



# Governor's Monthly Letter

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Thank You All!!  
Joe

WHAT CAN I SAY, BUT THANK YOU.....

At this time in ones term as a District Governor, when you look back to see what you've accomplished, you get a very strong feeling of humility. You know that some things were accomplished, but you also know that you did nothing without the support of others. The support was given willingly and without question. Without that support, you would have looked like the real jerk you probably are!!!

I have been blessed with many friends who worked very hard to make my year a success. It would be impossible to name them all because, in reality, there are almost 4,000 of you in the district, and you all contributed something.

There are a few special names that I think you should all know about and I'll publish them knowing full well that I'll probably leave someone out:

The seven men who served me as District Governor Representatives; but in particular, I note the services of RON DROUIN, GERRY VALLEE, BUD WATT and RUSS COX:

RON DROUIN called monthly meetings of his club presidents and spurred them on in Rotary Service — and in his spare time coordinated the visit of President MAT Caparas and started preparing himself to be your District Governor in 1988-89.

GERRY VALLEE visited his clubs regularly, encouraging them to grow and serve, and provided me with written reports of his visits; then took on a major position in PolioPlus in Canada and served without a break in both positions — a gentleman of the highest order.

BUD WATT and RUSS COX have been faithful advisors, always there when I needed them. I started this job by asking everyone to tell me when I was doing something wrong — I counted on these two to do that without fail — and I sincerely appreciate it.

The Past District Governors, several of whom have also corrected me with excellent letters and comments. Thanks, I needed that!!

VERNA LISTER, wife of Bath Rotarian Bill Lister, who spent many hours over her word-processor translating my newsletters into beautiful French. I'll never be able to repay her for her efforts.

The District Committee Chairmen who have served so well. All of them contributed to my success; but in particular, I will remember:

Bill Gowen and the rest of the Rotary Foundation Committee who did so much for the foundation, and especially their work in selecting the four winners of the Rotary Foundation Scholarships.

Stu Cohen for the information he sent me on past Rotary Foundation scholars; even though I was able to publish only a couple of them. Dreams of having a GREAT newsletter quickly vanish when you are on the road seven days a week.

Paul Bedard, Ray Sylvestre and Alex Cote who spent many hours reading hundreds of club bulletins in French and English.

## PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

In order to qualify for the Presidential Citation, each club must complete four of these six items:

- 3% membership increase to June 30th
- Sponsor new Rotary, Rotaract or Interact Club
- One new service project
- Club President-elect & Secretary-elect at District Assembly
- Increase representation at District Conference by 10% over last year
- Increase Rotary Foundation contributions by 10% over last year.

I must have my report in the mail as soon as possible. That means your information must be to me prior to that. Please write me as soon as possible if you qualify for this award; although I have some of the information listed above, it is not complete, and I'd like to hear from you.

PUBLIC RELATIONS = PR = PUBLICIZE ROTARY

In your public relations thinking and planning, you might consider the possibility of creating events. They should, of course, be in the public interest. You could, for example, invite disadvantaged children to a "Ski Day" with your club, put on a Christmas party for an orphanage, help a local school club with a worthy project, renovate a home for the elderly, etc. Releases should be done on these things; you should, in some cases, even invite media to cover the event themselves.

----- THANKS DAN -----

Prior to becoming District Governor, I had a genuine appreciation for the power of the media. I know that a good article on a Rotarian or Rotary Club is good for Rotary -- and "bad press" as we witnessed over "women in Rotary" can leave the public wondering why anyone would ever want to become a Rotarian!!

In an effort to inform all of the clubs, I asked Dan Davidson from the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club to prepare a dozen articles on the subject of Public Relations. It was Dan who thought of PR = Publicize Rotary; and it was Dan who provided all of the dozen articles you've seen in my newsletter this year. In addition to that, Dan created numerous press releases this year concerning the visit of President M.A.T. Caparas and other Rotary events. And, of course, it was Dan who provided the article and photo for THE ROTARIAN.

To say that I am thankful for Dan's efforts would be a gross understatement. I am confident that any club that took the time to read and understand Dan's articles is now better off for it, and that's what Rotary is all about.

----- THANKS, DAN -----

-- REPEATER --

I've seen this story several times and think it should be read by everybody in the district.....

An old man was strolling along the beach when he saw a young boy picking up objects and throwing them into the water. "What are you doing?" the old man asked. "These starfish have been washed ashore and if they don't get back into the water, they'll die," replied the boy.

Seeing that there were thousands of starfish lying stranded, the man said, "You'll never be able to save all of these starfish. So, what does it matter?" The boy looked down at the starfish he was holding in his hand and said, "Well sir, it matters to this one."

PolioPlus tells a similar story. It's easy to become overwhelmed by the size of the undertaking. But to each child that would have otherwise gone through the misery and pain of polio, IT MATTERS.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The District Conference is history -- and there is no way to describe my feelings as I write this paragraph on the morning of June 22nd; the day after. The friendship, love, goodwill, service, etc, etc, etc, I felt this weekend was simply overwhelming.

Three years ago, when I accepted the challenge to be your district governor, I started worrying about the weather at The Balsams -- and God is good -- God is VERY good!!! He showered us with sunshine for the entire weekend except for about five minutes of torrential downpout, and he timed that between the appetizer and the soup course so as not to interfere with the speeches.

The only thing more important than the weather at any three day conference is the conference committee chairman and his staff. In order to make this conference the best possible, I enlisted the assistance of the best available. PETE VAN NOTE and the other members of the Bath Rotary Club worked very hard for months to insure you would have a good weekend; then gave up their weekend to insure you were well taken care of. They did a MAGNIFICENT job and I am grateful to an extent that I will never be able to repay. Instead of trying to repay them, in their name I rededicate my life to serving.

HONORARY MEMBERS ENRICH A CLUB

He/she pays no dues, he/she has no vote, and can only attend the meetings of the club that elected him/her. He/she is an honorary Rotarian chosen for his/her accomplishments in advancing the ideals of Rotary.

Thomas Edison, the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, Winston Churchill, and Orville Wright were all honorary Rotarians. So was King Edward VI of England.

During my travels around District 779, I met several outstanding men and women who would make excellent candidates as honorary members of their local Rotary club. Although they have a long history of "Service above Self," they might not hold a classification or be able to commit themselves to attending regular Rotary Club meetings.

If you know somebody who lives within, or has lived within, the territorial limits of your club, and is a good candidate for this honor--SUBMIT THE PROPOSAL.

You'll be in good company; and so will he/she.

TEN STEPS TO PEACE

Each club member can make a personal effort, however small, to promote international peace, hope and goodwill.

Here are some steps that can be taken: (1) Learn about the viewpoints and problems of other countries--attend lectures, follow news and foreign affairs programs on radio and television; (2) Learn a foreign language; (3) Correspond with a Rotarian abroad and exchange ideas, photo slides and video- tapes (your club secretary can provide you with up to 22,000 names and addresses); (4) Exchange a magazine or a newspaper subscription with a Rotarian in another country; (5) Join a discussion group on international relations; (6) Become familiar with The Rotary Foundation's Scholarship, PolioPlus, and 3H Programs; (7) Register with the Foundation as a Rotary volunteer for service abroad; (8) Host an overseas student in your home; (9) Invite a visitor from another country to home or place of business; (10) Publicize views on how to achieve better world relations by speaking to the Rotary club and other groups about observations abroad.