



District Governor Joe Hamilton's May 2013 Newsletter



Sun Jun 16, 2013

[Home](#)

QUESTIONS AND

SUBMISSIONS TO

CHARLIEWASSER@ATT.NET

District Events

Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Jul 10, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

Roast and Toast

Jul 18, 2013 06:00 PM - 09:30 PM

Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Aug 07, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Sep 04, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

Day at the A's

Sep 07, 2013 09:30 AM - 05:00 PM

Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Oct 02, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

Avenues of Service

Oct 17, 2013 04:00 PM - 05:00 PM

Cabinet Meeting

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

Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Jan 08, 2014 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

Mid Year President's Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Jan 11, 2014

Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Feb 05, 2014 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Mar 05, 2014 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

For West BETS

Stories

Rotary Responds to Moore, Oklahoma, Tornado

Posted by Joe Hamilton on May 26, 2013

Dear District Rotarians,

We at District 5170 are deeply concerned for the people of Moore, Oklahoma, in the wake of Monday's tornado. Many in the District have asked how we are responding to this disaster. I have been in contact with a friend from the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City and will be working through him to see how our resources can best be put to use for the people in Moore. Bob Medley of the Oklahoma City club was among a group of Oklahoma City Rotary Club leaders who traveled with me and a group of District 5170 Rotarians to Guatemala on two Global Grants written by Area 7 & Area 8 clubs and supported by the Oklahoma City Club in 2011. I have set up a fund through the District 5170 Foundation to accept donations for the Moore, Oklahoma, tornado relief efforts. As we have learned with previous natural disasters, the cleanup and recovery work will be ongoing for the next few months and possibly years.



While Rotary is not set up as a first responder group, we nevertheless, are concerned for the welfare of those who have suffered great loss. We encourage you and your clubs to make donations to the [Red Cross](#), [AmeriCares](#), Shelter Box and other organizations that are on the ground helping with the initial wave of relief efforts.

If you or your club would like to make a donation to the relief efforts through District 5170, please send a check payable to [Rotary 5170 District Foundation](#) to:

Rotary District 5170
Attn: Tornado Relief
2570 N. First Street, Suite 200
San Jose, CA 95131.

Please clearly mark on the check that it is for **Moore Tornado Relief**.

I will share the most current information regarding the needs in Moore, Oklahoma, in next week's Tuesday Morning Message and as we work with the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City. In conversation with the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City, I will get more detail on the nature of the use of funds and communicate that to you. If you have questions regarding this effort, please contact [me](#) or [Don MacKenzie](#).

Yours in Rotary Service,
Joe Hamilton
District Governor 2012-2013
Rotary District 5170

Governor's Newsletter - May 2013

Posted by Joe Hamilton on May 25, 2013



While it seems to some that Rotary is changing too much and to others that Rotary never changes, the truth is Rotary must and is changing to

Far West FCIS

DoubleTree Hotel
Mar 07, 2014 - Mar 09, 2014

Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
Apr 02, 2014 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

District Conference

Dolce Hayes Mansion
Apr 11, 2014 - Apr 13, 2014

Cabinet Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel
May 07, 2014 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

District 5170

meet new needs for members and new service needs locally and around the world. While maintaining our core values, Rotarians around the world realize we must progress to survive. The central guide for all Rotarians is the Manual of Procedures. It is not a nightly read; but whenever touchy questions come up or guidance is needed, the Manual of Procedures, commonly known as the MOP, is where I look. Every Rotarian can access it through www.rotary.org.

To keep up with the times, every district sends a representative to an assembly every four years to decide on changes proposed by Rotarians through their clubs. Our representative this April was Past District Governor Arlene Greenberg. Many changes in the Manual of Procedures were made and reported on by Arlene at the May 1 District Leadership Meeting and Cabinet Meeting. Anyone can go to www.rotary.org to view the complete results.

Some of the changes at the Council on Legislation are particularly interesting and will impact you. Our district brought forward making Youth Services a 5th Avenue of Service. It was accepted in 2010 by the Council on Legislation; but through a compromise amendment, it was renamed New Generations. This label caused some confusion in Rotary Districts and clubs. In the recent Council, the 5th Avenue of Service was renamed Youth Services. Another decision was to continue the annual Rotary International dues increase amounting to \$1 per year per Rotarian for each of 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Other changes will give clubs more flexibility. Clubs may now form a satellite club that is part of their club but can meet at a different time. While the purpose is to encourage the development of new clubs, the impact is an opportunity for clubs to provide an alternate additional meeting time to expand membership to individuals who may want to join but can't make the club's current meeting time. It also could provide an avenue for retaining members who are having a problem making meetings due to work obligations or other obstacles.

Another change involves attendance accounting. Now, attendance at any club project can be counted as a meeting attendance when determining minimum attendance requirements. Also adding flexibility is a new classification for members. Currently, membership is for individuals who are businesspeople, professionals or community leaders. Now any adult who is on work leave for any reason or who has never worked is qualified for membership.

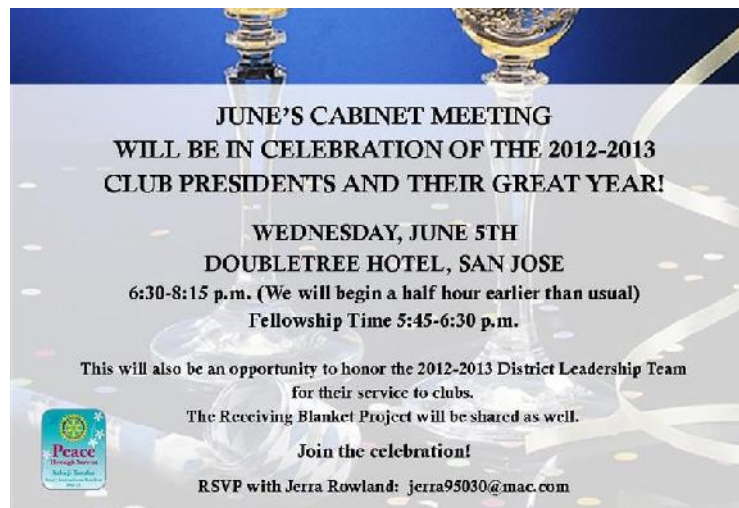
There are many more provisions you may want to read. My depiction above is not the exact wording but my summation.

JUNE 5 CABINET MEETING: A CHANCE TO LEARN, CELEBRATE AND HONOR

Posted by Joe Hamilton on May 28, 2013

The Wednesday, June 5, 2013, Cabinet Meeting will be the final Cabinet Meeting of the 2012-13 Rotary Year. The program for this Cabinet Meeting will feature Kathi Hamilton providing a slide presentation on the receiving blanket donations made to agencies, groups, and hospitals throughout the district. As you know, when Kathi and I visited each club, baby receiving blankets were given to us in place of a Governor's Gift. Each group of Presidents from every area in the district then decided where they should be given. Kathi then packaged the blankets with a label representing the area clubs. Finally, the AGs and Kathi worked together to schedule a delivery to the chosen recipients. Some of you were able to attend these presentations; others of you could not. At this Cabinet meeting, you will get the overall picture of the impact of this project.





The Cabinet Meeting, as a whole, will also be a chance to celebrate the efforts of this year's group of Presidents and to honor the District Leadership Team who served the clubs.

Receiving recognition will be the Assistant Governors, District Chairs, Lt. Governors, Major Event Chairs, and other major activity leaders. To keep the recognition portion as brief as possible, many others have been recognized in front of their own clubs.

Receiving Blankets Project

Posted by Deborah Rice on May 25, 2013

Blankets for Babies: A local project to wrap your hearts around

By Deborah Rice, for Silicon Valley Community Newspapers

Posted: 04/18/2013 08:02:58 PM PDT

Updated: 04/19/2013 10:54:27 AM PDT

Many premature infants and less fortunate babies will be keeping warm thanks to the efforts of the local Assistance League and Rotary Clubs.

Hundreds of baby blankets have been donated by Saratoga, Los Gatos and Los Gatos Morning Rotary clubs through a project known as Project Baby Blanket. These small blankets will be one of the first things to touch the skin of countless newborns, and there will be more for families to take home, thanks to this project.

The Baby Blanket Project was the brainchild of Kathi Hamilton, a loving mom and grandmother who wanted to make a difference. She is the wife of Rotary District 5170 Gov. Joe Hamilton, whose duty it is to visit 53 clubs in an area spanning Oakland to San Juan Bautista. Traditionally, the spouse accompanies the governor on these visits. Kathi Hamilton agreed to accompany her husband if she could do something significant that could justify her time. Hamilton has had a lifelong passion for babies. She's never met a baby she hasn't fallen in love with. She decided to launch a project that would help new mothers and their newborns, and Project Baby Blanket was born.



Checking, she found that hospitals are always in need of receiving blankets--a soft, lightweight blanket used to wrap and swaddle new babies right after birth. Receiving blankets can also be draped across a baby in a stroller for warmth, used for layers in baby bedding, spread on a surface for a quick diaper change, folded over the shoulder for burping or used to cover a baby for privacy while breastfeeding.

"We found a need," Hamilton says. "Having a worthwhile idea is one thing. Having it succeed is another." During her 53 visits, Kathi asked Rotary clubs for small donations for her project. Little did she realize the amazing and positive response she would receive. Over the past year, nearly 4,000 Baby Blankets have been collected for distribution. "I never expected such a response," she says, adding that she'll have packaged more than 4,000 blankets by the time the project is finished. "Blankets have literally filled my garage and spare bedrooms. I'm flabbergasted."

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Out of the 53 Rotary Clubs in the district, Saratoga and Los Gatos Rotary clubs stepped up and donated 10 percent of the total number of blankets. The blankets will be distributed to Good Samaritan Hospital, El Camino Hospital in Los Gatos and the Saratoga-Los Gatos Assistance League. They, in turn, will give the blankets to babies where there is a special need. "What better way to enter the world than to be cuddled in a soft blanket? Many, many new babies will benefit," said Paul Christensen, president of the Los Gatos Rotary Club. "This project is a wonderful example of Rotary taking those who need

help and wrapping them in warmth and love."

Distribution of the blankets has just begun, but already women who've been given the blankets have expressed their appreciation. "Good Sam serves a very wide cross-section of our community," says Leslie Kelsay, vice president of marketing and communications at Good Samaritan Hospital. "For any family with a premature infant, or one with major health complications at birth, having a baby in our NICU is an emotionally challenging time. Something as simple as a handcrafted receiving blanket tells them their community cares about them and their child."

"Regardless of their economic circumstances, the gift of a blanket is a small moment of joy in very difficult times," she says. "Our friends and neighbors in the West Valley have big hearts, and these lovely blankets show how much they care for the smallest among us. Each time we're able to provide one of these blankets to a Good Sam family, we think of the larger community extending its support." It may be an unassuming piece of fabric, but for many needy babies and their families, these baby blankets represent generosity and caring that is woven into American lives.

To donate to Rotary's Blankets for Babies, contact deborahcoburnrice@gmail.com.

TRF News Today

Posted by Timothy Lundell on May 25, 2013

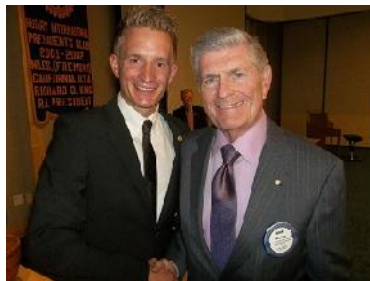
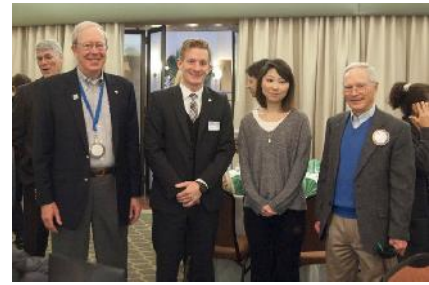
TRF News Today describing Foundation information can be found if you [CLICK HERE](#).

Ambassadorial Scholar Visiting District 5170

Posted by Charles Wasser on May 25, 2013

When we donate to The Rotary Foundation, the money eventually gets used for many humanitarian pursuits and objectives. One such objective is to educate and train future leaders known as Ambassadorial Scholars. Holger Klinge, a young man from Germany, has been in our midst for the last 9 months. He visited clubs all over District 5170. Here are some pictures of his visits.





Membership Trends by Club as of May 28, 2013

Posted by Russell Hobbs on May 25, 2013

District 5170 Vision 5000 states that by the end of year 2017, our district will have 5000 members. Currently, our number is 3839. We began the year at 3745. District 5170 has the third best net membership increase in the Western United States. We have made great strides, and I have been encouraged by how almost every club President has developed and carried out plans to increase the net membership in his/her club. Attached are the latest membership numbers for each district club. We still have a long way to go; and just as important as how many members clubs have on June 30, 2013, is how many club members your club has at the end of July, August, and September. Any progress we make this year is meaningless unless clubs retain their members better than we have in the past. If you know of a member who has stopped coming to meetings, stopped being engaged in Rotary activities, or has discussed with you that she or he might be dropping Rotary, please talk to the individual and, as a Rotarian, encourage the person to stay and

help the individual to re-engage.

Outside of death, almost every other reason for a person dropping can be solved.

Attendance can now be counted for involvement in service projects if a Rotarian cannot attend most meetings. Clubs can form a Satellite Club that meets at a different time than the regular meeting. Some clubs have modified dues structures for those in temporary financial difficulties or temporary help can be sought from another member. Levels of involvement can be adjusted for those with time strain in the work or personal life. The thing that is most important in most cases is that another Rotarian in the club reaches out and connects with a member thinking of leaving; that can make all the difference and maintain a Rotarian who can benefit your club and benefit the individual. Finally, job changes and moving away are difficult reasons to address. There are ways to keep the

individual in Rotary. One thing we often overlook is finding a Rotary club in the location where the individual is relocating. If you have trouble finding the name of a club on rotary.org, I and/or our office are happy to help. Rotary is a great way for someone to get connected in a new community and to help an organization we all believe in maintain a member.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the District 5170 membership numbers broken down by club.

An Example of Getting Media Attention for Club Events

Posted by Charles Wasser on May 25, 2013

Three talented Rose School 4th grade students were recognized on Friday, May 10, by the Milpitas Rotary Club, Evinrude, and Fishing Day Chair John Jay for their writing skills at a special 9:00 a.m. Awards Assembly.

Previously, 50 students from the 4th grade at Rose School participated Saturday, March 9, in Milpitas Rotary's Annual Fishing Day. It was held at Spring Valley Pond, stocked with trout, where 5 'big ones' were caught that day by the youth.

Afterward, the students were invited by their teachers to write about this year's event in a "Fish Tales" contest. Their short stories could be actual or fictional and would be judged on Originality, Penmanship, and Voice (keeping the reader's attention to the end). Winning authors would be recognized by their teachers and Milpitas Rotary at their May 10 Awards Assembly.



Milpitas Police Commander Charlotte Pang and Officer Daren Vuong, along with Rotary President Mark Tiernan, assisted Chair John Jay with the ceremony. Past Rotary President Don Peoples and Jay helped judge the 'Fish Tale' stories. And the winners are: Originality - Patrick Nguyen, Penmanship - Esther Duong, and Voice - Havi Le. The winners also received additional prizes in a drawing. Patrick Nguyen won a skateboard and a helmet, Havi Le won a razor scooter and a helmet, and Esther Duong won a bicycle and a helmet. The prizes were donated anonymously. All three also received Evinrude 'Fish Tale' T-shirts.

Rumor has it that Rose School third graders are reportedly looking forward to the 4th grade and next year's fun Rotary Fishing Day and Fish Tale events.

