



All Hands



April/May 2010

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andreadolak@gmail.com

District Governor's Corner

This issue combines April and May, with a report on the District Conference! If you are printing it, you may want to select your pages, though I want you to see it all.

The final tally for backpacks to Haiti was 502! There are two great photos on page 8. Thanks to ALL who helped make this happen: Contributors, Laborers, Transporters and to Joy Miksic, Maria Kim and Joy Zwicker!

School years are winding down and so is the Rotary year. BUT . . . Not so fast! Much will be packed into the next two months as Clubs finish out their programs and prepare for the transition of leadership. (At least most of you!)

Membership is still critical, as each Club needs to provide just for the expected losses to keep up the level of service it wants to provide its community. Clubs are proving that younger people WILL join Rotary, if they see how it helps them give back to the community.

Foundation Giving to the Annual Program Fund (APF) and to the Polio Challenge so far have been gratifying in light of the circumstances. Club projects, within the District and outside, have benefitted from the District Simplified Grants and Matching Grants from the APF, to say nothing of the many other programs that bring the world closer. Polio progress is discussed on page 2. Eight of the many Clubs that pledged \$2,000 towards polio have reached or exceeded that, with more Clubs to follow.

A long-established program in Berks County and a newly launched one in the Lehigh Valley are great examples of a Vocational Service effort to get students and faculty thinking about leadership and ethics and incorporating character building into the schools. The article on page 5 gives more details and contacts to follow up on how Clubs and Rotarians can be involved.

The combined District Assembly and Youth Conference, held at Bear Creek Mountain Resort, drew over 200 people! The 2010-11 budget for District activities was voted on and the visiting Group Study Exchange team from District 3202 in far south India introduced themselves and provided us with a glimpse of their culture. The dance and costumes were wonderful!

Keep your eye on the [calendar](#) for the many events coming up at Clubs nearby. Make sure to get your own listed there, too, so others can attend! The District Changeover will be held June 30th at Brookside Country Club in Macungie (NOT Pottstown!).

I do need to thank the District Conference Co-chairs, Jerry Myers and Rick Albitz, and the entire committee for a first-rate experience. Ask someone

District Governor's Corner (con't.)

Rick Albitz, and the entire committee for a first-rate experience. Ask someone who attended how they enjoyed it. Then be prepared to listen for a full account! Please allow me just another note of thanks to those who supported the Haiti backpack project. It worked so well with the District Conference. And it proves my confidence that with

THE FUTURE OF ROTARY IS IN YOUR HANDS

Rotary will continue to be the premier service organization to the world!

Honored to Serve,

Mike McCarthy

District Governor 2009-2010

mccarthym@urassociation.com

Joan Wilkinson



Joan Wilkinson, wife of Past RI President Wilf Wilkinson (2007-2008), succumbed to pancreatic cancer on March 22nd. [Donations in her honor](#) to the Rotary Foundation are being accepted for either the Permanent Fund or for the Annual Programs Fund. Her bright smile and her unflagging support of her husband's service to Rotary will be missed by all.

End Polio Now Progress

In 2009, 1,597 cases of polio were reported world-wide. That compares to 350,000 when the effort to eradicate polio began in 1986. 1,247 were in the four countries where polio remains endemic, with India having the most at 732. Nigeria was next with 388. Through April 20th 2010 Nigeria is reporting TWO cases compared to 193 last year. India has NO CASES reported for 5 weeks!

The 350 other cases in non-endemic countries just reinforce the need to carry the effort through until polio is eradicated. Until that point is reached, it is only a plane ride away from any of us, or from any of our loved ones.

As of 30 April, Rotarians have [raised about \\$117.5 million](#) for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. These contributions will match \$355 million in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$555 million will directly support immunization campaigns in the countries where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families. District 7430 efforts through the end of March stand at just over \$39,000 this Rotary year, of the \$95,000 pledged. Proceeds from several joint activities are not reflected and there are many activities Clubs have planned to meet their contribution goals. Help support them!

As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high as the recent outbreak of seven cases in Tajikistan shows. More information [can be found here](#).

Spring Township Centennial Supports ShelterBox

The Spring Township Centennial Rotary Club has funded a \$1,000 Shelter Box to assist the victims of the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti. The Shelter Box program is a world-wide program, originally the brainchild of a Rotarian in 2000, with a current goal of providing 500,000 shelter boxes to victims of earthquakes and other disasters across the globe. Rotary International has been a major sponsor of and contributor to the Shelter Box program since its inception and Rotary Clubs across the world have funded approximately half of the shelter boxes provided so far to victims in need. Shelter Box is the largest Rotary Club project in Rotary's 100 year history.

At the heart of the Shelter Box is a 10 person tent custom made for Shelter Box by Vango, one of the world's leading tent makers and is designed to withstand extreme temperatures, high winds and heavy rainfall. Privacy partitions allow for privacy as users see fit.

Also included in a shelter box is a children's pack containing drawing books, crayons and pens. Also included are many survival items including thermal blankets, mosquito nets, water purification supplies, tools such as a hammer, axe, saw, shovel, pliers, and more. There is also a multi-fuel stove, pans, utensils, bowls, and mugs.

For more information, please contact Larry Shaub at 610-376-1595 or lshaub@rklepa.com or Ray Melcher at 610-898-8086 or rmelcher@vrmarathon.com.

The Reason We Serve



Haiti Backpack recipients.



This Student was injured in the earthquake.



Backpacks were delivered to Haiti in Late March during the District 7430 conference.

District Assembly Draws Crowd



The 2010 District 7430 Assembly drew quite a crowd to the impressive Bear Creek Mountain Resort on April 17th. The plenary and breakout sessions were very well attended and provided useful information to Club members from throughout the District on topics ranging from Club budgeting to membership to the capabilities of the new District Web site to be functional in June.

35 district Rotary Clubs were represented for the official vote on the budget for District activities during 2010-11. Specifics were shared with each Club beforehand. The vote to approve was unanimous. Each Club Secretary and President-elect has the details.

The 159 Assembly participants joined with the 59 Youth Conference participants for Lunch and a special program put on by the Group Studies Exchange (GSE) team visiting from India. PDG Jerry Friedman, a member of Allentown Liberty Bell, explained a District-wide Four-Way Test speech contest to be advertised in the Fall and to take place in the Spring of 2011. This will be modeled on the very successful program used in District 7350 for many years.

The theme for the 2010-2011 Rotary year is:

BUILDING COMMUNITIES BRIDGING CONTINENTS

DGE Bill Palmer intends to emphasize the following:

- Supporting Clubs to be successful and Effective
- Membership Growth
- Foundation and Matching Grant support
- Youth programs
- Rotary education via RLI



Future issues of the newsletter will elaborate, so stay tuned!

District Youth Conference Report

They came from across the District: Interact Clubs with their Interactors and Advisors; Exchange Students, both outbound and inbound; and Rotarians gathered for the Rotary District 7430 Youth Leadership Conference at Bear Creek. Attendees got to recognize some local past projects such as the Shelter Boxes and the Backpacks for Haiti. They also got to see some possible future projects, including Purple Pinkie Day and fundraising for the Rotaplast mission.

The whole day was filled with motivating activities from the “breaking the ice bingo!” to our very knowledgeable Keynote Speaker Jeffry Cadorette, Past District Governor for neighboring District 7450. Jeff helped attendees to see what the Rotary is about, who formed it, and what its purpose is. “Service Above Self” filled the air and the insights from the young folks were amazing.



A little survey followed, using the DISC approach, to see what personality communication style attendees had. Were you were an “influencer,” a person who is outgoing and enthusiastic? Or were you “dominant,” very forceful and strong-willed?

Lunch brought together 200 people, from both the District Assembly and the Youth Conference, to share stories and chat with each other. The Youth Exchange students’ Parade of Flags (left) was a highlight, as was the presentation by the Group Study Exchange team from District 3202 in India. All those attending appreciated the hard work that everyone put in to make the Youth Conference such a good one! – Submitted by Sam Zimmer, President of the Boyertown Area Senior High Interact Club

Observations from Leadership and Ethics Conferences

Thanks to support from surrounding Rotary Clubs, high school and middle school students, and their teachers, in Berks County and western Lehigh County benefitted from a day of discussions and exercises in March. For the Berks County students this was only the latest edition of an event that was first staged in 1997. For the Lehigh County students this was the first, following the Reading-area lead. Penn State Berks campus has hosted the activities the last several years, while DeSales hosted the inaugural event in the Lehigh Valley.



West Point cadets facilitated sessions on Communications, Diversity and Leadership for the middle school students. The importance and relevance of Character was stressed for the students, as well as for the faculty members attending. At least two of the cadets served on the Cadet Honor Committee.

The events for high school students featured an address on the Power of Character and the importance of making a positive difference for good in our own world of influence. Student groups focused on honorable living, both in school and the community. Faculty participated in a separate workshop addressing ethics and leadership opportunities in high school.

Some comments from attendees:

Faculty: I wanted to expand my knowledge, understanding & practice of ethical educational leadership. My goal was accomplished.

Student: Just because I am young doesn't mean I can't start completing my goals now.

Faculty: This needs to be embedded into what we do in education and society.

Student: Meeting the amazing cadet from West Point and hearing her inspiring story.

Faculty: I feel inspired to inspire my students to be not only competent citizens, but also citizens of character.



To find out how you can offer this experience to other students, or how you can support the efforts, contact Kit Fegley at West Reading-Wyomissing (E: jkf@bmflaw.com, P: 610-376-7351) or Allentown West members Sue Weber (E: floraweber@aol.com, P: 610-967-2964) or Gwen Pongracz (E: gwen.pongracz@gmail.com, P: 610-285-2613).

Literacy Awards

Are you doing something neat in your community to promote literacy? Whether working with adults or youngsters, putting books in hands or teaching people to read, or, simply, reading to someone, most Clubs have some project they are supporting or involved in. Would you help the District Governor give it the recognition it deserves?

Literacy Coordinator Marie Ann Thompson has an [award certification form](#) that allows Club Presidents to submit their effort for recognition at the District and other levels. Send yours to Marie Ann at marieann19@comcast.net.

ShelterBox Turns 10!

Be Prepared! Rotarians, Clubs and friends in District 7430 have helped ShelterBox live up to that Boy Scout motto for a good part of its 10-year life.

A year after Rotarian Tom Henderson conceived the idea, 143 boxes were deployed to aid earthquake victims in India's Gujarat state. In 2009 some 9400 boxes were sent throughout the world. So far in 2010 13,000 have gone to Haiti alone, providing shelter for 13% of those estimated to need it there. Every week brings new opportunities for this vital, unique service.

Thanks to all those who support ShelterBox with donations! Special recognition goes to Blue Bell Club member Bruce Dearnley for being a ShelterBox Response Team member. These are the first people on the scene to estimate the needs, identify and prepare the sites and to arrange the logistics to get the shelters where they are most needed as quickly as possible. To see where ShelterBox is helping around the world, including China, [click here](#).

Spectacular Philly View—Available to Rotarians



Do you eat lunch? Would you like to meet Rotarians from outside your club? Now you can meet both lofty objectives, on a regular basis. Bill Pelosi, member of the newly-chartered Central Bucks Club, is re-launching the monthly round table for Rotarians at the Pyramid Club. The objective is to expand the table so that any Rotarian who finds themselves in the City on the fourth Wednesday of the month (starting in April) can have lunch with fellow Rotarians who they might not otherwise meet.

Since this is not a formal Rotary function, it does not count as a make-up meeting and there are no set agendas. It's just an opportunity for Rotary fellowship in a very attractive venue, with some really good food.

The Pyramid Club is a business club (hence, a business casual dress code) located at the top of the Mellon Bank Building in Philadelphia. When the weather is good, the views are fantastic. When the weather is bad, at least you can get to the Club from mass transit or your car without going outside.

While walk-ins are welcome, it helps if Bill knows how many people to expect. If you are a Pyramid Club member, you can enter a reservation on the Club's website at www.thepyramidclub.com. *If you're not a member, just don't like using the online reservation system, or have any questions, please send Bill an e-mail at william.pelosi@obermayer.com or phone him at 215-665-3222.*



ShelterBox Support Recognized



Partner Boosts Willow Grove Club Effort

Upper Moreland High School's benefit concert raised \$5000.00 for Haiti earthquake relief. The school's service clubs, including Interact, Key Club, Student Council and choir, partnered with the Willow Grove Rotary Club to bring the national touring group - *Beatlemania Again* - to the stage of Upper Moreland High School. The proceeds will provide emergency housing for displaced persons. Pictured with the "Beatles" are UMHS students

(l-r) Joey Cranney (Student Council), Samantha Pronzato (Key Club), Christie Graf (Key Club) and Alan Zigler (Interact); in the back row Marilyn Hagy, from the Willow Grove Rotary Club.

The Bethlehem Club raised more than \$10,000 toward the purchase of ShelterBoxes in the aftermath of January's earthquake in Haiti, enough to house 1,000 people. All funds were made up of personal donations from the members of the Bethlehem club.

The effort was recognized in **THE MORNING CALL**, Saturday, March 6, edition.



Club President George Hahalis proudly displays the presentation check in this photo.

Paws for a Purpose

JOIN IN ON "PAWS FOR A PURPOSE" TO HELP SUPPORT ANIMALS IN DISTRESS.

The Emmaus Rotary is pleased to announce its annual "PAWS FOR A PURPOSE" DOG WALK to help support Animals in Distress as well as local and international Rotary projects.

Come join us Saturday, May 15, 2010

For registration forms go to: www.emmausrotary.org and click on Dog-walk Advertisement



Golf Outing Season Has Begun!

May 26th – The Boyertown Club at Bellewood Golf Club in Pottstown. Noon start with dinner included.

June 7th – The Bethlehem and Bethlehem Morning Star Clubs at Silver Creek. A scramble with a shotgun start at 12:30 after lunch with an awards dinner to close.

Full details at [Club Events!](#)



Easton Supports Reading Enrichment

Rotary Club of Easton was a proud sponsor of the Reading Enrichment Program held in recent weeks in the Easton School District. The \$375 grant provided by the Easton Club provided for each child to receive a personalized story book. Rotarians Victor Palm and Bob Bergren, as well as President Lori Metz, had a wonderful time reading to first graders at Francis. A. March Elementary School in Easton.



Rotarian Bob Bergren

Lehigh Valley East News



Children's Home of Easton

LVE Rotary recently partnered with the Alumni Association of the Easton Children's Home to raise funds to assist the Home's college bound graduates. On April 18th a Longaberger Basket Bingo was held in the school gymnasium. Prior to the event, LVE raised funds to purchase 12 filled baskets that were donated as prizes for the Bingo. The members also donated a raffle Basket, desserts and 30 colorful floral baskets for table decorations. On the day of the event, club members proudly wore their new Rotary logo shirts as they cooked hot dogs, sold raffle tickets, and were Bingo "runners" verifying winning numbers. It was a successful day for all concerned and the beginning of a wonderful partnership.

Welcomes Three New Members!

Two new members were installed by President Kerry McGill with the assistance of PE Kristie Metz, Treasurer Janet Kolepp, Membership Deanna Bergman and Secretary Pam Burzynski. LVE welcomed **Maria Spinosa**, Education, and **Keith O'Brien**, Hotel Management. At a previous meeting, the this cheerful team also installed **Tricia Lansek**, Home Care Management. Welcome to all our newest Rotarians!



June Membership Event

The next LVE Membership Event will be on June 9th at the Northampton Country Club beginning at 5:15. A guest speaker from Arts Quest will be in attendance telling about the B-Smart art program for at risk kids at the Banana Factory in Bethlehem. They will be the beneficiary of the club's upcoming October 9th annual fundraiser, "Savor the Flavor". Anyone interested in finding out more about Rotary and our club is welcome to attend.

District Conference Recap



We set sail with the glorious New York City skyline in the background; Rotarians, families, and friends bound for adventure in the storied islands of the Caribbean. Over 3000 nautical miles lay ahead with stops in four unique and beautiful countries but the true treasure lay in wait at the District Conference which began on Saturday morning with the:

Opening Plenary: *PDG Roger Baumann* served as emcee for the Conference which was kicked off by Fred Winter and Dick Whitaker who performed a lively version of R-O-T-A-R-Y. *PDG Dick Frantz* introduced the dignitaries; *Pottstown President Robin Smith* welcomed us aboard and the Conference was underway. *DG Mike McCarthy* urged us to think in terms of The Future of Rotary Being in Our Hands. Without the support of individuals in our Clubs and Districts there would be no backpack project for Haiti, no Youth Exchange, no Shelter Box, no leadership and ethics conferences for high school kids in Reading, no Polio eradication, and no Rotaplast. DG Mike thinks that, as individuals, we should be thinking that The Future of Rotary is in *MY* Hands. *Our RI President's Representative was Past RI Director and Past Rotary Foundation Trustee Theodore "T.D." Griley, II.* T.D. and his wife Dori are from Newark, Ohio. TD's update on the financial state of Rotary was largely positive although investments have not climbed back to their historical high levels. No assets have been sold at a loss and Rotary International remains financially sound. Membership is holding steady at 1.2 million; approximately 200,000 of which are women. Annual Foundation giving remains high although off by about 1% and there are now almost 2 million Paul Harris Fellows.

Plenary Session I: *AG Len Gieseler* introduced us to District Simplified Grants (DSGs) as a way to use District-level Designated Funds within our District borders. DSGs have been around since 2003 and can be used for community, international, or vocational service projects. District 7430 receives 20% of our annual SHARE money in support of DSGs. Examples of projects include dictionary projects, Operation Warm (providing winter coats for children), and a project in Ghana teaching home canning and woodworking. *DGE Bill Palmer* discussed Matching Grants as way to leverage funds to accomplish larger international projects. Using District Designated Funds to secure Matching Grants results in a 100% match from the Rotary World Fund. Clubs that go directly to RI with Club money will only receive a 50% match. District 7430 is now working on a 4th well for the Masai people who are suddenly able to spend time educating children and parents who no longer have to spend all day securing water from questionable sources. A District 7430 3-H Grant in India has produced a microcredit program from which nearly 4,000 women have already benefited. Other projects address issues in countries including Uganda, Ecuador, Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka. Projects are also under development for the Philippines and Zimbabwe. *Pottstown Rotarian Dr. Richard "Doc" Whittaker* showed us what he saw during his recent medical mission to Haiti. The Port au Prince area was totally devastated. The area had no electricity or water, and many buildings had either crumbled or were unsafe for habitation. Amidst the pancaked buildings however, Doc managed to find a familiar sight: the Rotary



DG Mike



T.D. Griley



Len Gieseler



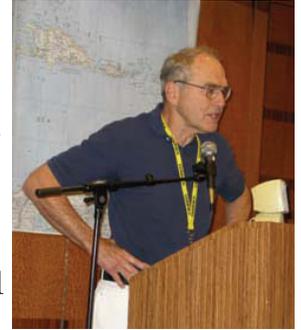
Bill Palmer

District Conference continued

International emblem proudly displayed on a Shelter Box. District 7430 Rotarians have been responsible for supporting over 102 Shelter Boxes since the disaster in Haiti. **DGN Bill Jahn** introduced us to the Group Study Exchange program which sends a team of 4 young non-Rotarian professionals along with a Rotarian team leader on a professional/cultural exchange to another Rotary District. The team stays abroad for about 4 weeks and the foreign District sends a similar team back to District 7430. Bill served as team leader for our exchange with South Africa and he noted the Rotarian-based impact that can be seen in developing nations. The GSE program will continue with a greater emphasis on vocational training and, when possible, be focused on 1 of the 6 areas of Rotary emphasis. District 7430's next GSE partner will be the Philippines.

Plenary Session II: Lehigh Valley East Rotarian Kristie Metz recounted her experiences with the 2006 District 7430 Rotaplast mission to Maracaibo, Venezuela. The missions seek to perform cleft lip and cleft palate operations on as many children as possible and also to train the local medical people so they will be able to do the operations on their own in the future. These operations are handled routinely in the United States but children in many parts of the world still have no access to such care. The Maracaibo mission provided life-altering surgery for 88 children. Their families will never forget the tremendous gift they received from Rotary. District 7430's next mission will be to Pereira, Colombia in August 2010. **AG Joy Zwicker** told us about Shelter Box and how it came about because of the Power of One. British Rotarian Tom Henderson saw the need to provide rapid shelter for victims of natural disasters. His vision resulted in the formation of Shelter Box in 1999. The product provides shelter for ten people and fresh water for up to six months and can be described as shelter, warmth, and dignity in a box. The boxes are warehoused in eight countries and are deployed at a cost of \$1,000 per box. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have benefited from a project that resulted from the vision of one individual. **Emmaus Rotarian Rosenia Devine** presented the Rotary Friendship Exchange. This little known Rotary program can be shared by any two Districts in the Rotary World. A team of 6-12 Rotarians and partners travel to another District for 10-15 days where they are housed by Rotarians from the host District. Approximately 6 months later the travelling District will reciprocate. The sole purpose of the program is to provide a basis for cultural exchange. District 7430 Rotarians from Emmaus, Saucon, and Bethlehem Morning Star were about to return from New Zealand as our Conference began. The trip is financed by the individuals who travel and host. Having absorbed a considerable amount of Rotary information, it was the time for a break as we moved on to the Saturday night:

Cocktail Reception: What would a Pottstown-hosted Rotary event be without a great cocktail party? Servers delivered trays filled with red and green beverages and the buffet was filled with a wide selection of tasty hors d'oeuvres. The winners of the Cruise Incentive Raffle were Denton Quick (\$1,000) and Len Gieseler (\$500). After the reception we were free to have



Doc Whitaker



Bill Jahn



Kristie Metz



Joy Zwicker



Rosenia Devine

District Conference continued

dinner, carouse in the Casino, or otherwise entertain ourselves until Sunday morning when we all attended the:

Memorial Service: One sad thing about having great friends is that we eventually lose them. *PDG Rev. Gordon B. Mowrer* presided over an ecumenical service to celebrate our work as Rotarians and also to remember the friends that we lost during the past Rotary year. A bell sounded 23 times as the name of each departed Rotarian was read aloud. *Rosenia Devine* led us in inspirational songs including “Blest Be The Tie That Binds” and “Amazing Grace”. After the service we gathered on the foredeck of the ship as DG Mike placed a ceremonial bouquet into the sea. The bouquet rapidly vanished and so, the day turned to night and then back to day when we gathered for:

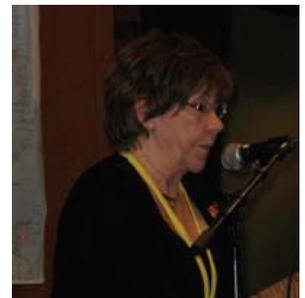


Gordie Mowrer

Plenary Session III: *DG Mike* recalled how he quickly decided that Vocational service would be a central theme for his year as District Governor. The year was indeed highlighted by the establishment of a 2nd Leadership and Ethics Seminar directed at students of high school age. District 7430 Rotarians from Spring-Ford have helped establish a carpentry shop in Ghana. The newly introduced tools and methods reduce the time it takes to make a door from 3 days to 3 hours. The membership challenge persists in North America but apparently pales in comparison to the problems in South America. Rotary has plateaued at approximately 1.2 million members since 1987. There are now close to 34,000 Clubs in about 200 countries. Churchville Rotary celebrated their 20th anniversary and this diminutive Club has already had a District Governor and sports an excellent Foundation giving record. Harleysville Rotary celebrated their 15th anniversary by becoming a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club. The backpacks for Haiti idea yielded 4 pallets of school supplies. DG Mike reminded us of the stories we heard about the impact that can be made by one person with a vision. He urged us to make no small plans and dream no small dreams.

RI President's Representative T.D. Griley gave us an overview of how Rotary developed in the Caribbean. The first Club was formed in Havana, Cuba in 1916, followed closely by the Rotary Club of San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1918. Political uncertainty and other issues led to slow development but today there are nearly 300 Clubs in the Caribbean region. The annual Rotary themes began in the 1950's and gradually became a standard part of Rotary History. President John Kenny chose “The Future of Rotary is in Our Hands” because he knows that the future of Rotary will not be determined in the RI offices in Evanston, Illinois. It will happen at the Club level and it will be the result of the efforts of individual Rotarians. The Polio eradication efforts are doing well. \$115 million has already been raised in response to the Gates challenge. T.D. urged us to never forget why we are Rotarians. He maintains that people of intelligence and determination can achieve more when working together. The enduring needs of the people of the world can and will be addressed and, as Rotarians, we have the mechanism to serve these needs. This news was so good that we took a break and returned for:

Plenary Session IV: *PDG Yvette Palmer* provided an update on the status of the Polio eradication campaign. The fears that Polio fund-raising would negatively impact donations to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund have been unfounded as far as District 7430 is concerned. Yvette showed us a video featuring TV personality Penny Legate who, as a non-Rotarian, offered a unique slant on Rotarians and their Polio efforts. Penny has been to National Immunization Days in



Yvette Palmer

District Conference continued

Ethiopia and India and seen first-hand the amazing work done by Rotarians. She asks: Why do we do it? Why do we care? Penny says that sometime, somewhere, we were made to believe that we were special. That we have been blessed, and that to whom much has been given, much is expected. The people of the world trust Rotarians. Bill and Melinda Gates are trusting Rotarians with \$355 million. The world would not be what it is without Rotarians and it will not get to where it needs to go without Rotarians. Although Polio persists, cases in Nigeria have been cut in half since 2008-09. Afghanistan now has "Days of Tranquility" to administer the vaccine. These days are even honored by the Taliban. The problem in India is literally huge. There are



8,000 new babies in the two polioendemic states every day. Problems including poverty, lack of sanitation, cultural differences, polluted water, and disease make for an enormous challenge. Bill Gates Sr. said that most volunteers work on the problems down the block. Rotarians have revolutionized the idea that ordinary people can change the world. **Doc Whittaker** has been the point person for District 7430's Polio efforts since the 1980's and his update provided positive news. Cases in Nigeria and India are down from the 2009 numbers. Watch for District 7430 events involving Purple Pinkie Days, bike marathons, walk-a-thons, and more as the year progresses. As **Pottstown Rotarian Fred Winter**, an NID veteran, said "We are so lucky to be able to share." **PDG Jack Brent** donned his safari helmet and emceed a Rotary Trivia event pitting two Rotarians in a fierce intellectual battle not only



Jack Brent

for D7430 bragging rights, but also for the untold wealth hidden in Jack's plastic shopping bags. Representing Pottstown was Larry Gallagher who put his Rotary knowledge up against the newly crowned DGND Tony Janetta from North Penn. The pace was frantic and questions ranged from the obvious to the arcane. In the end, the higher mathematics that would have been required to determine the true winner proved to be too much and the lavish prizes were shared equally by the two contestants. The emotionally drained attendees were now ready to settle down and visit:



Two Champions



Larry Gallagher

San Juan, Puerto Rico: We only had a few hours here but many made the most of their time. Shopping, food, jewelry, and inexplicably cheap beer (especially if you stopped at the Genesis Bar) were some of the highlights. There are 32 Rotary Clubs in Puerto Rico and the San Juan Club dates back over 90 years.

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas: St. Thomas is home to several Rotary Clubs including the home Club of DGE Diana White who set up a combined luncheon at the Grand Cru restaurant. Approximately 80 Rotarians gathered for several hours of great food and fellowship.



District Conference continued



Samana, Dominican Republic: The dock was too small for our ship so we had to be tendered into this tiny seaside town. The main drag was packed with local people selling cigars, jewelry, and crafts. Adventurous Rotarians could take tours to see the island waterfalls or simply taxi into the main town for shopping and refreshments.

Labadee, Haiti: Lounging on the lush beaches it was easy to forget the devastation present just a few miles away until we returned to the ship and passed by some of the 90 pallets of relief aid

bound for hospitals, burn centers, and food distribution centers. Our backpack relief efforts were hampered but not cancelled by the landslides that washed out the roads. Alas, one can only take so much of island luxury so we headed home which meant that at 5 o'clock it was time for:

The Closing Ceremony: RI President's Representative T.D. Griley complimented us on a District Conference filled with excellent content. He was particularly pleased to participate in the ceremonial backpack delivery in Labadee. DG Mike presented T.D. and Dori with a piece of hand blown glass from Boyertown as a parting gift. Mike praised his Conference Committee chaired by Rick Albitz and Jerry Myers. Len Gieseler was recognized for his work as Conference Treasurer and Travel Liaison. Mike



also thanked his family for their support and Mary Ann McCarthy received a well-deserved Paul Harris Fellow. In closing, DG Mike asked us to remember our purpose because Rotarians make things happen. They know that it is possible to make a difference in people's lives. He urged us to take advantage of our Rotary resources and to continue to pursue projects of all sizes. Good things will continue to happen if our Foundation is supported by Every Rotarian Every Year. The outlook is bright because The

Future of Rotary is in Your Hands.

A Look To The Future: DGE Bill Palmer called upon the world-renowned mentalist known only as The Amazing Kristie to help promote the 2011 District Conference. Wearing her signature golden turban, Kristie astounded the crowd by divining answers to questions that had yet to be asked. The routine brought a fun end to the week's festivities and served to introduce us to next year's Conference theme:

Rotary is Magic

Mark your calendars for April 29-May 1, 2011 and find directions to Bear Creek Mountain Resort in Macungie, PA to experience a magical weekend full of food, fun, and fellowship. See you there...Learn more at bcmountainresort.com

Conference Notes:

Heard But Not Seen: Behind the scenes at every Conference is a topnotch AV person. This year's electronic guru was Pottstown Rotarian Steve Smith who also served as photographer.

A Star Is Born: The on-board shows were quite popular and one entertainer selected our own Yvette Palmer to appear onstage where she promptly stole the show.

District Conference continued

The Price Of Luxury: Domestic beer - \$4.75; Imported/Fancy Beer - \$5.75; Wine - \$28.00/bottle (Gold Package); Absolut Martini - \$8.00; Shot of the Day - \$5.95 (you get to keep the glass); Soda - price unknown. Prices do not include 15% service charge.

Number 8: Mike McCarthy is the eighth Pottstown Rotarian to serve as District Governor. Now then, about Number 9....

Rotary Coincidence: One of T.D. Griley's earliest Rotary moments came at a New York City meeting attended by JC Penney, Norman Vincent Peale, and Reading Rotarian Joe Abey who is the only person from our District to have served as President of Rotary International.

The Commander: The Captain of the Ship was Olav Gunnar Nyseter from Norway who began his career in 1961.

Sharp Dressed Man: Tony Janetta added a new tie to his already substantial Rotary wardrobe. This one sports the signature of RI President Elect Ray Klinginsmith.

Melon Art: The food buffets were adorned with a wide variety of decoratively carved melons.

Towel Art: Rotarians returning to their cabins after a long day were amused to find their bath towels cleverly arranged in the form of animals such as dogs, frogs, monkeys, and bats.

Explorer Staff: The people who served us on the ship were almost exclusively from countries outside of the United States. We had the opportunity to talk to people from the Ukraine, India, Jamaica, and many other countries. These people often are able to see their families for only a few weeks each year.

And now, it is time for The Photo Gallery:)



Club Attendance Report

February 2010 Monthly Reporting						
Rotary Club Name	# of Memb	# of Mtngs	% of Attend	# of New Memb	# of Termin	Missing Reports
Allentown	125	3	54%	0	0	July & September
Allentown Liberty Bell						August, September, October, November, December & January
Allentown West						September, October & January
Ambler	80	3	66%	1	0	July
Bethlehem	137	3	50%	2	0	
Bethlehem Morning Star	62	3	70%	1	2	
Birdsboro						July, August, October November, December & January
Blue Bell	32	3	63%	1	0	
Boyertown	43	3	29%	0	0	
Central Perkiomen						July, August, September, October, November, December & January
Churchville	21	3	75%	0	0	
Collegeville	28		73%	0	0	July, August & January
Conrad-Weiser	13	4	89%	0	0	
Doylestown						January
Easton	56	2	62%	0	0	
Emmaus	97	3	62%	0	0	
Fleetwood	42	2	74%	2	2	
Hamburg	34	2	69%	0	0	September
Harleysville	30	2	82%	0	0	
Hatboro						
Horsham	42	2	83%	2	0	
Huntington Valley-Southampton	22	3	53%	0	0	
Kutztown	28	2	79%	1	0	
Lehigh Valley East	19	3	63%	0	0	
Morrisville						
Mount Penn						July, August, September, October, November, December & January
Muhlenberg	34	3	59%	0	1	September & January
Nazareth	45	4	73%	0	0	
Newtown	50	3	58%	0	0	
Norristown						
North Penn	48	4	38%	0	0	
Penridge-Perkasie	27	3	66%	0	0	
Pottstown						January
Quakertown	34	3	48	0	0	
Reading	42	2	33%	0	0	
Saucon	25	3	59%	0	0	
Shillington						July, August, September, October, November, December & January
Shoemakersville-Leesport						July, August, September, October, November, December & January
Slatington	21	4	44%	0	0	October, November & January
Souderton-Telford	65	2	56%	0	2	
Springford	42	3	74%	0	0	
Springfield Flourtown	48	4	69%	0	0	
Spring Twp. Centennial	20	3	66%	0	0	
Upper Perkiomen	13	3	67%	0	0	
Warminster	45	4	55	1	0	
Warrington						August, September, October, November, December & January
West Reading-Wyomissing	67	2%	53%	0	1	
Willow Grove						

Membership Ad



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Rotarian
today.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL