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District Governor Tom Walker

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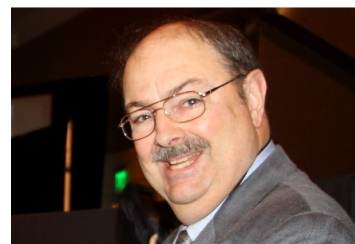


A Year to Remember ...



with DG Tom Walker

Greetings from Seoul and the 107th Annual Rotary International Convention. And what a convention it was! Eleven District 5520 Rotarians and family members got to experience the largest convention to date, meet about 45,000 fellow Rotarians from most of the countries in Rotary, hear world-class speakers on a variety of issues facing the world such as the effort to eliminate orphanages, the extent of family violence and what can be done about it, and, of course, our progress against polio... We truly are that close!



Mario Di Gesu (TorC) was there in the House of Friendship presenting the *Don't Meth With Us* project. The Prime Ministers of Korea and Sri Lanka addressed the assembled Rotarians as did UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

We elected District Governor Nominee Doreen Kelsey as District 5520 Governor for 2017-2018 and President-Nominee Ian Riseley as 2017-2018 Rotary International President. And, of course, there were the Korean people, culture, entertainment and food.

President Ravi reminded us that nearly a year ago each of us started the Rotary year with 366 days and one leap second to Be A Gift to the World. There are barely 30 days left until we begin the new Rotary year. We've accomplished a lot this year and there is still time to address some of those things that are still incomplete.

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**Rotary International**

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President: K. R. Ravindran
President-Elect: John F. Germ
Vice President: Greg E. Podd

Rotary District 5520

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District Leadership

Governor: Tom Walker
Governor-Elect: Dave Anderson
Governor-Nominee: Doreen Kelsey
Vice Governor: Bobby Wallace
Executive Secretary: Kathy Fuller
District Treasurer: John Gordon
District Finance: Kit Turpen
Immediate PDG: Lonnie Leslie
District Action Team Leaders
Lt. Gov.-North: Lleta Scoggins
Lt. Gov.-South: Jesse Allen
Lt. Gov.-Central: Tony Pino
Lt. Gov.-East: Sheryl Saavedra
Lt. Gov.-Southeast: Jim Hatcher

Committee Chairpersons

Membership: Kathie Williams
Foundation: Tom Lindsay
Global Awards: Darryl Gregerson
New Generations: Bobby Wallace
Alumni: Katie Updike
Public Relations: Mike Antiporda
Friendship Exchange: Donna Pedace
Historical: Dan Schulte
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Newsletter Editor: Ed Hughes

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The Governor-Elect's Corner:

Thanks to DG Tom and his mentorship

I can't believe how quickly this Rotary year is coming to an end. Just a few weeks and we will be saying farewell to DG Tom who has done an amazing job as our leader this year! Tom has worked tirelessly to strengthen our District. I can't imagine anyone can fill his shoes. He has tackled some really complex issues and given us all a roadmap to the future. I will always be indebted to his mentorship and look forward to building on the solid foundation he has created.

District 5520 has established a vision and goals for the coming year. As we implement these goals we will be working with all clubs to help them meet not only their local goals, but those of the District and Rotary as well.

Our first and most important goal is building membership.

Our very survival is dependent on attracting and retaining members. Our long-range vision is to reach and surpass our historical membership level.

Our entire District Leadership Team is committed to the goal of strengthening our clubs through the focused delivery of Rotary program information, helpful suggestions and direct assistance. Toward this end, we have developed a District Education Plan and asking our Assistant Governors to take a more active role in working with their assigned clubs. We also plan to continue encouraging all District Rotarians to attend Rio Grande Academy.

In this 100th Anniversary year of our Rotary Foundation, we would encourage all clubs to undertake humanitarian projects and service. This year we have significantly more money in our District Designated Funding to support Global and Community Grants. Unfortunately, Rotary's requires that we submit only once for all Community Grants. This requires clubs quickly plan their grant activities to enable our District Foundation Committee to submit the required information early in the year.

We would also like to place emphasis on fellowship within our District. Rotary was founded on the need to develop friendships with those we respect and trust. We believe strongly that clubs which promote joint and intra club activities are strengthened through that experience. Exchanging ideas and developing fellowship with fellow Rotarians should be a goal for every club and Rotarian. The District web site has a new calendar for clubs to post activities and we would encourage other clubs and Rotarians to have their own Rotary Friendship Exchange within the District.

— **Dave Anderson, District Governor-Elect**



DGE David Anderson

A year to remember ...with DG Tom Walker

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For instance, there's still time to complete your Paul Harris Society pledge or make that Every Rotarian Every Year or Polio Plus contribution that you intended to make.

Or maybe that Community Grant project is just about done except for the final report. Or maybe you can take advantage of the training that Jeff Weinrach has arranged before June 30.

It's also time to start thinking about attending the Centennial Rotary Foundation Celebration in Atlanta June 10-14, 2017. There's reduced registration available through June 6, 2016 and there are lots of great rooms available. Join me in attending next year's Convention in Atlanta!

In closing, I want to thank Ed Hughes for editing this newsletter so wonderfully this year. Besides being beautifully done, the newsletter was full of information, opportunities and district activities.

Thank all of you for the honor and privilege of serving you as Governor this year. Thank you for the trust, confidence and support you have provided. Thank each and every one of you for Being a Gift to the World and your service! Godspeed! — **District 5520 Governor Tom Walker**

Rotary membership worldwide is up

... but the ability to attract young professionals remains a challenge

As of April 30, 2016 worldwide membership in Rotary is 1,239,401, which represents growth of 29,910 above the July 1, 2015 figures. For the first time in decades membership has continued to increase in countries all around the world, but the challenge of maintaining that momentum looms large in front of us.

In Zones 21b and 27 total membership grew by 569 members during the same time period. District 5790 which represents North Central Texas and the over 40 clubs in the Fort Worth area had the most growth with 151 net new members.

There are 15 Districts in our Zone 27, which showed an increase of 149 net new members combined. District 5520's 68 clubs continue to trend upward with positive growth during this same time period, although plus 14 is a very modest increase. That is good news for an organization that was on the decline for decades. But we still have a long way to go. And it will remain an uphill battle for survival in North America mainly due to our ageing members, with the average Rotarian's age still close to 60, while over half of the world's population is younger than 30.

Rotary is still not attracting the young business professionals that it did years ago. And life is much more frantic now. With demands from careers and families, many young professionals just don't have time to make a commitment to an organization like Rotary. Most of the growth from clubs within our District has come from targeting this very group, with ideas like Satellite Clubs that allow for more flexibility in membership. Santa Fe, Los Alamos and Taos all enjoyed double digit growth last year due to these new initiatives.

Rotary is such a great organization it seems amazing that everyone wouldn't want to join. RI Zone Director, Brad Howard says that Rotary had become so focused on its ethos of "service above self" it had forgotten to serve the very people it was established to help. "We need to start talking about Rotary differently," he says. "You hear people say Rotary is the greatest service organization in the world. I disagree. We are a membership organization that does service."

We will always be an organization dedicated to service, but our continued growth and future success will be determined by our continued efforts to attract younger members while retaining our older ones.

--Kathie Williams, District Membership Chair

Rotary Friendship: Canada and NW Washington

A group of eight Rotarians/spouses were hosted in five different communities in southwestern Canada and northwestern Washington State for two weeks in June. Their hosts planned a wonderful schedule of activities that included lots of fellowship, as well as sightseeing and great food!

The following are just a few of their planned activities: a day's cruise along the Alberni Canal to the village of Ucluelet, attend a Rotary Club of Parksville's barbecue at a private home, visit the St Jean's Cannery – a fish processing plant in Nanaimo BC, visit the Pacific Northwest Raptor Center in Duncan, visit the famed Butchart Gardens in Victoria, enjoy boating and dinner at Mason Lake in Poulsbo, and visit sites in both Tacoma and Seattle, Wash.

The participants were Lonnie and Ardeth Leslie from Clovis, Jack and Renee Swickard from Roswell, Dan and Gerry Klingsmith from Socorro, and Nicholas and Lynna Blea from Los Lunas.

If you are interested in being added to the notification list to either travel to another district or to host RFE members when they visit our district, please get in touch with the D5520 RFE Chair, **Donna Pedace**, at either pedaceabq@aol.com or 505-349-8850.



Rotary to the Rescue: There is joy in Dominican Republic

In 2012, Dorothy Wilson, a member of the Rotary Club of Los Alamos, visited the Dominican Republic (DR). She observed that, because of a 2013 court ruling allowing the government to strip citizenship from residents of Haitian descent born in the DR, children of Haitian refugees residing in the DR were rendered undocumented. Haitian refugees were not eligible to attend schools or receive medical aid. Children were turned away from schools.

Members from the Club Rotario La Romana Rio Dulce in the DR had identified a building that could be used for the impacted students but it lacked basic necessities and equipment. The two Rotary Clubs joined together to solve the problem. The Rotary Club of Los Alamos raised \$6,000 from garage sales and the Rotary Club of Taos and of Santa Fe Centro contributed also. With a District matching grant and Rotary Foundation support, \$13,000 was made available for the project.

Rotary worked with the Fundación Comunidad Infantil Chaly, Inc., to equip the school with a well, potable water, latrines, educational materials, and furniture. The intended beneficiaries were undocumented children, including Haitian refugees and Dominican Republic orphans. The school opened in March, 2013. This village school in Cumajon in the DR now invests in the future of about 300 undocumented children by providing daycare, education, and medical attention. The children are given an opportunity for lives much better than offered by unskilled child labor and prostitution. The communities are improved by having the children in a supervised environment resulting in a skilled work force. – **Alison Pannell**



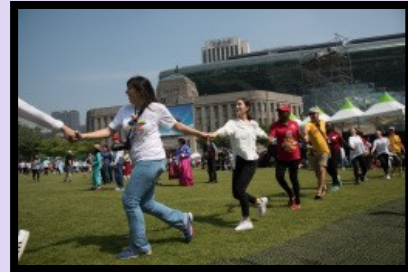
School children in Cumajon, DR

RI Conference Scenes from Seoul, Korea

Some 45,000 Rotarians gather from around the world



Korean dancers perform for the 107th annual Rotary Convention.



Rotarians from around the world hold hands in a symbolic showing that Rotary means friendship among many cultures and backgrounds, all seeking world peace in these times of economic strife and civil war.



Mario DiGesù, right, of TofC, with Luz Ofelia Garza of El Paso West at Mario's "Don't Meth With Us" Project booth at the RI Convention in Seoul, Korea.



Above: Luz Ofelia Gaarza of El Paso West welcomes a beautiful day in the park in Seoul during the RI Convention.



Left: RI President Ravi Ravindran and his wife Vanathy greet Rotary delegates at the opening of the Rotary International Convention in Seoul.

Rio Grande Academy: e-Assemblies off to a good start

We conducted two Grants Management Training online sessions in early June and both sessions were close to capacity, so we're looking to conduct a third session on June 9.

The first set of June e-Assemblies covering four of the five Avenues of Service were held on June 4. We do not train on Avenues of Service that often, so this served as a great opportunity to learn more about how they are integral to the success of any Rotary Club.

Other e-Assemblies addressing Club Committees and the fifth Avenue of Service (Youth/New Generations) will take place on other Saturdays in June. Registration for these sessions can be found in the Upcoming Events section on the District 5520 website.

If you have any questions about either the make-up Grants Management e-Assembly or the other June e-Assemblies, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone (505-400-1403) or by e-mail. -- **Jeff Weinrach, 2016-17 District Trainer**



Stitching a Better Future: Sewing classes aided by Rotary

Juarez, Mexico. – A private Catholic school here serves the poorest of the poor in Juarez, with most of its students' tuition paid by parents who work at the school — or who are learning how to sew dresses in dedicated to a program called Stitching a Better Future. The sewing machines were able to be bought by the school thanks to Rotary Clubs working in partnership via Global Grants — the Club Rotario Integro of Juarez and the Rotary Club of Albuquerque Del Norte.

A team of nine Del Norte Rotarians spent a full day looking at some of the international projects that were being sponsored by their club through Rotary Global Grants. They also visited a nursing school where Del Norte Rotary teamed with the Rotary Club of El Paso Camino Real to support "Learning to Heal," a three-year training program whereby students can receive their nursing certificate.

During their tour of the sewing class, mothers showed Rotarians how they had learned to sew pants, a skirt and a blouse in their first course. At the end of their three courses of 12 sessions each, they will also learn how to sew a wedding dress and eventually have the skills to sew for others, thus helping earn money for their families. — **Kim Helm**



Visiting Rotarians pose with mothers in their sewing class in Juarez, Mexico, a joint project of the Club Rotario Integro in Juarez and Albuquerque Del Norte Rotary in the US.

District 5520 doings: Across the border and at home



Rotarians from El Paso Camino Real and Los Alamos STAR Satellite Club visit needy kids in Juarez, Mexico. Both clubs are joint partners in their international project.



Rotarians from Juarez Integro, Albuquerque Del Norte and El Paso Camino Real clubs gather around "the world's largest Rotary wheel," after a day of touring various joint projects as part of joint international projects being conducted in Juarez, Mexico.



Antonio Cachazo and Martin Gomez of El Paso Camino Real Rotary pose for a photo after presenting a check for \$4,000 for GED scholarships for the Adult Education Program at Sacred Heart Church in El Paso.



Albuquerque Del Sol Rotarians gather around Gov. Susana Martinez showing off some of her photos at the Annual Governors' Charity Ball which raised money for three children's charities in New Mexico in May.



Left: Susan Fox of Rio Rancho Sunrise Rotary visits with Sarah Kesler, center, president of the UNM Rotaract Club, and other UNM students during a get-acquainted reception of Rotaract members and Rotarians who have agreed to serve as mentors, hosted by Albuquerque Del Norte Rotarian Norm Liss at his insurance firm.

Executive Secretary's Report: A Christmas letter in June



I am pondering what to write for the June newsletter and I have a sense that this may be something akin to my annual “Christmas letter” sent out to friends and family. Here we are wrapping up another year in Rotary. As I seem to think increasingly (a function of age?), and I have written in my Christmas letters for (at least) the past decade, how did the time pass so quickly?!?

As Club President, there are still some goals that I had hoped for us to achieve, but am thankful for the many things we were able to accomplish in making our Club stronger, and making a positive impact on our community, State, and the world around us! The baton is ready to be passed on to our incoming President.

As the District's Executive Secretary, I am in awe of the many, many Rotarians who collaborate to provide the training, encouragement, resources, and support of the work that we do as local Clubs and as a District, as well as the international organization of which we are members. The work that we do absolutely begins at the Club level. With that said, it is critically important for incoming Club executives to be entered in the District database, ClubRunner, and verified through the RI database, Club Central. PLEASE contact me (preferably via e-mail at kfuller5520@gmail.com) and let me know if I can help you with any issue entering membership or club information.

Thankfully, as Rotarians, we don't spend much time congratulating ourselves on work accomplished, but rather we continue to have a vision for what life can be like, especially for those who lack in education, medical care, sanitation, or even drinkable water. We also inspire our youth to learn about and follow our ideals through RYLA, Interact, Rotaract, and writing about applying the Four-Way Test in their own lives.

So, as we look back on the past year and forward to the coming year, thank you for being Rotarians. Thank you for your Service Above Self. And, *Thank you for Being a Gift to the World!*

— Kathy Fuller, District 5520 Executive Secretary

Celebrating blood donors (but at a mortuary?)



Scott Stafford, Marty Padilla and Brian Warner ham it up — er, spice it up — dressed in their mortuary best while serving up Bloody Mary drinks at a party held at Strong-Thorne Mortuary in Albuquerque to honor donors who gave blood during a one-day Rotary Blood Drive sponsored by the Albuquerque Del Norte Club and United Blood Services of Albuquerque. The celebration event was held in the mortuary's Vintage Room thanks to Brian of Daniels Family Funeral Services. More than 40 attended, some first-time donors.

Be a Gift to the World!