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THE FOUR-WAY TEST OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO

1. IS IT THE TRUTH?
2. IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERN?
3. WILL IT BUILD GOOD WILL
AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO
ALL CONCERN?



SPECIAL DISTRICT 5840 CONFERENCE EDITION

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Rotary District 5840 - South Central Texas



2017 Rotary District 5840 Conference

What a great Conference we had this year!! Our speakers were outstanding! PDG Greg Podd was our first speaker on Friday morning. He is the immediate past Zone Director for our Zone and the immediate past Rotary International Vice President. He answered questions from the audience about any and everything Rotary. At noon, Greg told us how Rotary Builds Peace Around the World. One of those ways is eradicating Polio. The last case of Polio was February 20, 2017. So far, this year we have had only 5 cases of Polio, worldwide!!!

The second speaker of the day was Elias Thomas, PDG of District 7780. Elias was our Rotary International President's Representative. He spoke at the BBQ prepared by the three Rotary Clubs in Fredericksburg. What great food!!!! Elias spoke about his experiences in India giving Polio vaccine during National Immunization Days. He has lead 17 teams to India for this purpose.

Friday afternoon, the Zone 21B&27 **#1 Public Image team** from District 5870, Patrick Harrison & Amber Scarborough, presented "Strengthening Rotary's Brand," a dynamic two-hour seminar focusing on the importance of properly branding your club as the "center of service" in your community. They began by emphasizing the need for each club to decide on their "three areas of passion". The next step they covered stressed the importance of keeping our visual identity consistent, and that we must use RI's Brand Central to make the most of our new brand identity. They highlighted the need for clubs to tell their stories on Rotary Showcase, and closed with the need for us all to embrace social media in getting Rotary's story out to the world. BIG KEY: Use hashtags and tagging when sharing your events and stories! Our deepest thanks to Patrick & Amber for so generously mentoring our PI team!

Gen. Mike Hagee, Retired Commandant of the US Marine Corp was our speaker on Saturday at noon. He is the President and CEO of the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg. He spoke about how war does not necessarily bring peace but aid given by the military does. He also answered questions from the audience.

Elias Thomas spoke to us again on Saturday evening. He spoke again about National Immunization Days in India and how those experiences had changed his life. He showed us what life is like in India through a few photos from his trips there. He invited us all to join him on his next trip to India in February 2018. If you would like to participate in a National Immunization Day and work project experience in India please contact Elias Thomas @ elias@exitkeyrealestate.com

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to thank the committee members that made the Rotary District 5840 Conference a huge success. My thanks go out to Jody Donovan, Mike Drew, Sarah Eckert, Jim Overman, Sheila Suggs and Alice White.



During the conference, there were several awards and honors presented to those individuals and clubs for their outstanding efforts in Rotary District 5840 for Rotary Year 2016-2017:

District Service Above Self Award:

Mike Canales, District Youth Services Chair

Membership awards:

Percentage (#) of new members:

Alamo Ranch Rotary Club

Number of new members:

Rotary Club of Fredericksburg

Public Image Awards

Over 30 Club Members:

Rotary Club of San Antonio

Under 30 Club Members:

Rotary Club of Wimberley

Global Grant Participant Awards:

Rotary Club of Boerne

Rotary Club of Boerne Moontime

Rotary Club of Boerne Sunrise

Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Ranch

Rotary Club of Fredericksburg Morning

Rotary Club of Kerrville

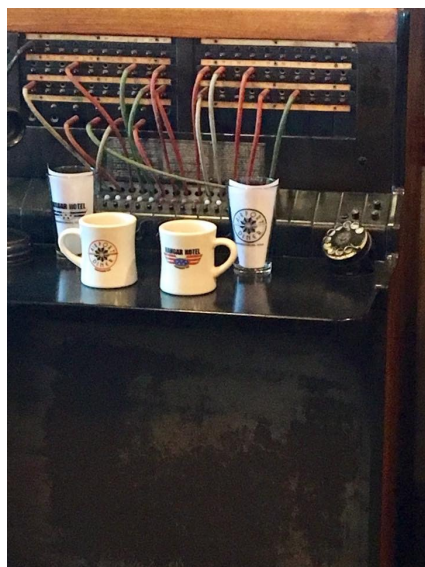
Rotary Club of San Antonio

Rotary Club of San Antonio North Central

Rotary Club of San Antonio West



The 2017 Rotary District 5840 Conference was held at The Hangar Hotel, Conference Center and Diner in historical Fredericksburg, Texas. Those attending the Conference might have thought that they had been transported back to 1947. Built new from the ground up, the Hangar Hotel was uniquely designed with an exterior appearance of a WWII hangar of the romantic 1940's. This exterior is an understatement of what will be experienced under the beautiful curved metal roof and bright white siding. The décor and furniture of the all the guest rooms are of the WWII period. Custom made chairs of the era, are constructed of soft, comfortable leather. Sleigh beds, with rattan inserts, and complimentary furniture are of mahogany. Thanks to www.hangarhotel.com for information about this wonderful getaway.



Rotary District 5840 Conference Raffle Cruise

Jackie Claunch from The Rotary Club of San Antonio both won and sold the winning cruise raffle ticket! Jackie gets to use two vouchers for cruise travel in Alaska, Europe, Caribbean, Mexico, or Bermuda. She will use a Balcony Stateroom on each trip.



Fun in Fredericksburg



On Sunday, during the District Conference, PDG Lou Miller announced that the clubs of District 5840 elected PDG Sherri Muniz as the Council on Legislation and Council on Resolutions Representative. She will represent our District at the 2017, 2018, and 2019 Councils on Resolutions and 2019 Council on Legislation. She will assist clubs in preparing proposed resolutions and enactments. PDG Lou also reported that PDG Stephanie Macchia is our alternate Representative. Thank you ladies for so proudly representing Rotary District 5840.



Start the Conversation on Human Trafficking

May 5, 2017 is the day District 5840 began the conversation on how we the Rotarians of this district could make an impact on stopping the scourge of human trafficking. This is what we do as Rotarians; we come together as leaders, we exchange ideas, and then we take action. It is time to exchange those ideas and decide on what action we can do.

What if tomorrow morning, you woke to find your daughter, Emily, is not in her room? She is an active 8th grader who is smart, articulate, loves her computer and has never left home without your permission. Over the next few hours you call everyone she knows and no one knows where she might be. You talk to the police and over the course of a few days more police. The police take some of Emily's stuff and her computer. They try to ping her I-phone to find her, but her GPS locator must be off. You try to understand why the police keep implying she may be a runaway.

Days change to months; your family has not been the same since Emily left. Her little sister cries when you say her name. Her little brother seems to have forgotten who she is. You and your husband rarely talk and you really don't even know who you are any more.

Then you get the word there has been a young girl matching Emily's description found in a raid in Houston. Five young girls found in deplorable conditions. You start to scream when the police tell you your daughter was a victim of sex trafficking. You start to think, yes, hope that maybe life can return to some sort of normalcy when Emily comes home. After a few more weeks, you bring Emily home. It is very clear very quickly to you and to your family this is not the girl that used to live in this house. The nightmare has not ended for Emily and not for you or your family. Who is there to help?

At the District Conference, we held a breakout session with very knowledgeable speakers to help us understand what is happening in Texas. The speakers are people who have stepped up to help in these gut wrenching situations that are occurring all over the country. The University of Texas study tells us there are about 79,000 youth that are victims of sex trafficking in Texas alone. There are 234,000 victims of labor trafficking. These traffickers exploit \$600 million in this trafficking in Texas alone. The youth sex trafficking alone costs Texas approximately \$6.6 billion. Not to mention the young lives and families this industry has destroyed. Can we as Rotarians turn a blind eye to this issue?

We learned from Judge Deeanne Galvan her initiatives in Nueces County to assist the adult victims of sex trafficking and those who purchase prostitution. We learned from Minta Moore and Cassandra Strom of their efforts in Corpus Christi to aid the girls enslaved in trafficking. Susan Burkholder told us of the efforts of groups in San Antonio, specifically Ransomed Life's efforts to aid the victims from our District. It is not a small feat to restore these victims to a life of hope and purpose.

Susan gave us some options on how we could MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the lives of these victims and just as importantly, to prevent further victims.

The attendees at the Breakout Session voted to work at a District level and at the Club level to help stop this epidemic.

- We can do what we can to prevent this from ever happening by making a stand against all forms of pornography. Pornography and greed is the underpinning of this industry that terrorizes its victims and steals their young lives.
- We can help to decrease children in foster care as 70% of the victims come out of this system. We already have Rotary clubs in our district that work very hard on adoption days to help children leave that system.
- We can assist groups like Ransomed Life and New Life Refuge as they help these victims restore their lives.
- We can encourage our legislatures to be active in ending these crimes and not punish the victims.

First lets work together to educate our Rotarians, each youth in all of our youth programs, and all the youth in Texas of this risk to their lives and of the risk of pornography to their minds and lives.

We will continue this conversation by identifying the Rotarians who are willing to step forward and join with us in beginning this initiative.

We cannot stand by and ignore the pain. Please contact us and join this effort.

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