



**Peace Through Service**  
Sakujii Tanaka  
Rotary International President  
2012-13

# District 7780 Newsletter



**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

**SERVICE Above Self**



YOU ARE THE MISSING PIECE.

Wed May 01, 2013

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## Mark Your Calendar

**Rotary Generations & Long-Haulers - rescheduled**  
May 10, 2013 12:15 PM - 02:00 PM

**Newburyport Club's 90th Anniversary!**  
May 11, 2013

**Grants Management Seminar**  
Spruce Point Inn  
May 17, 2013 09:00 AM - 01:00 PM

**District Conference**  
Spruce Point Inn  
May 17, 2013 09:00 AM - May 18, 2013 10:30 PM

**Visioning Facilitators Workshop**  
May 30, 2013 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

**RYLA Conference**  
Jun 23, 2013 - Jun 26, 2013

**2013 International Convention**  
Jun 23, 2013 - Jun 26, 2013

**2013 Zone 24-32 meeting**  
Sep 19, 2013 - Sep 21, 2013

**District Service Project**  
Sep 28, 2013

**Northeast Link - Networking - Training - Resource**  
Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA  
Sep 28, 2013 08:30 AM - 09:30 PM

**Rotary Leadership Institute**  
Oct 19, 2013

**Zone New Generation Assembly**  
Dec 14, 2013

**Mid Year Leadership Dinner 2014**  
Jan 27, 2014

**World Understanding and Peace Dinner**  
Feb 22, 2014

**Northeast PETS training**  
Mar 06, 2014 - Mar 08, 2014

**District Assembly 2014**  
Apr 12, 2014 08:00 AM - 02:00 PM



## Recognizing the "I" in Sustainability

The goal is remarkable: To eliminate illiteracy in the nine-village area of Sumpango, Guatemala, in just five years. In a country where 50 percent of kids never finish the sixth grade, and where only 10 percent make it through high school, this goal is awesome indeed. But the members of the Guatemala Sur Rotary Club are not only dead serious about their intent, they are close to reaching their first milestone toward its fulfillment.

Take note: The Rotary club wouldn't even be able to dream of such lofty ambitions without the new Foundation grant-making

requirements. Why? The secret is sustainability.

The new Rotary Foundation guidelines demand that Rotary grants be sustainable. This seems a reasonable requirement, especially since we now know that over the years, too much grant money has gone into well-meaning projects that were financed with great effort, inaugurated with much fanfare, and soon thereafter abandoned. It turns out that it's one thing to create a computer lab or build a water system or outfit a clinic. But inevitably the computer goes down, a replacement bolt is needed on the pump, the clinic roof leaks, and when there's no resources in the community to make repairs, the project quickly gathers dusts. Too many of us who have traveled in developing countries have seen the Rotary wheel proudly displayed ... on something that was clearly abandoned a good while ago.

When the Guatemala Sur Rotary Club got involved in the new Foundation grant-making rules, they realized that they had been spreading themselves too thin. In their zeal to help as many people as possible, they had taken on numerous projects that called for ongoing resources or oversight long after the grant was completed. And with some of these projects as much as five hours distant from their homes in Guatemala City, they recognized that they had been guilty of less oversight than needed.

The club members discussed this honestly with one another. They determined that the solution was to concentrate their resources and their time in one area – Sumpango – and one goal – the elimination of illiteracy. They chose literacy

**2014 District Conference**  
May 16, 2014 - May 17, 2014

**2014 International Convention - Sydney**  
Jun 01, 2014 - Jun 04, 2014

**World Understanding and Peace Dinner 2015**  
Feb 21, 2015 05:00 PM - 08:00 PM

**RI International Convention in Sao Paulo**  
Jun 05, 2015 - Jun 08, 2015

**RI International Convention in Seoul**  
May 29, 2016 - Jun 01, 2016

**Applications Due By  
June 1st for Community  
& Springboard Grants**

**Grant Applications**

Don't forget, applications for community & springboard grants are due by June 1st. All details are on the district website [www.rotary7780.org](http://www.rotary7780.org) Click on **foundation & grants** at the top of the home page, click again on **grants** and all the information you need is there - timelines, club qualification, criteria, the application and more. Be sure your club is eligible to receive foundation dollars for the upcoming year. Remember, two members must have attended a grant management seminar this year. The last seminar is scheduled for Friday, May 17th. Clubs also need to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Pre-qualification is easy, but it is mandatory as more responsibility of stewardship, recordkeeping

because education is the basis of so much else. They chose Sumpango because it is a mountainous region of nine impoverished villages. Because they already had contacts there. Because Sumpango is a size that they felt was manageable. And – this is key-- because Sumpango is only one hour's drive from most of their homes and offices. Club members agreed, right from the start, that every Thursday at least some of them would drive out to Sumpango to check on the progress of their work. They agreed from the get-go to make sustainability an integral feature of the project.

Even though the goal is literacy, Guatemala Sur didn't start with books and computers. They started with infrastructure: sanitation, potable water and kitchen facilities, electricity. One of the reasons children can't learn is poor nutrition. One of the reasons girls drop out of school is a too-frequent lack of decent toilets. So the Rotarians worked with the municipal government, hired an architect and a project planner, and set to work making the school buildings in the Sumpango region places where children can learn.

It's taken more than two years, but today, the electricity, kitchens and toilet blocks are either well under way or completed. Guatemala Sur didn't approach this project alone: With the support of the local government and the parents and principals, fathers have volunteered their time to work as laborers alongside skilled masons and electricians and plumbers. Guatemala Sur has provided oversight and logistics, and the money required -- \$165,000 in Rotary Foundation grant money – has been raised by about 20 clubs in the United States.

Already, Guatemala Sur is looking toward the next step – and is confident its US Rotary partners will stay on board. The next grant will involve books, computer labs, and teacher training. There's more: The Rotary club is in talks with other Guatemala City clubs that have seen the results and are preparing to adopt geographic areas of their own. And Rotary International is taking a keen interest – Guatemala Sur will speak about the concept in a plenary session at the International Convention in Lisbon next month.

The District 7780 Service Tour members saw all this while we were in Guatemala. I believe it's worth describing in some detail because this project points to both the promise – and the peril -- of Rotary's new grant-making rules. The promise is the opportunity to make real, sustainable change. And the peril – ah, that's where "I" come in.

In the past, one of the thrills of the Rotary Foundation grant process has been that Rotarians could come back from a trip to Guatemala (or the Dominican Republic or Africa or wherever) with fire in their eyes and a determination to do something tangible for the children they had seen in an orphanage or school or community. I have been one of those Rotarians just returned from a week's jaunt overseas, and I can attest to the power of being able to do something specifically for the children who need so much and ask for so little – children I have met – children with names like Roberto and Elena and Carlos.

But now, in order to effect larger, more sustainable change, we US Rotarians must learn to channel our energies and emotions to projects selected by in-country Rotarians who, after all, know what needs to be accomplished far better than we

and grant management is shifted from Rotary Headquarters down to districts and clubs.

If you have questions, please contact our Foundation District Chair, Peter Johnson at [pncjohns@me.com](mailto:pncjohns@me.com) and begin the process of applying for a community and/or springboard grant today.

### High School Students Compete at District 4-Way Test Speakoff



District 7780 held its 5th Annual Rotary 4 Way Test and Essay Speaking Contest on April 8th at the Falmouth High School. If you were unable to attend, you missed meeting an amazing group of young people from over the district who presented very compelling speeches that challenged not only the audience, but our judges who had the difficult task of choosing a winner. As the judges convened to pick their finalist, the audience was delighted to be given an outstanding presentation by the local Karate Club of Falmouth who were getting ready for their National Championships. When all was said and done, Brianna O'Brien from Winnacunnet

ever can. We must recognize that “a rising tide lifts all boats,” and that the way to help the Roberto or Elena who moved us to action is to turn our attention to a child or community that has already been scoped out by a local club such as Guatemala Sur.

We’re Americans, and this will be challenging for us. Individualism is borne into our psyche; our inclination is to stretch out our hand to the place where we know the need is greatest. And also, since our function is to raise the funds, we’re too-often accustomed to getting our own way. But if we truly want to make change – sustainable change – we need to learn that it’s no longer all about us. Truth be told, it never was.

I’m awed by the promise of the new Rotary grant model. But I know that the biggest factor in its success will not be any of the problems inherent in the developing world. It will be the willingness of Rotarians right here in the developed world to see less of themselves – less “I” – and to trust and allow local clubs like Guatemala Sur to show us where our dollars can have the greatest impact. --Marty Peak Helman, District Governor

## District News



### Everybody's Coming to the 2013 District Conference

Posted by Martha Helman

A fabulous two days of programming and speakers and camaraderie and Rotariana are set for the weekend of May 17-18 at the 2013 District Conference. The lineup includes world-class speakers, reports on innovative club projects and ways to get involved, celebration of all we’ve accomplished and spotlights on a few remarkable Rotarians who are integral to this District. All this in historic Spruce Point Inn in Boothbay Harbor.

This being a Rotary event, it wouldn’t be complete without a Silent Auction with all proceeds going to support The Rotary Foundation and all the humanitarian work we do.

[Read more...](#)



### GSE Team Hit the Ground Running

Posted by Penny Jett

Our outbound group study exchange team, led by Rotarian Sheila Rollins has had a first week full of amazing experiences, overwhelming emotions and great hosts! Arriving in Abuja, Nigeria the team wasted no time in visiting special needs facilities where teachers and directors were interested in having the team share their vast knowledge and experience in working with special needs children. The team also enjoyed visiting local Rotary clubs and touring the growing and wonderful city of Abuja.

[Read more...](#)

High School and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Hampton was this years District 7780 2013 Four Way Test and Essay Speaking Contest Winner and the recipient of a \$500.00 cash award. You can have the opportunity to hear Brianna's speech in Boothbay Harbor where she will speak before conference attendees. All the young people from across our District deserve kudos for all the hard work that went into preparing their speeches and all the local Rotary Clubs who sponsored them as well. Special thanks to Rotary Club of Falmouth for hosting this years District Four Way Speech and Essay Contest.

### New Name, Same Great Rotarians!



President Shirley Mooers is pleased to announce that The Rotary Club of Breakwater Daybreak has officially changed its name to the Rotary Club of South Portland Sunrise. The club members continue to meet on Wednesday mornings from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on the main campus of Southern Maine Community College overlooking Casco Bay.



### No Problem - GSE Team Finally Arrives in US

Posted by David Reid

After serious travel delays due to Lufthansa going on strike on Monday, April 22 the GSE in-bound team from Nigeria finally arrived in Boston on Tuesday night at 5:30 PM via Paris on Air France. Tired from their travel delays the 4 member GSE team (Mike team leader, Femi, Ogechi and Dele) finally arrived in New Hampshire around 8PM on Tuesday night. Although their planned welcome reception with the Hampton Club on Monday night and their vocation day at the University of New Hampshire on Tuesday were canceled due to the team's late arrival the team was in good spirits and were happy to be in the USA as they uttered "No Problem" when we apologized for their late arrival.

[Read more...](#)



### Rotary Democracy At Work - The Council on Legislation

Posted by Daniel Mooers

On April 21, 2013, Rotary's triennial Council on Legislation (COL) was convened in Chicago, IL. Representatives representing each District in the Rotary world, along with other non-voting member and a limited number of "observers", spent five days debating, examining and voting on proposed amendments to Rotary's "constitutional documents" and suggestions to the RI Board concerning the operations of Rotary. PDG Peter Johnson was District 7780's representative at this year's COL.

[Read more...](#)



### Rotary Tattoo, Anyone?

Posted by Martha Helman

Rotary is (almost) unique in the incredible loyalty it engenders among its members. Our District is fortunate to have many members who can count their Rotary service in decades, and others who grew up the sons and daughters (and occasionally the grandchildren) of Rotarians.

Now, all Rotarians who share intergenerational Rotary family members, and all those who have been members for two decades or more (that's since 1993, when PDG Mort Schmidt was our District Governor) are invited to a special meeting to celebrate this history.

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### You Can Put a Smile on a Child's Face

Posted by Ann Demeranville

Check out the beautiful and colorful quilt made in Guatemala that will be raffled to help raise funds for our district-sponsored Rotaplast mission to Guatemala in 2014. Funds generated will help restore the smiles of over a hundred children who



**District 7780 Trivia**

Last month's District History Trivia Question had two parts:  
*How many clubs transferred from District 779 to District 778 on July 1, 1990? Which Clubs were they?*

NO WINNER this month!

For the answer to last month's trivia question, click on the trivial link [History Trivia](#)

This month's District History Trivia Question again has two parts:

**Which clubs transferred from District 7790 to District 7780? When did they become part of District 7780?**

If you can find the answer in the District Website's Yearbook page, send it to me at [mawilliamspdg@comcast.net](mailto:mawilliamspdg@comcast.net). The answer will be in next month's news bulletin along with the name of the first person to give me the correct answer along with their club name.

Marie A. Williams, District Historian

**Club Fundraisers**

were born with cleft lip or cleft palate. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the District Conference: \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Please contact Rotaplast Ambassador Ann Demeranville at [Rotaplast7780@gmail.com](mailto:Rotaplast7780@gmail.com) to help sell tickets.

[Read more...](#)



### Clubs Understand the Importance of Working Together to Make Bigger, Bolder Impact

Posted by Patricia Peterman

The new grants program may just be starting on July 1st for our district, but Rotarians and clubs in district 7780 are already understanding the value and meaning of cooperative joint efforts in making sustainable change around the world. Check out another great project as reported by Bonnie Peterman of the South Berwick-Eliot Club. The Eben Ezer School had 35 students in two classrooms in Milot, Haiti, when residents and Rotarians in Southern Maine first got involved. The school had been founded in 2003 by Lucia Anglade, a Haitian American, on the land where she and her siblings grew up. Anglade, who lived with her five children in Long Island, had started the school with \$5,000 of her own money.

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### Your Club Had a Vision Facilitation Event. What's Next?

Posted by Sue Gesing

Forty Rotarians attended the District Assembly workshop in April for clubs that had participated in the visioning process or were interested in learning more. District Vision Facilitation Coordinator Tony Wagner introduced three speakers: Matt Silva, Rotary Club of Dover; Ranjit Gill, Rotary Club of Freeport and Dave Underhill, Rotary Club of Portsmouth who told success stories about their clubs' efforts. A lively question and answer session followed.

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### Kennebunk Interactors Enjoy Spring Break? You Bet They Did!

Posted by Normand Labbe

Thirteen Kennebunk Rotary Interact club members from Kennebunk High School returned recently from a one-week service trip to Mazatenango, Guatemala. Raising over \$20,000 to fund their trip and the projects they worked on, they had a life-changing experience; working alongside local residents, building a much-needed home and fabricating and installing drinking water filters. In addition to their busy work schedule, they managed to visit some ancient Mayan and Olmec ruins and toured Antigua, one of Guatemala's early capitals.

[Read more...](#)



The Rotary year may be winding down, but clubs are still active in all of their fundraising activities. Check out the link below and see what clubs have lined up over the next few weeks. You'll be glad you checked it out.

[Club Fundraising Page](#)

### Speakers Bureau



Looking for a program speaker? Our district team members are prepared and excited about the opportunity to speak at your club and share their passion and expertise about various Rotary programs, projects, our Foundation and so much more.

Check out who is available on our new 'Rotary Speakers Bureau' site page.

[Speakers Bureau Page](#)

### District Facebook



How many of your fellow club Rotarians are on facebook? Let's get 100% of all members who are on facebook to like our 'District 7780 Facebook Page'. The district facebook page is where clubs can post what's



### Rotary International Receives Silver Edison Award

Posted by Penny Jett

RI President Sakuji Tanaka accepted the silver Edison Award during the annual Edison Awards gala held April 25th in Chicago. The **Future Vision Plan** received top honors among funding models competing in the Lifestyle and Social Impact category. Nominee ballots were judged by a panel of more than 3,000, including members of seven associations that represent a wide range of industries and disciplines.

[Read more...](#)



### Rotarians Return from Service Trip to Guatemala

Posted by Marjorie Barker

Last year, at our District Assembly, DG Marty announced a collaboration between she and DGE Carolyn Johnson to take willing Rotarians to Guatemala. The focus was literacy and an opportunity to learn the power of Rotary and its Foundation. The trip did not disappoint. Fourteen eager Rotarians representing eight different clubs brought medical and school supplies to share with the children of some of the poorest areas in Central America. We saw the work of local Rotarians and how far our Foundation dollars can go with their selfless oversight and dedication. We met Kennebunk Interact students and Rotarians spending their spring break installing water filters and building safe sustainable housing in a rural village.

[Read more...](#)



### Safe Drinking Water Primary Focus

Posted by Normand Labbe

For the past four years, the Kennebunk Club has been working with Partners in Development (pidonline.org), a small, effective non profit organization based in Ipswich MA, which strives to help the extreme poor attain independence and whole life improvement. They have operations in Blanchard, Haiti and in the Mazatenango region of Guatemala. Our club has been primarily focusing on their operation in Guatemala. One of the primary challenges in this area is the availability of safe drinking water. The severity of the issue is quantified in the statistic that over 90% of the local residents have tested positive for intestinal parasites.

[Read more...](#)

Club News

happening in their own club and share it with members throughout the district. The opportunity to communicate information from Newburyport to Boothbay Harbor and everything in between is just a few keystrokes away.

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It was with great pleasure that the Saco Bay Rotary Club honored distinguished Rotarians Al Hills and David Green for celebrating 60 years in rotary. The club presentation was made by District Governor Marty Helman: Marty added that she could not miss 122 years of rotary service that these Rotarians provided since they were in their late 20's.

In 1935, Al attended his first Rotary meeting in Montreal, Canada with his father. This father/son meeting was meant to introduce sons of Rotarians to the ideals of Rotary- Al was 12 years old. On June 1st, 1951, Al joined the Randolph, MA Rotary club and became its president in the early 60's. Upon his retirement in 1999, Al moved to Maine and joined the Saco Bay Rotary Club. To this day, with help from his Rotarian friends, Al remains an active member of our club.



David Green was first inducted into the Sherbrooke Rotary Club April 15, 1953. He later transferred to the Lakeshore Club and became president. Upon retirement, David was in line for a second term as president of a club of 500 members, but moved to Ocean Park, Maine. David joined the Saco Bay Rotary Club in 1995. He insists he sponsored Al Hills for membership, as he didn't want to be the oldest member of the club! With help from David's esteemed friend and Rotarian Dennis Robillard, David remains an active member of Saco Bay, sitting on a district committee as recently as 2 years ago. Please join us in congratulating Al Hills and David Green in achieving this milestone. The distinguished "Service Above Self" awards will be proudly displayed at the Captain Galley Restaurant in OOB.