



# Be a Gift to the World

## District 6840 Newsletter

### August, 2015



#### Governor John Cornwell's Message



Well "YOU" did it. District 6840 \$118.68 per capita for 2014-2015. No more record with an asterisk. Are we for real? Or are we a one hit wonder? 2015-2016 will tell the tale.

August is Membership and New Club Development Month. Take advantage of the two important meetings on this month's schedule to prepare our district for success in both areas. Those important meetings are the Zone Leadership Seminar and our Foundation, Membership, and Public Relations Seminars.

The Zone Leadership Seminar will bring us together to learn about the latest programs and policies of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. Our Foundation, Membership, and Public Relations Seminars will chart the course for our district in the coming year. I strongly encourage club presidents along with the Foundation, Membership, and Public Relations chairs from their clubs to attend.

As I mentioned last month this year our Foundation Chair and the Deputy Governors for Membership and Public Relations will use our long range plan to guide the breakout sessions on August 29<sup>th</sup>. We have a plan. We need to do our best to implement it. You can download it from our district website. Please review it before the seminars and then attend the breakout which interests you the most.

Our long range planning process is not a static one. DGN Kathie Short will continue that process with a one hour plenary session preceding the breakouts on August 29<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the plenary and the breakouts I will update you on our Honduran GSE team, Elizabeth Van Sant and Ken Thompson will make short presentations on Youth Exchange and US Russia Friendship Exchange respectively. Elizabeth will also conduct a training breakout on Rotary Youth Exchange. You can download a copy of the complete agenda from the district website.

Every Rotarian in our district is encouraged to attend both meetings. Come and join us in making this a special Rotary year.

John Cornwell- District Governor 2015 - 2016

#### Upcoming Dates

**2015 – 2016**

#### Rotary Leadership Institute

Our district is making plans to continue building leaders and increasing Rotary knowledge via Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI). RLI is an international program with a Rotary-centric curriculum aimed at giving Rotarians the tool to be better Rotarians and get more out of Rotary. RLI is composed of three sessions, with topics covering membership, leadership, the Rotary Foundation, grants, public relations, and other great topics. In order to graduate from RLI, one must attend all three sessions. It is not mandatory that all three sessions be attended in the same Rotary year.

**The tentative schedule for RLI sessions in the coming year is:**

October 3 – Sessions I & III

November 14 – Sessions I & II

January 23 – Sessions II & III

April 23 – Sessions I & III

**Make plans to join RLI and get more out of Rotary. You won't be disappointed!**

**Rotary**  
District 6840



## Club & District News



### **New equipment trialed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**ShelterBox has been working with the Korean Committee for the Promotion of International Trade (KOMT) to provide shelter for families whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by a succession of heavy storms and a harsh winter.**

Many of the homes affected in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will take a long time to repair, so ShelterBox has provided a selection of items that will help people to keep warm throughout the extreme temperatures experienced during the winter, which can be as low as -25°C.

The equipment includes Flex 3 tents, a new addition to ShelterBox's range of aid, which is a quilted, three layer tent designed so that a stove can be safely placed and used inside. We have also provided the stoves, which can not only be used for cooking, but to heat the tent too. The 400 families that we are helping across four provinces have also received winterization kits and boxes full of household supplies.

The winterization kits include partition walls that help keep heat in, along with insulated sleeping mats that can be stuffed with materials such as straw to create warm mattresses. The boxes, which are a smaller version of ShelterBox's iconic green boxes contain a selection of items to help people return to everyday routines, such as cooking sets and water containers, as well as thermal lined blankets for extra warmth.

Shane Revill, ShelterBox Supply Chain Manager, said: "Including the Flex 3 tents, winterization kits and accompanying stoves in our itinerary of aid means that we are better prepared to help people who have been displaced from their homes in very cold climates. They are a great solution for a country like the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where winters are long and temperatures stay below freezing for many months of the year."

ShelterBox has responded to the need for shelter in the DPRK, one of the world's most insular nations several times before, establishing good working links within the country. In 2013, ShelterBox provided aid to people who had been hit by Typhoon Bolaven, which caused downpours to sweep across east and west coastal areas of the country, leaving around 51,600 hectares of land flooded, buried or washed away and more than 26,000 people displaced.

Ken Thompson  
District International Service Director



## Club & District News

### Rotary Club Member Receives Prestigious Ashoka Award

One of 20 selected nationally to travel to East Africa

**NEW ORLEANS** – The Rotary Club of New Orleans Riverbend is pleased to announce that its member Sydney Gray has been selected as a 2015 Ashoka-American Express Emerging Innovator. The Ashoka Foundation will pay for Ms. Gray to travel to Nairobi, Kenya, where she will be one of 20 award recipients to participate in a series of workshops and training with social innovators, business experts and industry leaders. “I first heard about the Ashoka Changemakers program when I was notified that I had been nominated in March,” Mrs. Gray said. “I am still not certain who nominated me, but I was definitely excited.” “There was a two-part application process, and a two-round selection process,” Mrs. Gray explained. “Ashoka accepts applications from five regions in the US, and each region had hundreds of applicants.”

Of the 100 finalists selected by the Ashoka Foundation, only 20 of them will head to Kenya, which holds a specific lure for Mrs. Gray: she’s the founder and head of a non-profit in Kenya dedicated to promoting the economic empowerment of women through control of clean water. Through Mama Maji, women in the Chiga community are provided sanitation and business training, and the charity provides a water kiosk, which currently supplies more than 1,500 villagers clean water daily. Two expansions of the initial project have brought water taps into homes for the first time, as well as to a village school serving 275 students. Mama Maji plans two further expansions of its Chiga water kiosk business this year. “I expect to leave New Orleans in early August to arrive in Nairobi no later than August 5th, but I won’t be getting back to middle August,” Gray said. “I will be taking the opportunity to visit our project sites in western Kenya while I am there.”

The Rotary Club of New Orleans Riverbend has been highly involved with Mama Maji for the past two years, holding a fundraising water walk in conjunction with UN World Water, and also applying for grants from the Rotary Foundation to develop Mama Maji’s water projects.

“Rotary’s support has been invaluable,” Gray said. “We certainly are very excited about what the future holds.”

For more information on the Ashoka Foundation and the Ashoka-American Express Changemakers program, please visit [www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org)

For more information on Mama Maji, please visit [www.mamamaji.org](http://www.mamamaji.org)

Meredith Robinson

Rotary Club of New Orleans Riverbend



## Club & District News

Youth Exchange  
**Rotary**  
District 6840



### **D6840 Rotary Youth Exchange Students are Rotary Goodwill Ambassadors**

This month is an exciting one for Rotary Youth Exchange on a global scale. Each August, approximately 8,000 high school students from around the world embark upon their year as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student. For the first time in recent memory, clubs from both states in our District are hosting and sponsoring students. Our Inbound students arrive the first few days of August and our Outbound students will be gone by the second week...such brave young people tackling the enormous task of building goodwill and better friendships on an international scale by immersing themselves in the daily life of their host communities.

Bradley Booth, from Carriere, MS (Picayune RC) is on his way to D3202 in Southern India. Zoe Gassen, from Luling, LA (St. Charles Parish RC), is on her way to D4400 in Ecuador. Dana Watson, from LaPlace, LA (Metairie Sunrise RC), is heading to D1419 in Denmark. These are two-way exchanges, meaning that we have students coming to D6840 from each of those partner districts. Van Kumar of India will be hosted by the Covington Rotary Club; Konye Maldonado of Ecuador will be hosted by the Bay St. Louis Club; Kalle Johansen of Denmark will be with the Picayune Club. Luckily for us, we are hosting one additional student, Dorka Leitner, from Hungary, with Slidell and Slidell Northshore. This is the third consecutive year these two clubs have joined together to host a Rotary Goodwill Ambassador.

Each of these students was selected in a very competitive application process in December and has been preparing and training to be a Rotary Goodwill Ambassador since then. Many of you met our Outbound Students at District Conference in Biloxi when they were presented with their Rotary Youth Exchange Blazers and District pins. We hope that hundreds of our Rotarians will attend the Foundation, etc. District meeting on August 29 to meet our new Inbound Students. These Goodwill Ambassadors are not just exceptional high school students; they are young people who believe in the principles and ideals of Rotary and have committed themselves to represent Rotary in addition to their home cultures and families. Rotary Goodwill Ambassadors pledge to abide by some very strict guidelines and to do their part to further international peace, goodwill, and better friendships.

The application period for the D6840 Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship is open now. Students must be sponsored by a Rotary Club so please visit the Youth Exchange page on the D6840 website and review the information and materials there to be ready to field inquiries from the students in your community. Children of Rotarians are eligible to apply for the Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship. The Scholarship is valued at approximately \$35,000 in the form of school tuition, room and board, monthly stipend, and cultural opportunities. There is NO COST to clubs for sponsoring a student for this Scholarship; there are stipulations on hosting a student in return. The D6840 RYE Committee will hold complete training in Youth Exchange on August 29 in Poplarville; at the Mid-Year Check Up, and at District Conference. We are also available to come to your club to present.

How to get involved and begin recruiting applicants this year: contact District Youth Exchange Officer Elizabeth Van Sant at [rye6840@gmail.com](mailto:rye6840@gmail.com)

We need Rotarians with Saints tickets to take the students to a game! Any time you have an extra seat or tickets you won't be using, please take one of our students/let me know!

We need Rotarians with boats/canoes/kayaks to take these kids out on the Lake or into the Gulf or into the bayous and rivers – if you can give them an “only-in-my-home-town” experience, please do. That's why they're here, after all.

## Club & District News

**The below submission was written by one of young RYLA counselors.**

When a RYLA camper first walks in to check in on the first day of camp, they typically come carrying more than their duffle bag and pillow. On the inside they carry emotions from all ends of the spectrum from eagerness to meet new people to the trepidation of not knowing anyone there. More than likely they have feelings of the latter. Yet, as the week progresses a change takes place; their hearts are turned upside down and their perspective on people whether they know them or not is revolutionized. Campers walk in as strangers and leave as a family. By the end of the week they have made connections with other campers that have the potential to last a life time. They learn the value of truly listening to people while also having the revelation that everyone, no matter their background, has a unique story.

Characteristics in which they discover often apply to their lives laying a foundation for the rest of their life that will allow them to understand most experiences they have in college, the work force, and life overall. The role Rotary Club plays in this process is of utmost importance for if it were not for the Rotarians kind hearts and generous souls, this week would not exist, and for some campers that means the difference between living without sympathy and possessing an understanding of how much we all really have in common with each other. Without Rotary Club and all of their support, campers would not get to make these life-long friendships and for some feel like part of a family for the first time in their lives. Rotary Club truly makes a difference in the lives of at least sixty campers and sixteen counselors every year, and for that, on behalf of all of RYLA, we can't thank you enough for continuing to support this program and helping to build this family. "Family isn't always blood. It's the people in your life who want you in theirs. The ones who accept you for who you are. The ones who would do anything to see you smile, and who love you no matter what."

### **Dear Club Presidents and District officers and committee Chairmen:**

The Rotary District 6840 nominating committee is accepting nominations for District Governor for the Rotary year 2018-19. Please announce this at a club meeting. The candidate should meet all of the requirements set forth in the RI Bylaws Article 13.020. The following documents must be submitted as part of the application process. Copies of all of the documents are posted on the District website, [rota-ry6840.org](http://rota-ry6840.org), under the **Club/District Data tab**, then **Governing Documents**.

1. Application-signed by the applicant and club secretary
2. DG Nominee Applicant Certification-signed by applicant
3. Club Board Resolution-signed by the club president and secretary

Fifteen copies of the documents must be received no later than [August 7, 2015](#). Email submissions will not be accepted.

### **Send the documents to:**

PDG Karen Babin, District Executive Assistant  
900 South Peters, Loft 13  
New Orleans, LA 70130

All applicants must participate in an interview. The interviews will be conducted at Pearl River Community College on Saturday, August 29, 2015 following the DAC meeting (which will follow the Foundation, Membership and Public Relations seminar). If you want to begin as soon as possible to increase the membership of your club for 2015-16, then be sure to check out the info in the right column.

Sincerely,  
**DG John Cornwell**