

**This evening is not just about the office of District Governor. It is about the Clubs and those who serve in the greatest office of Rotary – the Club Presidents, those who have served in the past, those current and those soon to be.**

**This evening will begin with a presentation of an award that came to my mailbox recently, so if we go a bit longer than previously thought, I hope you all understand.**

**RI Director Ken Grabeau had planned to be with us this evening to present this award personally. Tragically a member of his family died in an auto accident last evening and I ask that your thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family. He wishes he could be here and he sends his congratulations.**

**The RI Significant Achievement Award is a distinct honor for a club to receive. Projects for this award illustrate Rotary's avenue of Community Service in action and they provide models for other Rotary clubs to follow. Only projects carried out by a single club are eligible for this award and only one club per district may be nominated. The project should address a significant need and enhance the image of Rotary in the local community.**

**Tonight's award demonstrates the spirit of cooperation between Rotary, local government, businesses and volunteers and is a great example of our theme of Building Communities, Bridging Continents. It is an excellent example of a project that binds the members of a Rotary Club in continuous leadership and fellowship. This is clearly evident by the number of past presidents here this evening accepting this award. It should be noted that Rotary International awarded only 143 of these awards from over 33,000 Rotary clubs worldwide for the 2010-2011 Rotary year.**

**On behalf of President Ray Klinginsmith, RI Director Ken Grabeau, and the District, congratulations to Westbrook-Gorham for you're many years of dedicated service to your community.**

**And now, I have a few people/clubs to recognize and then I will deliver my brief closing remarks once the awards are given.**

**Two clubs who for various reasons did not receive the Presidential Citation need to come forward for this award. I am especially proud to report that 20 clubs received the Presidential Citation this year.**

**Would Mary Rennie from the Fryeburg Club and John Dennen from the Brunswick Coastal club please come forward.**

**I also request the following clubs to see me not now but immediately after this event for other awards that were not picked up at District Conference – Sanford-Springvale, Freeport and Fryeburg for Presidential Citation for their Interact Clubs, Ogunquit club for Zone Water Award, Biddeford-Saco for the Zone PR Award, District Literacy Awards for Bridgton-Lakes Region, Newburyport, Dover and Freeport.**

**I have three special recognitions to make this evening.**

**This club focused on an effort to build and retain its membership making major changes - they changed their meeting time from a Monday noon to a Tuesday morning, with every third week meeting more socially at 4:30PM as a way to introduce potential new members to Rotary. They also changed their meeting location and one of their priorities for their new site was handicapped accessibility for their visitors. And last but not least they changed their name in an effort to be more inclusive of the communities they serve. These changes for the better have increased membership with 10 new members. I commend the leadership of their creative president, Rich Allen. The Most Innovative Club for 2010-2011 goes to the Rotary Club of River Valley (Greater Rumford Area).**

**This last club recognition goes to a club that I take particular pride in their accomplishments. They have seen their share of**

struggles as so many clubs occasionally do. But the members persevere, continuing to put service first, both locally and globally. They too have made improvements that have increased their membership and strengthened retention. A key element to this club's success has been their emphasis on seeking ways to educate and inspire their members on Rotary. It has given me great pleasure to work with the members of this club and I applaud the efforts of President Rick Murphy. The 2010-2011 Award for Greatest Emphasis on Leadership goes to the Rotary Club of Scarborough.

For my final award this evening I want to recognize an individual whose dedication and hard work helped to make this year a success. This person gave of his time and his resources to help create the most successful district project ever. There are more than 5500 people whose lives will be changed due to the efforts of our district wide collection of mobility devices. There were multiple people who contributed greatly to the success of our Crutches4Africa project and I am grateful to all of them, but in the end, there is always one person who has to take the lead. I personally am grateful for all that he has done. So with sincere appreciation and recognition of outstanding dedication and service to the ideals of Rotary, I gratefully acknowledge the 2010-2011 District Rotarian of the Year, from the RC of Saco Bay, Dennis Robillard.

This Rotary year has truly been a rewarding and humbling experience.

Since the inspirational changeover dinner of last year it has truly been an amazing time for Michael and myself.

The successful achievements of this year reflect the collective efforts and wisdom of the dedicated Rotarians in 7780 rather than of one person.

It would be impossible to mention them all but lets just say it was time for the winds of change. I want to remark on the few I consider being our top achievements district wide. The first is our new website. Change is always a challenge but the major

kinks have been worked out, more clubs have joined Club Runner and as time goes by the positives will be enhanced for greater communication purposes. Once again I give thanks to Dick Hall for stepping in to get us moving and I know that next year's webmaster will contribute even greater to the success. Second, the District Protection Policy was a huge initiative in itself. Most importantly it brought greater awareness to what we need to be aware of in a world filled with potential troubles. Although controversial at times I don't think anyone would deny that the conversations needed to take place and the awareness needed to be greater. We achieved that. Third, is the Crutches4Africa project. Not so much the project emphasis itself but the realization that it takes all of us working together to create a greater impact. And most importantly, something I stressed from the beginning, it demonstrated that communication between clubs needs to be promoted, endorsed and encouraged. Club Visioning is a program that I feel has done the most to give direct assistance to our clubs. The success of this program will take time to measure but I am confident that the success will be highly beneficial. And it is the clubs who will benefit directly.

Last but not least is the Polio Awareness that has taken place this year.

Our successful PR campaign, the illumination of the Portland Museum and the individual club projects were outstanding. The clubs have been amazing and I don't have the words to thank you.

I believe we are who we are because of those around us.

I want to thank the members of the Rotary Club of Casco Bay Sunrise for their continued support. I also thank all who served on any district committee this year for your dedication. I am eternally grateful to the greatest 2010-2011 club presidents and my team of assistant Governors. I am sorry that time does not allow me to name you all. I would ask you to stand and be recognized.

**It is the generous men and women of our Rotary clubs quietly doing great things that make this district so wonderful and without you there would not be a district. Rotary is grateful. I am grateful. You walked through the door of a club to become a Rotarian. I urge you to keep walking, say yes to every opportunity Rotary can offer you. You have the chance to touch so many people, to inspire them, to lift them. As PRIP Cliff Dochterman reminded at the beginning of our year – real happiness is helping others.**

**My goal this year was to inspire, to lead by example, to share with you what my experiences in Rotary have taught me and to expose you to the greater Rotary world beyond your club. I hope I have succeeded in some small way.**

**At midnight June 30 I stop being your District Governor. But I want you to know that I remain your greatest admirer. I return to being what I have always been first and foremost, a Rotarian and a member of a Rotary Club. Words fail to express my sincerest thanks for your friendship and for all you do.**

**It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you and our great organization as District Governor. I wish you greater successes in the years to come as we continue to Build Communities and Bridge Continents together.**

**Before I conclude my address tonight I want to acknowledge and thank the most important person to me during my year as Governor, whose love and support has allowed me to do this job. In many ways, he has been the “Unsung Hero” in our district. My husband, Michael Nazemetz.**

