuring that the centers offer quality-learning experiences for young children. At ELRU, we were introduced to all of the individuals involved and informed of the connection each individual had to the project.

I have taught in both private and public school settings in Connecticut. This approach to developing opportunities for young children was so amazing. How fortunate for the children, having so many committed individuals recognizing the need for these opportunities to help fill the achievement gap between socio economic groups. The teachers in these centers too were remarkable. The class sizes varied between 32 and 43 children each. One teacher was assigned to each class, implementing strategies and facilitating learning among each of their students. Six months of recommendations carefully compiled were discarded and a new direction was formulated!

As we traveled throughout the Western Cape during the three weeks of our visit the one thing that continued to amaze us was the responsibility and generosity of



citizens, Rotarians and others. Efforts are under way to ensure that all South African children have access to early education. There are still many children who are not being reached, but with networking and collaboration, the community is chipping away at that number.

At the end of April, our South African VTT teachers will arrive here in our District. We hope to enlighten them on how better to utilize their framework, developing curriculum and embedding their standards into their daily activities. There are many similarities between classrooms in Connecticut and those in the Western Cape: We too have frameworks utilized to structure our daily learning and improve outcomes for young children.

Had we not been afforded this professional learning opportunity we never would have become aware of the similarities. The differences though were magic; we remain in awe of the heroes and heroines we met on our journey.

Do Canada's Currency Fluctuations Affect Giving?



Donations to the Annual Fund at the end of February were over \$70.7 million USD, equivalent to last year's numbers at this time.

During the same period, if we consider currency exchange impact, Annual Fund gifts made in Canadian dollars in Zone 24 have increased approximately 2 percent in comparison to a year ago. Our challenge is to meet this year's \$130 million Annual Fund goal, and to get there, we are relying on the tradition of increased giving at year-end.

We can be proud that Zone 24 has exceeded all other Zones in giving to the fight to end polio, with over \$1.45 million thus far this year.



According to Chris Boyce, our Annual Giving Chair in Evanston: "We estimate that the strong US dollar has impacted global total giving figures thus far in 2015-16 as compared to last year. In Canada specifically, , the US dollar has been valued

higher than the Canadian dollar and, thus, gifts given through The Rotary Foundation-Canada carry a lesser value in US dollars than a year ago.

"It is tremendously encouraging that the percentage of Rotarians giving to TRF-Canada in Zone 24 is essentially unchanged: 43 percent through March 2015; 42 percent through March 2016.

"This shows that Canadian support for the projects done by Rotary can withstand shifting economic winds. It is reasonable to think this positive sentiment was bolstered by the new relationship between TRF-Canada and the Government of Canada, which has provided a strong endorsement of Rotary's work through the matching gift program it announced in 2015."

You can help! Be sure to update your District members' recurring giving contributions by emailing rotarydirect@rotary.org or call +1-866-976-8279. And be sure to encourage all donations, which enable Rotary to do Good in the World.

--Betty L. Screpnek, Zone 24 West

Polio Plus

On the Road as an End Polio Now Coordinator

By Carol Toomey, Zone 32 End Polio Now Coordinator

This time of year — training season in Rotary — I am frequently invited to talk at various club and District events. Last week was no exception: I was at District 7910's Assembly in Massachusetts. As I was preparing, I got to thinking about the many new Rotarians who joined recently and may never have been asked to give to PolioPlus.

It is our job to ask them if they want to be part of history ... and to help us get to zero. Yes, we have been "this close" for a long time. It is now time to think about getting to zero. Imagine telling your grandchildren that you were part of the polio eradication program and that they will never have to worry about the disease because people cared enough to support the eradication program.



The next day, I was invited to staff a display table on polio eradication at the District 7950 conference in Brewster, MA.

Flexibility is important in Rotary, and never more so than when you are visiting another club or District. On my way to dinner, I opened the wrong door and realized that I was in someone else's party. I started to back away when the man in the front of the room said, "Wait!" I stopped in my tracks. "Are you one of those Rotary people who are in the hotel?" he asked. I answered, "yes", expecting him to say something about us being too loud but he didn't. "Can you come to the front of the room and tell us about Rotary?"

I quickly learned that I had walked in on a wine tasting weekend. The people were curious because they had seen all the Rotarian information and displays. I was pulling together my "elevator speech" that "Rotarians are leaders who get together to help others, hoping to improve lives, accomplishing more as a group than one can do alone both in the community and internationally." But as I reached the podium, the speaker asked, "What kind of wine do you like? This is going to take a while." "Malbec", I replied. A few minutes later he returned, and said: "I opened a bottle just for you. Now tell us about Rotary and what you do."



He didn't know the dangers of asking a PDG an open-ended question!

I began. I told him about Rotary and how it was made up of people who want to do good in the world. I spoke about polio. Just about everyone in the room raised their hand when I asked if they had heard about polio. (These wine connoisseurs were not 20 years old!) I told them about Rotary's number one project, how it started in the Philippines, became a worldwide project and how we thought it would take 20 years to reach eradication but that it has taken much longer. They were still listening.

I told them that we are "this close" and are trying to get to zero cases. I explained that the "plus" in PolioPlus indicates that we have learned much that has proved effective during the Ebola and other healthcare crises. And I told how it would be three years after the last case of polio before the world could be declared "polio free."

Then I said, "If you are interested in doing good in the world, please give me your card and I will ask someone from a club near you to contact you about Rotary." Then I thanked them for the Malbec and returned to the Rotary conference and dinner.

Researching Paths to Peace



An exciting element of the Rotary Peace Fellows' research is that they work in areas that are most meaningful to them, and which usually are a reflection of the needs and realities of their home communities. This year, graduating Peace Fellows presented their work in the following areas:

Ukraine: The Re-emerging Breadbasket of Europe—Minimizing Disruptions in the Wheat Value Chain

[Cristina Andoni/Moldova](#)

Can Mobile Technology Increase Reproductive Health Knowledge Among Refugees in Europe?

[Rebecca Bartlett/Australia](#)

President Al Bashir and the International Criminal Court: The Challenge of Accountability

[Romi Brammer/South Africa](#)

Is There a Link Between Intimate Partner Violence and Current Contraceptive Use in the Democratic Republic of Congo?

[Jean Lambert Chalachala/DRC](#)

A Local Strategy for Addressing Corruption in Acapulco, Mexico

[Carlos Juarez/Mexico](#)

The Challenge of Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Development Cooperation in Fragile States

[Jae Ryul Kim/Republic of Korea](#)

Capacity Building Enhancement of the Water & Sanitation Sector: Translating Training Indicators into Practice

[Osborn Kwena/Kenya](#)

Reducing Local-level Crime and Violence in the Northern Coast of Peru

[Elohim Monard/Peru](#)

Rethinking the Prevention of Violence and Crime Policy in Mexico: Should we Focus on Early Peace Building with Children?

[Vanessa Uriarte/Mexico](#)

Peace and Conflict Resolution

Rotary Peace Symposium Stresses Real-World Solutions

By Marty Peak Helman, member, Rotary Peace Center Major Gifts Committee

Rotary's premier scholarship program is the Rotary Peace Fellowship. Each year, 100 candidates are accepted in a worldwide competition to study peace and conflict resolution at Rotary Peace Centers located around the world. The students are chosen based on past academic record, work experience in their chosen field, and career goals, but without regard to race, religion, national origin or ability to pay. In fact, the most important factor in their selection is their ability to pay *back*.

The 2016 Peace Symposium, held last month in Chapel Hill, NC, home of the joint venture Duke University/University of North Carolina Peace Center, highlighted the research — and passions — of this year's Peace graduates. "It is not a scholarship—it is a fellowship," stressed Jean Lambert Chalachala, Peace Scholar from the Democratic Republic of Congo. His point was that a Rotary Peace Scholar does more than accept an academic scholarship; a Rotary Peace Scholar signs on to a lifelong commitment to pay back the investment Rotary makes in that scholar. That payback comes through a life's work in peace and conflict resolution issues. A similar feeling of commitment and payback was evident throughout all the Peace Scholars' presentations.

All the graduating scholars plan to work in their chosen field. One of them isn't waiting! Cristina Andoni, from Australia, explained how as a child in 2001, she was riveted by Australia's so-called "Children Overboard" crisis, in which the government (incorrectly) claimed that asylum seekers trying to reach Australia by boat had thrown children overboard in a ploy to secure sympathy and rescue. Today, when children are indeed dying at sea in their families' efforts to reach asylum in Europe, Cristina has put together a team which has created a mobile phone app to provide those refugees with needed health information and resources. Christina explained that Syrian refugees have access to mobile technology, and that they could use the app, for example, to learn where to find help if a family member becomes sick.

Do you know a young professional who might make a great Rotary Peace Fellow? [The 2017-18 Rotary Peace Fellowship application](#) is now available, and the dead-

line for candidates to submit applications to their District is May 31. Districts must submit endorsed applications to The Rotary Foundation by July 1. Endorsement comes at no cost to your District: costs are paid through a special endowment within the Rotary Endowment fund. The Trustees have set a goal of raising \$150 million for the Rotary Peace Center endowment by the time of the Atlanta Convention, and already, Rotarians have raised \$140 million of that number. We're well on our way!

The Peace Fellows are an awesome statement of Rotary's worldwide reach and future outlook. And the Rotary Peace Scholars programs wouldn't exist without financial support from us all. So mark your calendar! Next year's Peace Symposium will be held Saturday, April 1 in Chapel Hill. Interested Rotarians can learn more via the Rotarian Action Group for Peace website: <http://www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org/>



Rotary International

Club and District Support

Victoria Schiffman, Coordinator
Victoria.schiffman@rotary.org
847-866-3354

Kaitlin Kirk, Coordinator
Kaitlin.Kirk@rotary.org
847-866-3069

Support for 7390, 7410, 7430, 7450

John Hannes, Senior Coordinator
John.hannes@rotary.org
847-866-3275

David Massey, Coordinator
david.massey@rotary.org
847-866-3269

Membership Development

Emily Whitmer
Regional Membership Officer
Emily.whitmer@rotary.org
847-866-3338

Major Gifts Zone 24

Carolyn Ferguson
Senior Major Gifts Officer
Carolyn.ferguson@rotary.org
905-304-6831

Major Gifts Zone 32

Dori Dinsmore
Manager of Campaigns and Major Gifts
Dori.dinsmore@rotary.org
847-424-5329

Annual Giving

Chris Boyce
Annual Giving Officer
Chris.boyce@rotary.org
847-866-3261

One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
847-866-3021

Rotary Support Center

RotarySupportCenter@rotary.org
866-976-8279 or 866-9ROTARY
www.rotary.org

Leadership



Looking Up!

Past, current and future District Governors of District 7040 stopped to acknowledge their numbers recently. The District has taken a leadership role in promoting women in Rotary. Shown here, along with their years of Governor service, front row, left to right: Katie Burke, 2010-11; Elizabeth (Bette) Miller, 2000-01 (7040's first female governor); Susan Bellor, 2017-18; and Director Julia Phelps. In the back, current 7040 Governor Ariane Carriere, 2014-15; Martha Weaver, 2018-19; Linda Bradley, 2006-07; and Bonnie Black, 2013-14. Women's place is clearly wielding the gavel!

On Top of the World!

Last October, Rick Benson, District 7980's Foundation Chair, presented a Paul Harris Society tab to Dr. Richard Willner of the Stonington, CT, club at the 19,341-foot summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Also on the trek were Marty Resnick, PHS member from Westport, CT, and two others. The trek was designed as a fundraiser for Rotary's End Polio Now Campaign. Rotary Foundation staff confirmed that to their knowledge, this was the highest such ceremony in Rotary history.

