

District Dispatch

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Exciting Foundation Changes 2

Greetings from the North End of The District 3

Alpena Club Peace Poles 4

District Nominating Committee 4

Important dates 4

News from Youth Exchange Student Amanda Haag 5

Moca Rotary Club, Dominican Republic 6

Rotary Club Events 7

Building Powerful Teams 8

Food for Thought 8

News from the “Guv”

Activity is abounding in the District at this time of year. In this publication, you will find many articles and photos of Rotarians at work within our District. With Foundation Awareness Month completed and results beginning to come in from “What’s in your wallet for Rotary,” we are very grateful to those who extend their caring in the world. Thank you, Rotarians, for your generous consideration to the Foundation.

The new Foundation structure is beginning to take shape. Several members attended a Foundation workshop and learned more about the work of OUR Foundation in Rotary. See stories in this edition about how the work of the Foundation is extended beyond our own communities.

In December, we celebrate the family. Rotary supports family first. Look around your club at fellow Rotarians and extend a welcoming invitation to those who do not live near family or those who may have lost family members and risk spending the holidays alone. Through our membership, Rotary is ‘our family.’

For many of us, when we lived away from our immediate family, we would seek others in the same situation to create holiday friendships. This simple act of extending oneself created warm memories.

I had the pleasure of meeting with the Saginaw, Saginaw Morning, and Saginaw Valley Clubs last week. They Frosty send you best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Just open the link, IMG_0819.MOV in the cover email.



Jim and I wish a blessed holiday to you, your family, and your Rotary family. May each of you find the spirit of the holiday refreshing, renewing, and filled with Peace Through our Service.



Exciting Changes Coming to Foundation!

Eileen Jennings, Past District Governor

On July 1, 2013, the Rotary Foundation will undergo some significant changes. The way we contribute to the Foundation will not change, Polio Plus, and the Rotary Peace Centers funding and operation will not change. But the grant programs will be very different.

The many humanitarian and education grant programs we have now will be condensed into three: District Grants, Global Grants, and Packaged Grants. You will hear more about each of these in future editions of the Dispatch.

Why are we seeing changes? There are three reasons. First, the new model will allow us (clubs, districts, and the Foundation) to have a greater impact on humanitarian needs; we have seen what our focus on Polio has done, and the Foundation wants to help us have a similar impact on other world needs in the following six areas of focus:



Peace and conflict prevention/resolution



Disease prevention and treatment



Water and sanitation



Maternal and child health



Basic education and literacy



Economic and Community Development

Second, focusing our efforts will bring more public recognition to the wonderful work Rotary and its Foundation do. Third, the Foundation has been spending a lot of our money administering the grant programs and the new model will be more efficient and economical.

Rotary has tested the new model – called Future Vision – with 100 clubs for the past 3 years. Now it is rolling out this model for all districts. District 6310 is developing guidelines and support for our transition to the new Foundation. Eileen Jennings has agreed to become the district Foundation Chair. Penny St. Cyr has agreed to be the Grants Chair. Paul Moore will serve as the District Grants Chair.

Comprehensive training will be provided to all clubs in February 2013. In fact, one of the major changes is that clubs may apply for District Grants only after two members of the club have attended the training, called Grants Management Seminar. Watch for further information about the new Foundation in the Dispatch and on our web site.

Greetings from the North End of District 6310

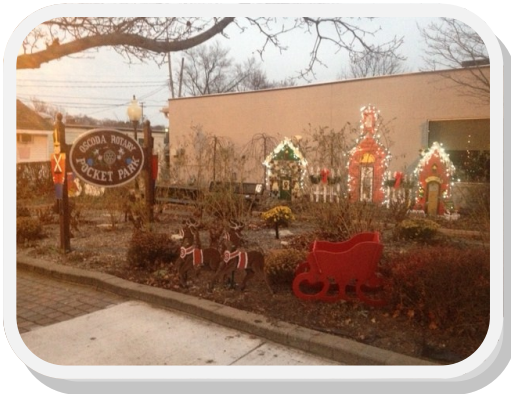
Assistant Governor Mary Reitler

The Rotary Clubs of Alpena and Oscoda would like to begin by wishing everyone in 6310 a blessed and safe holiday season. Enjoy your time with family and friends as it will certainly be 'Beneficial for all concerned'.

As the holidays approach, the Oscoda Club is busy with many annual activities. Several members participate in the Coats for Kids campaign for area youth that don't have cold weather apparel. The event takes place at the schools during Parent-Teacher conferences to assist less fortunate families. This year the program was able to help over 200 families. Rotarians help the students try on coats and find that special hat and gloves (or mittens) to match. It is truly a rewarding experience.

The highlight of the Christmas season is our participation in the annual Northern Lights Christmas Parade in Oscoda. Our club has been part of this community event since its beginning.

We hold a 'special meeting' at a member's home and decorate our float. The picture really doesn't do it justice. It may not be able to compete with the Rotary float that adorns the Rose Bowl parade but we are sure proud of it.



Prior to the start of the parade the community is invited down town for holiday treats and holiday music. They stroll through our decorated Pocket Park. The Oscoda Rotary Club, along with other service groups, provide refreshments. For the past several years the club has not charged for hot cider and donuts. Needless to say, the lines are long at our booth. We feel it is a way to spread the holiday spirit and show the community how much we appreciate their support of our local projects throughout the year. After all, it's Rudolph only fair.

Part of our holiday giving will be a donation to a local non-profit group in our area. Many years ago we decided not to do a gift exchange at our Rotary Christmas party and give what monies we would have spent (and usually more) to a group that needed the monetary support. It is all about 'building goodwill and better friendships'.

We certainly were pleased with the news Dave Morgan shared with us at the December 5th meeting. early Christmas present you might say. Dave and Arnie LeRiche are co-chairs of the Clean Water and Sanitation Committee for the district. Most of you know them from visits to your clubs. Dave told us that all four grants have been submitted and approved for the current projects. The efforts of the Rotary Clubs in District 6310 will be felt in the third world countries desperate for clean water sources and proper hand washing hygiene. A big thank you to all the clubs on board with us.

The Alpena Club is in full planning mode for the District Conference. Everyone is in for a big treat and assured a fabulous time when you come to Alpena. I don't want to spoil any of the surprises! Mark your calendars!

Information about the club's peace project was published in the local newspaper, and a recap of that article follows.

Alpena Rotary Club installs two Peace Poles

(Reprinted from a Lifestyles article in the Alpena newspaper)

The Rotary Club of Alpena recently planted two peace poles on Rotary Island, located in the Thunder Bay River. The club planted the poles as a part of the 2012-13 Rotary International theme. Peace through Service.

The club intends to plant a new pole each year in various locations around the city. The next location will be near the playground built by the club on the Lake Huron waterfront.

Languages with meaning were chosen for both poles. One pole has English, French, German, and Polish in recognition of the heritage of the citizens of Alpena. The other pole has English, Japanese, Korean, and Italian. The Japanese is in honor of current Rotary International President Sakuji Tanaka. The Italian is in honor of the Rotary Youth Exchange student from Italy that the Alpena Club is hosting for the 2012-13 year. The Korean is in honor of the Group Study Exchange team scheduled to visit the area through a Rotary International project. The poles will be dedicated as a part of the District Conference in April 2013.

The Rotary Island is a project of the local club started in 1995 and continues today. Once an abandoned piece of property that used to house an old lumber processing mill in the 1800s, the club cleared the island, built a bridge connecting it with the bicycle path that encircles the city, and created pathways. Over the years a fishing platform has been added and another bridge was built from the other side, connecting the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center with the island. Later a gazebo along with bench seating was added.

Note from Editor: You will definitely want to visit these attractions during the District Conference weekend!

Möge Friede auf Erden sein

Niech będzie pokój na Ziemi

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT?

If you have ever served a full term as a Rotary Club President, you already meet one of the qualifications to serve as a Rotary District Governor. District 6310 is looking for members who are interested in serving as District Governor for the 2015/2016 Rotary year. If you will have been a Rotary member for at least seven years in July 2015 and are interested in taking advantage of this life-changing opportunity, please contact Past District Governor Al Nietzke for more information. He can be reached by phone at 989-453-7065 extension 221 or by e-mail at anietzke@nfcpc.com.

Important upcoming dates

December:	Family of Rotary Month
January:	Rotary Awareness Month
January 25-27:	Peace Forum, Honolulu Hawaii; The Green Path to Peace
February:	Grants Management Seminars
February 9:	Rotary Leadership Institute, Plymouth, Indiana
February 23:	World Understanding and Peace Day; Rotary Birthday
March 14-16:	President-Elect Training, Kalamazoo MI
April 19-20:	District Conference, Alpena, Michigan
April 27:	Rotary Leadership Institute, Mt. Pleasant, MI



Rotary District 6310 2012/2013 Youth Exchange

Amanda Haag

Bay City Rotary to Borgholzhausen, Germany



I've been in Germany for three months now, and looking back it's hard to believe all the things I've done in that short amount of time. I remember getting off the airplane after going through five different airports, exhausted, excited, nervous, and seeing my host mother for the first time.

The immediate love I felt in her hug was enough to make me cry, because all I could think was, "This is my new home."

Since that time, I've had more new experiences than I could have imagined. I've become best friends with Germans, Brazilians, and Paraguayans. I've gotten lost with people from around the world in the Berlin subway. I've wandered around Vienna with my German classmates. I've finally mastered the bus system in my area!

Being an exchange student has taught me that I can take care of myself and do things that seem out of reach. It's taught me that I can be friends with people around the world, despite what seems to be an impossible language barrier.

I'm already dreading the day I have to leave, not knowing when or if I'm ever going to see the great friends I've made again. That means I have to make the most of the seven months left I have here!

A year ago, I would have never thought my life could be like this. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to live abroad, and I'm extremely excited to see what the rest of this year holds for me.



Moca Rotary Club, Dominican Republic

By Randy Ettema, Frankenmuth Morning Rotary Club

For the past year the Frankenmuth Morning Rotary Club has talked about stepping up our international activity by sponsoring a project. That opportunity came when our District Water and Sanitation Committee identified potential projects. Dave Morgan asked me to travel with him to the Dominican Republic in early October to see first-hand the project the Moca Rotary Club identified.

The Moca Rotary Club wants to help Paso de Moca, a small village outside the town of Moca. Paso de Moca means step from Moca in Española. It is an impoverished community of around 100 families, needing water from wells, water filters, and many latrines (25). Each latrine on average will be shared with four families. Three wells exist but each needs a hand pump to be better utilized. Point of use water filters are needed for most homes.



The benefit of latrines, pumps, and filtered water is a better quality of life and surrounding environment for the 100 families. They will have a place for human waste, limiting pollution and the spread of diseases, parasites, and bacteria. Personal hygiene and overall health will be better.

This community is in stark contrast to the nice homes many of the Rotary members own, very much like yours and mine. And the drive is less than ten minutes outside of Moca. What makes this project special is that Bernard, one of the Moca Rotarians, grew up in this area and has a connection to this community.

When we traveled together I noticed that many local people know Bernard and that is when he said he grew up here. He knows the local community leaders and will follow up with the projects.

Local Rotary Community Corps workers will do the work as one way to keep the cost down and take "ownership" in the project. The Moca Rotary Club has been involved with the design of the latrines and will be contributing money to the project.

The Moca Rotary people are very gracious with big hearts. When I mentioned this to Dave, he said that is very typical of Rotary people all over the world. They opened their homes and their hearts to us, and we experienced many local foods, including Sancocho, a local favorite.

What can you do to help? Our next step in the matching grant process is to get approval of the grant. Your club's international dollars will be needed to fund the grant. Using the Matching Grant, the total cost of the project is just under \$25,000. \$7,000 is needed from clubs in our district. Contributions can range from \$200 to \$2,000. Set aside funds now, and when we get a project number, we will ask for your check. Contact me directly to make a pledge from this year's budget for this project. Your thoughtful contribution can change a village and improve many lives!"

I am also available to speak to your club and give a presentation on this project about how we can impact so many people. Please contact me if you are interested.

Contact Randy Ettema at 989.751.4636 or email at muthsoccerrdad@hotmail.com

Rotary Club Events



The Caro Rotary Club held its 36th annual Rotary pancake supper in October. It is the kick-off event for the Caro Pumpkin Festival. Approximately 1100 people were served in 2 1/2 hours. It is a great social activity that the entire community looks forward to. They have the newspaper as well as the club newsletter and website posting pictures. Now, they are taking the pictures from all year and making a video of what Caro Rotarians do, everything from disc golf, pancake supper, donations, highway pickup, etc. Next year, the video will be played throughout the entire pancake supper so all 1100 citizens will be made aware of Rotary. It might even prove to be a membership drive tool!

The Tree of Light is the primary fundraiser for the Vassar Rotary Club annual Coats for Kids project that enables the Rotary Club to provide warm, winter coats to children in need in the Vassar local schools. This 2012 Tree of Light contains over 266 lights which have been dedicated to memorialize the lives of many cherished love ones. The red lights symbolize the memory of those we have lost. The white lights represent individuals who are living. The blue lights are placed in honor of US Military Veterans and/or active service personnel. The lights brighten the spirits of all who see their beautiful glowing colors throughout the next few weeks because of the lives they represent. Pictured from left to right, President Heidi Woolwine, Secretary Megan Decker, Treasurer Tina Bacon and member Merri Lemcke reading names during recent ceremonies.



The Rotary Club of Shepherd held their Seventh Annual Food Drive on Saturday, December 8, 2012. The club has combined efforts with the Shepherd High School Student Council for the past five years, and this year the Shepherd High School Business Professionals of America joined the effort also. All the donated food items are given to the Shepherd St. Vincent Food Pantry. During the three-hour food drive, the group also enjoyed a bon fire and a hot dog roast. After all, what would a Rotary event be without good food to go along with good fellowship?!

Building Powerful Teams

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Pigeon, Featuring Justin Maust

January 21, 2013, 8:00am to 12:00pm, Laker High School Auditorium

(Includes Continental Breakfast and 3 Hour Workshop)

Do you want to ignite your team's effectiveness? Think of all the teams you belong to. Families, non-profits, community groups, churches and the workplace all operate with teams. The Building Powerful Teams Workshop helps teams whether they are top notch or struggling. This workshop will help you improve communication, make stronger connections, and drive more clarity and focus for you and your team. Overcome obstacles and help your team face challenges with more confidence!

Celebrate your team's successes and evaluate your failures. Learn the 5 pillars that powerful teams use daily. Be the catalyst that takes your team to the next level. Register five and one comes free!

For registration details email pigeonrotary@nfcpa.com.



Food for Thought

I have been reading a book called "Advent Conspiracy" written by McKinley, Seay & Holder. They raised a point that I think all Rotarians need to know to assure them we are on the right track. This is an excerpt from the book:

"The water crisis around the world is staggering. Hundreds of children die simply because they don't have access to clean drinking water. It makes our mouths drop and our stomach turn when we realize that the amount of money we spend on Christmas in America is close to forty-five times the amount of money it would take to supply the entire world with clean water. What if some of the money we spent at Christmas was used to dig wells for poor or remote communities in which people die regularly from the lack of clean water?"

Think about it.

Jerome Yantz PDG

The District 6310 newsletter is published monthly. Articles Holly originate from various Rotary International publications as well as from events and activities within the District. Thank you to all contributors.



We encourage the submission of articles. Please provide information and pictures for a future District Dispatch to:
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