



District Governor Joe Hamilton's December 2012 Newsletter



Sun Jan 06, 2013

[Home](#)

QUESTIONS AND

SUBMISSIONS TO

CHARLIEWASSER@ATT.NET

District Events

District Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Jan 09, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

Pre-Pets

Dolce Hayes Mansion
Jan 26, 2013

District Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Feb 06, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

District Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Mar 06, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

District Conference in Napa

The Meritage Resort and Spa
Mar 21, 2013 - Mar 24, 2013

District Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Apr 03, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

District Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
May 01, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

District Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Jun 05, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

Stories

District Governor Joe Hamilton's December Message

Posted by Joe Hamilton on Jan 05, 2013



There are three things on which the Rotary International President and his staff evaluate a District Governor. They are: 1) progress on membership; 2) district giving to The Rotary Foundation; and 3) attendance at a District Conference. As a district governor, I am less interested in what the Rotary International President thinks of my effort, but rather how club Rotarians, club leaders, and the District Leadership Team evaluate our collective efforts. The criteria, I believe, will be similar but more expansive. It would include club membership growth and retention after final club rolls for July 2013; member giving and use of club endowments, as well as The Rotary Foundation; club community and international service activities; the profile and image of clubs in their communities; continuity of strong club leadership; and club participation in training and fellowship opportunities within the club, at the District

Assembly/Rotary University, at the Avenues of Service, and at the District Conference.

At this, the half way point in the Rotary Year, I have visited all 53 district clubs and can report there are positive signs based on the above criteria in all but a few clubs. Membership is growing, Foundation giving is up, clubs are actively involved in community service and international service activities, there is an increasing emphasis on public image activities by the clubs and district, and participation in the District Assembly/RU, the Avenues of Service, and Foundation and Membership seminars has been excellent.

What is now important, however, is pressing on in the second half of the Rotary year and making it even more successful. Continuity of leadership and joint training and planning for club leadership is vital. Club membership growth and involvement of new and experienced uninvolved members is vital. In March, the earliest District Conference in recent years, will take place. This District Conference will be an opportunity for club Rotarians to enjoy fellowship with a strong program at an exceptional venue.

For the first time in recent district history, the conference location will be in Napa. I chose this location because it is close enough for easy access, the Meritage Resort is a location everyone can enjoy, and where non-Rotarian spouses/partners will want to attend. We are calling this conference "A Grape Escape," an opportunity to relax, renew and re-ignite. It will also be an opportunity to recognize the contribution of women in Rotary and to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of women joining Rotary.

I made the decision for a late March conference with several things in mind. First, we could negotiate a room rate that is well below the late spring rate and equivalent to last year's conference hotel rates. Second, I have noticed that the final quarter of the Rotary year tends to be less energized in clubs; the conference's aim is to change that trend.

The conference has a strong blend of Rotary and non-Rotary presenters and entertainers. The conference will kick off at noon Friday, March 22, with Academy Award winner Rita Moreno as the main speaker. Also on that afternoon, we will be providing a special recognition to all female past, present, and future District 5170 club Presidents and District Governors who are present.

On Friday night, we are calling it "An Evening with Rock Stars." While many of us take him for granted, we have in our presence the closest thing in Rotary to a "Rock Star," a Past Rotary International President. Rick King is one of the most sought after Rotary speakers and will be speaking Friday night. Another Rock Star will be the entertainment Friday night. His name is James Durbin. You may remember James Durbin was a finalist in American Idol. He is from Santa Cruz and will be singing and playing his guitar; he also will share some of his life experience related to his Tourette syndrome.

On Saturday, March 23, we also have an outstanding lineup. In the morning, Past Director and District Governor Robert Coultas will be the breakfast speaker. He is one of Rotary's top presenters. At lunch, the Rotary International President's representative, Jennifer Jones, will be the featured speaker. Jennifer is from Ontario, Canada, and is an outstanding presenter as well as being a rising star in the Rotary world. Saturday night, our speaker is Dick Henning. Dick runs the Celebrity Series which brought him in contact with individuals ranging from Henry Kissinger to Bill Clinton, Yo Yo Ma to Cary Grant, Lucille Ball to Bill Murray, Colin Powell to Elie Wiesel, and Condeleeza Rice to Truman Capote, to name a few. Many past events have sought Dick Henning to speak about his experiences; this year, he agreed to share them with his Rotary friends attending Saturday night. The entertainment on Saturday night will be the Voena Choir, a youth choir so outstanding they sang at the last Olympics in London.

Finally, but certainly not least, will be the Sunday Brunch on March 24 which features the Richard D. King Speech Contest. It is not to be missed. This year, for the first time in many years, the actual finals of our district speech contest will take place. I don't have to tell any of you who have experienced these high school speakers that the quality of the four finalists is exceptional. Rotarians will be able to hear and experience the excitement of the winner being chosen.

In between sessions there are many things to enjoy. We have an exceptional lineup of forums. Many of them are Rotary oriented, but we also have non-Rotary forums that include everything from wine tasting to art. The Meritage Resort is also an experience unto itself. There is a pool, a hot tub, a spa, a small bowling

alley, bocce ball, two bars, and hiking among the vineyards. There will be no-host receptions prior to dinner events, and on Saturday, Paul Harris Society Members will have a special reception in the resort's Trinitas wine cave. Anyone can become a Paul Harris Society Member eligible to attend by making a \$1,000 donation to The Rotary Foundation this Rotary year prior to March 22, 2013.

Finally, on Thursday March 21, there will be several pre-conference events. For bicycle enthusiasts, there will be a bike ride through Napa Valley ending at the Meritage. For golfers, there will be a Walter B. Schulze Golf Tournament at the Silverado Golf Course. Also on Thursday, there will be a Wine Tasting Bus Tour for those who sign up. Finally, the annual Sidney R. Mitchell tennis tournament will be taking place in Sunnyvale.

You can go online to www.rotarydistrict5170.org to register for the conference. Registration is free. You only pay for meal events. There is a meal package for the entire conference which will save \$66 over the total of all meals. Thursday events and some forums have a cost. You can access the Meritage Resort to reserve a room by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Kathi and I will see you all there; I promise you a weekend you will long remember.

Selection by the Nominating Committee for DGND

Posted by Charles Wasser on Jan 05, 2013



Congratulations to Susan Valenta from the Rotary Club of Gilroy. Susan was selected by the District Nominating Committee as its candidate for becoming the District Governor for District 5170 in 2015-2016.

Polio Plus Update

Posted by James Mealey on Jan 05, 2013

District Club Presidents and Club TRF Chairs,

This year's Holiday Season has been marked with the shooting of 20 children and 6 school staff in Newtown, Connecticut, and the killing of 5 female non-Rotarian health workers vaccinating children against polio in Pakistan. As we pray for peace in our lives and throughout the world, the shock and sadness of these tragedies urge us to give comfort to the families and friends of all who have been affected by these senseless acts...and more, to DO something, anything, to prevent these from happening in the future.

Time doesn't stop when violence happens, the world continues at its pace...but all of us who witness evil have to pause and reflect on what we can do to shield ourselves, our families and friends from it ever touching us and those we love and for whom we care. We'll hug our children and grandchildren more often and with more feeling. We'll ensure that our homes are free from as many dangers as possible. We'll support law enforcement in our communities and will be more alert to recognize dangers in our neighborhoods, all the while realizing that not everything is in our power to do or to prevent.

What happened in Pakistan is not new...it's now more violent. In Ghana, Africa, in 2000, Rotarians in our District who went there to immunize children against polio found that the Muslim religious leaders were opposed to their children receiving the polio vaccine. And the excuse given for opposition was for the same reason given 3 weeks ago in Karachi and the Peshawar Province: the vaccine would sterilize their children. It took 2 days of meetings with the religious clerics in Ghana to have them reach and embrace the truth that the vaccine will prevent their children from becoming cripples or even dying.

Rotary and its partners, the World Health Organization, the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF, and their worldwide volunteers, will continue to place drops of the polio vaccine onto the tongues of ALL children until there is No More Polio! I urge you to communicate this truth to every member in your Clubs...and to find Rotary's response to the tragedy in Pakistan: go to www.rotary.org and read what Past Rotary International Director and Chair of Rotary's Worldwide Polio Committee, Robert Scott, has said (on the Home Page, click on Item 2)...plus responses from around the Rotary World. We WILL end polio!!!

PDG Jim Mealey
D-5170 PolioPlus Chair

TRF News Today for December

Posted by Timothy Lundell on Jan 05, 2013

[Click here to read the December edition of the TRF News Today](#)

Posted by Charles Wasser on Jan 06, 2013

The District 5170 Public Relations campaign is underway. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the campaign guide.

Technology Corner December 2012

Posted by Charles Wasser on Jan 05, 2013

On February 12, at 6:30 p.m., the Communication Technologies Committee will be holding a seminar. The seminar will cover topics related to Social Media and video conferencing. The topics discussed on Social Media will include setting up a Facebook account, adding content to it, and publicizing the club's Facebook page. This will give the seminar participant the how and why of setting up the account.

The other main topic at the seminar is video conferencing. There will be discussion on how to set up the conference followed by a live demo of video conferencing. The participants in the video conference will be spread around the country.

The final location of the seminar will either be in the San Jose or Hayward areas. There is a charge of \$5.00 to attend. Please send the check to:

Brittany
Rotary District 5170 Office
2570 North First Street
Suite 200
San Jose, California 95131

Send an email to charliewater@att.net to let us get a headcount.

District 5170 and many of the clubs in the District use the services of Club Runner that gives them an easy-to-use website. Since there are quite a few clubs using Club Runner, Club Runner has created a feature to allow for integration between a club's database and RI. This allows the club secretary the ability to enter member data once through his/her club's website or the district's website. If your club does not subscribe to Club Runner, your secretary would use the District's website. If your club has not yet opted in to the database integration, Richard Friberg, San Jose Rotarian and member of the Communication Technologies Committee, contacted your club president and secretary recently. If you are having trouble with the integration process, get in touch with Richard and he will help step you through it.

Districtwide Membership Trends Shown by Club

Posted by Russell Hobbs on Jan 05, 2013

The membership numbers are rising for our District. Click here to see the [Monthly Membership trends as of January 1, 2013](#).

Rotarian in Action for ShelterBox

Posted by Charles Wasser on Jan 05, 2013

By now you have probably seen ShelterBox at one Rotary meeting or another. It is the self contained box that can help up to 10 people survive the elements after a physical disaster. The following link will take you to an article about a trip to Guatemala by Santa Cruz Rotarian Keith Henderson.

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_22258881/visiting-disaster-sc-man-returns-from-relief-efforts?IADID=Search-www.santacruzsentinel.com-www.santacruzsentinel.com

This is also an example of garnering free PR for work done by Rotarians.

Karl Stucki

Posted by Joe Hamilton on Jan 05, 2013



I made the following presentation to Karl Stucki at Oakland #3 on December 13, 2012. I presented Karl with a wood carved plaque with his likeness designed by Rotarian Charlie Wasser.

I am here today to recognize a person who has unselfishly and consistently been there to help me and the district since I have been involved in Rotary Leadership. Not only is he a beloved and respected member of this club, but he is held in the same esteem as a Past District Governor in District 5170. He is equally beloved from Central America to Afghanistan.

There is a greatness about people who walk their talk and let their

actions speak for their leadership. This man is a champion among great doers. He gets into the nitty gritty of projects and makes them happen. He is down to earth, a quiet man, but amazingly effective.

Whenever I have called him and asked him to do an AV set-up for a major event, he has always come through. Before becoming Governor, I was asked to call him for help even when the importance of a complex AV set-up was questionable. There would be a long pause on the other end of the line; and then in a raspy voice, there would be a reply, "Well, I guess we could do that...." I knew my call was just one among many he received from zone Directors, Governors and others. He always comes through and makes us look great with little recognition for himself. This year he and his team (Donna, Ed, Alex Paulson) from Oakland #3 produced a District Conference video that I played during my club visits. It was always the hit of my presentation. It is just the latest example of long string of sharing of his many talents.

Karl Stucki please come forward and accept this "Humble Hero" Recognition as a small token of my gratefulness to you for all you have done for me and our district.