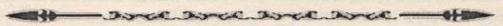
# THE ORACLE



Elias Thomas III, District Governor, 2000-2001





June, 2001

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THE ORACLE is a monthly publication of Rotary International District 7780 for the Rotary year 2000-2001. Its purpose is to reinspire Rotarians to the spirit of philosophical idealism and inquiry into service as the key to success and happiness in life.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

As your editor for these past six months, I have truly appreciated your patience and understanding in receiving the issues of The Oracle.

It has been a gratifying experience to have had an opportunity to let you know what is happening throughout our Rotary District 7780.

> Thank you, Loretta Rowe

### WHAT A MAGNIFICENT JOURNEY!

by Elias Thomas III

As we wind down to the final days of our year of service to Rotary, I wish to extend to each and every one of you my deepest gratitude for the honor of being able to devote the past twelve months to Rotary International, in serving as your District Governor. In the past few years of preparation and training, nothing could have prepared me to fully comprehend exactly what would be expected of Jane and me, how much time would be required, and particularly how singularly magnificent this year would be with all we have experienced. It is hard to believe we have reached the end of this journey.

Last summer and fall, when we visited each of the Clubs in the District, we were met with warmth and enthusiasm, with dignity and with humor, with marvelous and longstanding traditions and with informal spontaneity. We were invited into your homes and became part of your families, just as you became part of ours. Many Past District Governors had told us, This will be a year you will never for get. It is indescribable. They were so right. I have often referred to this year as one helluva ride, and I likened it to a journey on a train, crossing through the world of Rotary. That is only partially correct. It might be more accurate to think of a roller-coaster ride, instead.

As you can all appreciate, there have been highs and lows throughout the year - attending the International Assembly in Anaheim, California, where the final

page II - Journey -

no.

Thank you

Thank you

touches were put on our training, along with the other 530 District Governors and their spouses; kicking off the year at the District Assembly in the spring of 2000 with Rotary University, and proudly sharing our District with five of my fellow District Governors from the northeastern United States; traveling to Buenos Aires, Argentina to attend the International Convention and witnessing the roll-call of the countries when the flags of some 168 countries were paraded through the hall and proudly displayed on

the stage and standing when the flag of Bosnia Herzegovina was presented as the newest country in Rotary and knowing how proud we were to have a young man from that country as a part of our District; beginning our of ficial visits and carrying the message of CREATE AWARENESS

Stand often in the company of dreamers: they tickle your common sense and believe you can achieve things which are impossible!

& TAKE ACTION as we attempted to raise the awareness and consciousness about homelessness in our District; the baseball game with the Portland Sea Dogs; working in a soup kitchen in Baltimore while joining others at the Zone Institute; joining others on the team to travel to India to participate in the final National Immunization Day against Polio in India; and so many more memories.

Jane and I both understood the tremendous responsibility entrusted to us, and we hope we have served you well. However, nobody ever told us about the safety net which was to surround us during the time of my mother s final illness and passing. Literally hundreds of cards, letters and tributes came to us, most of which were from Rotarians. Gifts were sent to The Rotary Foundation in my mother s memory. We can never adequately thank you all for helping us through this most difficult time in our lives.

The Celebration of Service came next at our Annual District Conference held at Spruce Point Inn in Boothbay Harbor. Weren t we fortunate to have Allan and Cathy Frumkin representing R.I. President Frank Devlyn and his wife, Gloria Rita? Both Al and Cathy immediately took to our District and shared their love and their wisdom and their sense of Rotary with each and every participant.

Let me thank each Club president and my Assistant District Governors. The District and its members

were in safe keeping in the hands of these wonderful men and women. Most of all let me thank my family - my daughter and son-in-law, my mother and my wife of thirty-two years. This year, Heather learned that she was not an only child. Often, she played second fiddle to my second child - Rotary, but she did

so with dignity and understanding.

In conclusion, let me share with you this quote: Stand often in the company of dreamers: they tickle your common sense and believe you can achieve things which are impossible. Thank you all for tickling my common sense and striving with me to achieve things which before were impossible. I sincerely hope that I have been worthy of the trust you placed upon me.

Yours in Rotary service,

Elias

CREATE AWARENESS
&
TAKE ACTION!

### WHAT IS A PRESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE?

By Peter Johnson, DGE

Our involvement in Rotary invariably causes us to participate in events and opportunities which broaden our horizons.

One such opportunity will occur in our own backyard in Toronto, Canada on August 10-12, 2001.

The opportunity is one of only two Presidential Conferences to be held in the Western Hemisphere during Rotary year 2001-02. What is a Presidential Conference? It is many things. It's recognizing that all Rotarians can't get to the International Convention (this year was in Texas, next year in Spain). It's recognizing that many Rotarians want to learn more about their organization and how they can help move it forward.

The Presidential Conference to be held in Toronto is a unique opportunity for local Rotarians to attend a two-day meetingwith the most senior leaders of Rotary International, including the 2001-2002 Rotary international President, Rick King.

You'll learn more about Rotary's Global Quest. The Toronto Conference will be an excellent opportunity to really delve into just what the "Quest" entails and how Rotary International will support it in terms of media outreach and club support.

Check the R.I. website (www.rotary.org) for details on registration and housing information or contact R.I. Registration Services at: rireg@rotaryintl.org or telephone: 847-866-3495; fax 847-866-3064.

Please give the Toronto Conference wide visibility within your club; our hope is that each Club can determine how to have at least one member attend.

Yours in Rotary.

Peter Johnson

### District 7780 Attendance and Membership

Club	Members at Start of year	Members This report	Gain/Loss Year-to-date	Percent Attendance
Bath	61	57	4	N/R
Bath Sunrise	20	22	2	88%
Bethel	39	35	4	N/R
Biddeford-Saco	64			N/R
Boothbay Harbor	56	501	-6	N/R
Bridgton-Lake Regi	on 21	19	-2	95%
Brunswick	121	122	1	N/R
Brunswick Coastal	16	13	-3	70%
Casco Bay Sunrise	30	32	2	77%
Damariscotta-New C	Castle 48	44	-4	N/R
Dover	78	83	5	N/R
Durham-Great Bay	57	57	0	N/R
Exeter	42	44	2	N/R
Freeport	36	41	5	. N/R
Fryeburg Area	26	23	-3	N/R
Hampton	61	56	-5	N/R
Kennebunk	86	85	-1	N/R
Kennebunk Portside	39	36	-3	N/R
Kittery	24	26	2	N/R
Newburyport	74	78	4	N/R
Ogunquit	36	33	-3	N/R
Oxford Hills	63	58	-5	83%
Portland	189	187	-2	63%
Portsmouth	246	251	5	70%
Portsmouth Sunrise	30	30	0	N/R
Rochester	77	74	-3	N/R
Rumford	38	37	-1	N/R
Saco Bay	66	71	5	N/R
Sanford-Springvale	60	49	-11	76%
Scarborough	24	28	4	78%
Seabrook-Hampton	Falls 20	16	4	N/R
Somersworth	24	28	4	N/R
South Berwick	43	46	3	85%
So. Portland-Cape E	liz. 52	58	6	78%
Wells	53	48	-5	N/R
Westbrook-Gorham	42	39	-3	N/R
Windham	39	40	1	N/R
Yarmouth	38	42	4	N/R
York	63	65	2	N/R
TOTAL	2202	2123		

DISTRICT 7780

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<sup>\*</sup> NR indicates no report was submitted

### Our Year I

Just about a year ago, we were gathered in South Portland at the last District Conference of the twentieth century, preparing to embark upon a journey which has proven to be the most exciting and far beyond the dreams of many of us. We rose to the challenge of R.I. President Frank Devlyn, to Create Awareness & Take Action, and we did just that. We accepted the commitment to move forward, thereby ensuring the strength of Rotary International throughout the world.

We began the summer by teaming up with the Portland Sea Dogs with the First Annual Rotary Takes a Swing at Homelessness and were successful in raising over \$25,000 and collecting over fifty cases of food items to be distributed throughout the District. In future years, there is no limit to what we can raise for funds and food at this event.

This year's support of Rotaplast, although not officially sanctioned as a Rotary Foundation program, far surpassed last year and we were successful in funding and providing personnel for a surgical team to travel to Venezuela where the faces of tiny children and adults were repaired and their dignity restored.

Once again, as in past years, our District hosted several groups of teenagers from Northern Ireland in the Friends Forever Program. It is no wonder that the Rotary Foundation has supported Friends Forever with Children's Opportunity Grants.

As individuals and clubs, we supported Maine Children's Cancer Program at the auction sponsored by the Rotary Club of Casco Bay Sunrise. Then, in the middle of a very bleak winter, the Rotary Club of Windham did a whale-of-a-job at their First Annual Ice Fishing Tournament on Sebago Lake, where funds were raised for Maine Children's Cancer Program, Camp Sunshine and The Rotary Foundation.

On the international scene, we applied for and were approve for several Matching Grants, Helping Grants, New Opportunity Grants, Community Assistance Program Grants and 3-H Grants. Among these were: Purchasing a solar-powered generator to provide power and hot water for a convent school in Kenya; funding the refurbishing of a church in South Africa to

serve as an AIDS clinic; funding a New Opportunities Grant for travel to the Dominican Republic; funding shipment of medical supplies to the Dominican Republic; funding the drilling of fresh-water wells in the Philippines; funding a food pantry for the town of Falmouth; raising funds and gaining Matching Funds for the compilation of over SIX THOUSAND EMERGENCY KITS to be distributed to earthquake victims in Gujerat, India; and funding the creation of the Rotary Compassionate Care Hospice for AIDS babies in South Africa. There are other grant applications still in the works!

At home, we chartered several INTERACT clubs, including Exeter, NH, Yarmouth, ME and are working to charter York, ME and Brunswick, ME. We also are in the final stages of obtaining the charter for our 40th club - The Rotary Club of Falmouth, ME.

The array of club projects throughout the year is imaginative and staggering with respect to the broad scope of service to our communities, from planting a meditation garden at a hospice, to creating a garden for wheelchair-bound people; from funding the installation of a public drinking fountain to cleaning up the waterfront at a beach on the Maine coast; from raising money and having fun at several Rotary TV auctions to sponsoring numerous road races throughout the District.

We can all take pride in knowing we met the challenge to

Create Awareness & Take Action.



### n Rotary





The First Family!
DG Elias, daughter Heather, & wife, Jane.



You never know WHO will show up at a Rotary meeting. Alan (Elvis) Nye - Portland Rotary Club



SOME people always manage to get the BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE!
Gift presented to DG Elias from the Bethel Rotary Club.



Rotary Grove dedication on Portland Trails along Portland waterfront - Portland Rotary Club





Alan Frumkin, R.I. President's Representative, DG Elias and District 7780
Outgoing and Incoming GSE Teams



### DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2001

District 7780 Conference has come and gone. We did our best to provide a facility that made all conference participants and their families comfortable. The **Spruce Point Inn** exceeded our expectations.

Our daily schedule provided time to include all required Rotary meetings and events in the morning and evening. In fact, we even had a bit extra in the way of programs! The afternoons were free time to enjoy with family, to forge new and renewed friendships with fellow Rotarians.

Plenary sessions and breakout discussions focused on strategies to strengthen and enhance Rotary's image.

Our thanks to everyone who worked on organizing this conference and to those who donated goods, services or funding that made this conference possible.

Here are just a few of the comments we received about the Conference and we would like to share them:

"The relaxed atmosphere and schedule allowed the participants to undertake much Rotary business, enjoy GREAT Rotary fellowship and leave feeling exhilarated, not exhausted".

"Having attended about 10-12 District
Conferences, I found this to be one of the BEST.
For me, the District Conference should be more about inspiration than information, just as the District Assembly should be more about Information, rather than inspiration".

"It was a GREAT Conference. We enjoyed ourselves very much....could have spent many more days at the beautiful Spruce Point Inn. Saw good friends, made new friends and came away with a renewed sense of why I participate in Rotary, its philosophies and programs".

"...was full of information and inspiration. We need to have repeated to go to subjects on the breakout sessions. A number of people wanted to go to subjects on the breakout sessions. A number of people wanted to go to subjects on the breakout sessions. A number of people wanted to go to subjects of the different subjects offered and had a difficult time choosing many of the different subjects offered and had a difficult time choosing because they were running concurrently".

"The feedback from the African GSE Team (District 9200) was extremely positive. They were so pleased with the warm reception extended to them on Saturday morning and during lunch, that they wanted to return for the Saturday evening banquet. They had a great time talking with District Rotarians and even participated in the dancing after the banquet. They had a truly wonderful time!"

"The plenary sessions seemed to be just the right amount of the right subjects, without pounding too sessions were interesting and valuable topics to

"I firmly believe that the District Conference should be a destination event, not a commuter event. My focus and attitude was not as good if I had been around the entire time. Commuting prohibits much of the inspiration from seeping into our pores and sustaining us, much less spreading the Gospel after the Conference".

"I liked the less formal approach. I also liked that we started early and ended early in the day, leaving more time for activities with family and friends".

"THE FOOD WAS TREMENDOUS, BUT THERE WAS TOO MUCH OF IT! WE NEED LIGHTER LUNCHES WITHOUT FEELING DEPRIVED".

#### DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2001 MEMORIES



"The Official Conference Greeter" DGN Tim Placey



Comedian - Bob Marley

#### "The Entertainment"



John Stirling South Berwick Rotary Club



DG Elias and Schooner Fare



"The Luncheon Meetings"



"The Dignitaries"

R.I. President's Representative Alan
Frumkin and DG Elias



"The Special Awards" R.I. President's Representative Alan Frumkin and Jane & DG Elias

Thanks to All Rotarians of District 7780



"All Those Old & New Rotarian Friends"



"And we danced the night away...."

Cathy & Alan Frumkin, R.I.

President's Representative



## ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 "TAKES A SWING AT HOMELESSNESS"



### Sunday, August 5th, 2001 Seadogs vs Trenton Thunder

at 1 p.m.

#### HADLOCK FIELD

Portland, Maine.

All proceeds will benefit shelters, soup kitchens and projects in Maine,
New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Top ticket sellers in each club gets a chance to take swings at winning prizes!

General Admission ALL Tickets - \$5.00 - Contact your club President

Encourage EACH person to bring at least one item of NON-PERISHABLE food to the game.

All food donations will go to food banks in the District.

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