



Rotary Magic



Rotary International District 7430 Newsletter April 2011

District Conference Magic



Bear Creek Mountain Resort



Special Conference Edition

The 2011 District 7430 Conference was truly a magical weekend at Bear Creek Mountain Resort. The festivities opened with an invocation by **PDG Mike McCarthy** and an en masse rendition of R-O-T-A-R-Y. **District Governor Bill Palmer** (aka Prince William) spoke in terms of the “magic” that Rotarians accomplish every day in all corners of the world. Providing fresh water, sanitation systems, literacy programs, and microcredit loans might seem mundane to us but, to the beneficiaries, these programs are truly magic. Representing RI President Ray Klinginsmith was **Michael K. McGovern** from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Mike had the distinction of serving as Director of Rotary International from 2006-08 and also served as its Vice President. Mike spoke about the Club meeting aspect of Rotary, jokingly reminding us that Rotarians manage



DG Bill



PRIVP Mike

to consume about 40 million meals every year. Club level service is the very foundation of Rotary service. This is where the ideas happen and where the work gets done. It is also a place of friendship and a place where you know you are amongst people with whom you want to serve. **Conference Chair Ellen Kern** brought the 1st Plenary to a close in Disney style, noting our common desire to make Rotary Magic.

Harleysville Rotarian **Gar Webb** opened the 2nd Plenary. He said that we not only spent the past year Building Communities and Bridging Continents, we also got better in the process. Former youth exchange student **Katelyn Armbruster** spoke of her year abroad in Austria and how it changed her life in so many positive ways. She learned that cultural differences are just that - differences. Just being different does not elevate one culture above another. She returned from her journey with greater self confidence, maturity, and a drive to stay involved with Rotary. **District Youth Exchange Chair Elaine Caltabiano-Schneider** spoke of how we often focus on the effect the Exchange Program has on the lives of the students but we should also remember how the students affect our lives. She read emotional excerpts from some of the thank you letters received from past exchange students. Elaine appropriately refers to these as "love letters". District 7430 would be thrilled to see our Youth Exchange Program expand and the District Committee is always looking for new volunteers. The Plenary ended with a spirited Rotary Trivia Challenge between Past District Governors Mike McCarthy and B.J. Metz. Larry Moss announced the game and Phil Janke served as emcee. The competition was fierce and PDG BJ managed to eke out a tie by correctly answering a daunting double-question

**Gar Webb****Katelyn****Elaine****PDGs Mike & BJ**

challenge. Friday evening was truly an international affair. The dinner tables were decorated by the inbound exchange students with items representing their homelands. Many Rotarians came in traditional outfits from foreign countries. PRIVP Mike told us the good news about the dramatic drop in the number of polio cases this year. He recalled how Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee Chair Robert Scott reacted when the Gates money was received. Chairperson Scott raised his glass and said simply "Here's to the children of the world". The evening concluded with entertainment courtesy of the Youth Exchange as students from Poland, the Philippines, and Japan performed on the piano.

Bob Gordon opened the 3rd Plenary by noting that much of the magic done by Rotarians is "up-close". We are the ones putting the polio vaccine drops in the mouths of children. We are the ones deploying the Shelter Boxes and we are the ones travelling on the Rotaplast missions. Rotarian **Jim Lang**, a PDG from Trumbull, Connecticut, led us in a MAGIC Rotary Bingo game in which every player held a winning card. Jim maintains that everyone participates in Rotary and everyone wins. Collegeville Rotarian **David Kaplan** sported a shirt made by former sexworkers in Zambia. California Rotarians gave the Zambian women a vocational option by teaching them how to be seamstresses. David also told us about his recent adventures in Haiti and the work Rotarians are doing to bring new methods to teachers. The Haiti project was not eligible for traditional matching grant funds but they managed to find other Rotary-based sources of money. **Past District Governor Ron Smith** wore his District Foundation Chair hat as he treated

**Miki from Japan****Bob Gordon****Jim Lang****David Kaplan**

us to a tear-jerking slide show showing some of the projects that have been accomplished in the past 5 years due to the hard work and financial support of District 7430 Rotarians. A quick look at the past 5 years reveals \$1 million in donations to the Annual Programs Fund and an additional \$216,000 to PolioPlus. We supported over 20 matching grant projects valued at \$1.3 million. We also completed over 50 District Simplified Grant projects valued at over \$90,000. There are two ongoing 3-H projects in India valued at over \$650,000. As individual Rotarians, it is easy to lose sight of our impact on the world. We sit in our little Clubs here in suburban Pennsylvania and feel frustrated by our inability to change our world. Nothing could be further from the truth. The world is a better place every day thanks to the efforts of Rotarians from District 7430. Thanks to our efforts there is an early learning center in South Africa, a music program at an orphanage in Colombia, computer literacy programs in Sri Lanka and South Africa, eyesight restoration in Pakistan, a rebuilt science lab and children's library on the Gulf Coast in the USA, and sanitation at a maternity hospital in Uganda. Other projects have benefitted people in India, Ecuador, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Thailand, and Peru. Our District has funded Rotaplast missions in 2006, 2008, and 2010 which forever changed the lives of several hundred children. Projects abound within our District as well. District Simplified

**PDG Ron****Water Wells In Kenya****Wheelchairs in Argentina****Micro Credit In India**

Grants helped fund many projects including a food pantry in Allentown; a food distribution program in Bethlehem; warm coats for kids in Ambler, North Penn and Blue Bell; and the Summer Nights program in Easton. Support from District 7430 Rotarians has resulted in well over one hundred Shelter Boxes in places such as Haiti, Peru, Pakistan, and Japan providing shelter, hope, and dignity for over 10,000 people.

A Saturday breakout session gave us an opportunity to explore new generations which is the newest official Avenue of Rotary service. Collegeville Rotarian **Doug Cook** discussed the so-called Millennial Generation which includes people born after 1980. If we want to communicate and inspire this group of young people we must try and understand them. They can be described as diverse/unique, optimistic/upbeat, open to change, more liberal and tolerant, and they grab hold of new technology. 80% of them text everyday and 75% think that technology makes life easier. Lehigh Valley East Rotarian **Elaine Caltabiano-Schneider** explained the “truth” about the youth exchange program. The truth is that it is a program shared by students and adults. The YEX program can add **color** to your world and participants wind up with an extended family that lasts forever. As German exchange student Justus put it: “It is not a year in your lifetime, it is a lifetime in a year”. That is how dramatic the impact can be. **District Interact Chair Bill Detterer** explored District 7430’s relationship with this branch of Rotary designed for people between the ages of 12 and 18. The first Interact Club was formed in Melbourne, Florida in 1962 and there are now over 13,000 clubs worldwide. We have 30 Clubs in District 7430 with a total membership of over 1,300. These young people have been busy raising money for literacy, PolioPlus, wildlife rescue, food and

**Doug Cook****Bill Detterer****Wendy Body**

clothing drives, Shelter Boxes, and much more. Allentown Rotarian Wendy Body gave us a glimpse into what life is like for a High School junior attending Camp Neidig, a 4-day leadership experience held each June in Douglassville. Campers often recall this weekend as one of the most amazing experiences in their lives. It only lasts four days but the transformation of these students is hard to describe. As one recent camper put it: *"It's pushed me to learn how to situate myself in completely unfamiliar circumstances, how to form effective relationships, and even helped me learn my own strengths and weaknesses."*

**Camp Neidig**

Harleysville Rotarian **Frank Romano** presided over breakout Session 2 which concentrated on local service projects. Boyertown Rotarian **Joseph Wynands** reviewed the 4-year process which led to the completion of a handicapped-accessible playground. The project cost ballooned to over 3 times the original \$83,000 estimate. Large projects can be overwhelming for volunteer organizations. Boyertown succeeded in completing the project in part by incorporating assistance from other organizations. Don't be afraid to form partnerships to further the cause of Rotary. Bethlehem Rotarian **Ham Malek** discussed his Club's involvement with an "S2L" house. S2L stands for "school to life" and is a program designed to help young people with handicaps adapt to life after they graduate from school. The fact that Bethlehem Rotary was willing to be involved with this project was enough for the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council to provide a trial grant to help establish the first transition house in the Lehigh Valley area. This is a

**Frank Romano****Joe Wynands****Ham Malek**

case where there is not a lot of Rotary money involved but good things are happening thanks to Rotary support. Spring Ford Rotarian **Alethea Lynch** described a simple project done on an annual basis with the local Interact Club. The Clubs combine to wrap over 600 presents at Christmas time. The gifts are presented to families selected by school guidance counselors. Families also

**Alethea Lynch**

receive a grocery gift card. The program is a true community effort. The \$15,000 project is funded by Spring Ford Rotary, the Interact Club, local churches, and the Spring Ford Education Association. This is another example of Rotarians partnering to accomplish the goals of Rotary. Other breakout sessions featured the popular Rotaplast and Shelter Box programs. PDG Ron Smith offered a breakout on Matching Grant projects including advice on how and when to apply for grants. The session also featured examples of District 7430 Matching Grant projects. Blue Bell Rotarian **Andy Johanson** described how Rotarians from Blue Bell, North Penn, and Ambler teamed up to distribute 300 winter coats to needy children through a program called Operation Warm. **Herb Klotz** told us how Rotary is partnering with Engineers Without Borders on an international project to rebuild a school

**Sierra Leone School****Operation Warm****Polio NID**

in Sierra Leone. Fund-raising success stories included Casino Night in Berks County where 9 Rotary Clubs combined in an effort to raise \$15,000 for PolioPlus. The Rotaract Club at DeSales University celebrated their first year with a 5K Walk/Run Purple Pinkie Day which raised over \$5,000 for the polio eradication effort. What is "Purple Pinkie?" Throughout the world, each time a Rotary volunteer administers a polio vaccine, a child's pinkie is colored purple temporarily marking him to prevent double dosage on National Immunization Days (NID).

**Purple Pinkie**

Saturday afternoon featured the finals of the first ever District 7430 4-Way Test speech competition. Three finalists spoke on diverse topics including organ donation, bringing hope through music, and academic integrity. Each student presented their topic in terms of how it could be related to the 4-Way Test. The winner received a \$1,000 prize and the runners-up each received \$300.

The Group Study Exchange program was officially approved by Rotary International in January 1964. To date, over 70,000 people have travelled on GSE teams. Our exchange partner

**D3780 GSE -The Philippines**

this year is District 3780 from the Philippines and next year it will be District 2550 from Japan. Candidates are needed for the Japan GSE team. Candidates must be 25-40 years old, have a vocation, and have no Rotary family ties. The inbound team from the Philippines entertained us with slide shows showing the sights and history of their country. The inbound GSE Team includes: Team Leader Boyet, a lawyer specializing in corporate law; Team members: Tinai, a prep school teacher; Jun, an environmental and sanitary engineer; Badeth, a math professor; and Talal,

a Government services worker. **Tinai** told us how the Philippines was discovered by Magellan and named in honor of King Philip II of Spain. The lengthy Spanish occupation is why the population is still predominately Catholic. The United States gained control in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. Their subsequent 40-year occupation influenced the government and educational systems. The country is an archipelago consisting of over 7,000 islands (depending on the tides). **Jun** showed us some of the remarkable sights and tourism opportunities including Taal Lake, Corregidor Island, Bohol Chocolate Hills, and the Boracay Islands. **Badeth** has a strong Rotary background having been an Interactor and one of the founders of a community-based Rotaract Club. She showed us a mobile surgery unit that is a project of the Rotary Club of San Francisco del Monte. It is the only mobile surgery unit of its kind and has serviced 3,500 patients in only 3 years. **Talal** described a Dress a Child vocational service campaign where women are taught clothing-making skills. She introduced us to the national animal (carabao), national fish (bangus), and the national flower (sampaguita). The country is also famous for the Pearl of Lao Tzu, coffee, mangoes, and the yo-yo. **Boyet** gave us an overview of Quezon City which is one of only 2 cities in the world that is also an entire Rotary District. Rotarians in District 3780 support projects including pharmacies for the poor, prosthetics, a hospital on wheels, water management, computer literacy, eyeglasses/cataract programs, and supplemental milk feeding for schoolchildren. The Team concluded their presentation with a lovely karaoke-style rendition of the Stylistics 1974 hit "You Make Me Feel Brand New". Saturday night featured the annual procession of flags starring the Youth Exchange Students. The crowd cheered as, one by one, each student entered the room carrying the flag of their respective country. This year's ceremony became unforgettable as inbound French student Pierre was overwhelmed by a surprise visit from his sister who flew in for his birthday. **PRIVP Mike**

**Youth Exchange**

McGovern noted a number of seminal events in history and how we all remember where we were on those dates yet we seldom remember the day we joined Rotary. We learn about Rotary in a gradual fashion and the more we learn and understand the importance of our mission, the more Rotary becomes part of our lives. Rotary service encompasses five core values including diversity, integrity, leadership, service, and fellowship. **PDG Jim Lang** finished the evening in truly magical style as he performed an AMAZING card trick, pulled a rabbit out of a bucket, and a host of other tricks.

Sunday morning was a somber experience as we gathered for an ecumenical memorial service performed by the **Rev. Dr. David Mohr**. **PDG Roger Whitcomb** provided musical accompaniment and other volunteers offered readings from a variety of religions to help us celebrate the lives of the friends we lost in the past year. A bell rang 21 times and as each name was read aloud a yellow rose was accepted by a representative from their Rotary Club.



Rev. Dave Mohr

Chris Hornaman served as photographer for the weekend and his wife **Cindy** compiled a slide show complete with lively music that allowed us to relive some of the action from the weekend. **PRIVP Mike McGovern** likened Rotary to a famous painting by Andrew Wyeth that shows a group of people dancing around a maypole. To understand the true meaning of the painting you need to take a deeper look into the history of the artist and the painting. It is easy to celebrate the simple things in Rotary such as attending the weekly meetings, but a closer examination reveals a beautiful and complex world full of positive work that should be celebrated. He praised District 7430 for our history of humanitarian service and how we truly did Build Communities and Bridge Continents.



DG Bill thanked all of the volunteers who helped make the conference a great success. Special thanks went to Conference Chair Ellen Kern and AV Specialist Gary Englehardt. Thanks also to Jim Huber and Bob Gordon for serving as emcees. Bill also extended a loving thank you to an unidentified woman known only as “Yvette Palmer”. Former District 7430 Rotarians PDG Bob and Ellie Antoine visited for the weekend and served as aides to PRIVP Mike McGovern. DG Bill awarded a 4th level Paul Harris Fellow to Lehigh Valley East Rotarian Kristie Hoeflein Metz. **PDG Mike McCarthy** announced that we are expecting Zone level recognition for our PR efforts thanks to the Virginia Dodge-produced video.

On behalf of Bethlehem Morning Star who will serve as next year’s host Club, **DGE Bill Jahn** urged us to get ready to race to next year’s Conference scheduled for April 20-22, 2012. Friday night will feature cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at the American Wheels Museum in Allentown, Pa. Entertainment will be provided by talented local Rotarians. First-time attendees are particularly encouraged to attend. Saturday will return to Bear Creek Mountain Resort for a full day of Rotary programming.

News and Notes:

House Of Friendship: The spacious HOF played host to the silent auction as well as a consistently stocked source of goodies and coffee. The room also featured a continuous showing of the D7430 Rotary video.

Silent Auction: More than 2 dozen gift baskets were on display as well as other items including a 49” electric fireplace. A total of \$3,060 was raised for the Shelter Box program.

Room 522: The Rotary Club of Pottstown cemented their reputation as the ultimate hosts with the weekend’s one and only hospitality suite.

Got Ink?: The Youth Exchange Students raised money for their cause by selling Rotary tattoos.

And now it’s time for the photo gallery:



Chair Ellen Kern



Emcee Jim Huber



Phil Janke



Tetsushi from Japan



Loretta Ottinger with the District 3780 GSE Team



Pawel from Poland



LV East In The HOF



DG Bill and PRIVP Mike



Neil from The Philippines