

District Dispatch

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News from the “Guv”

November reminds me of our bounty. I am most fond of Thanksgiving, as it gives my family and me time to reflect on the goodness in our lives and the many, many blessings we have and enjoy. Every morning, I wake to be thankful about something. Today, I am thankful for my heavy coats to get me through the snowy day.

What are you thankful for? Take the time to reflect and share with your family.

The Foundation Gala was a big hit. We had close to 200 in attendance and received a great update on the Dominican Republic projects in several locations. Since Dave Morgan, Eileen Jennings, and Randy Etna have returned from their trip, we are confident we have selected good partners with great projects.

It is the contributions of the clubs and the RI Foundation that makes those projects happen. The Foundation is OUR Foundation. We contribute as Rotarians and we decide as Rotarians how to spend the money. Let’s give generously to the Foundation this year.

Congratulations to Ken Henry, President of Owosso, who is our most recent Paul Harris Society member; pledging \$1,000/year to the Foundation. If you want to be in the Paul Harris Society, contact Bill Parlberg, bill.Parlberg@zehnders.com, Jerome Yantz, jeromey@wf-cpas.com, or me. We’ll show you the way.

Did you see the video on “What’s in Your Wallet for Rotary? Open the attached! <http://youtu.be/R502sIYyA4U>

The Group Study Exchange Team to Korea in April 2013 has been selected. (Just another example of Foundation money at work). This group will be a fine representation for our District and for the USA. See article on page 8.

Membership Chair Jeff Leipprandt and Trainer Mary Cunningham presented a webinar on membership with a hearty discussion. While about a dozen attended and benefitted, those who did not attend missed out on helpful suggestions. Almost all of the clubs in the district identified membership as their number one priority. I hope you have found resources to address your goals. Do contact Jeff at jeff.leipprandt@tbinsmi.com.

How are the Peace Projects coming along? I know Past District Governor Ruby (rubiymamasa@chaterni.net) stands ready to support you. There are many interesting projects afoot! Keep your club active in this challenge. We hope Carrie to hear all about them at the District Conference, April 19-20, 2013 in Alpena.

May you recognize the many blessings in your household and share generously with the Foundation this month.



Find the three misplaced names, send them to Connie, and let’s see what we can do for Rotary!

DG Georgene

District Gala

The Rotary Gala was a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of clubs within our district.

Rotary International 2011/2012 President Kalyan Banerjee established a very special club award called the “Changemaker Award.” To qualify for this award a club had to conduct a required number of activities in all five avenues of service. That includes club service, vocational service, community service, international service, and new generations service.



Past DG Allan Neitzke

The award was designed to recognize Rotary clubs that made an extraordinary impact during 2011/2012. We had one club in our district that qualified for this award. That club is the **Frankenmuth Morning Club**.

The Rotary Foundation recognizes individual clubs that achieve certain goals. We have five clubs that qualified for awards from the Rotary Foundation for the 2011/2012 Rotary year. The clubs will each receive a banner from the Foundation in recognition of their accomplishments. Our Rotary Gala was a little earlier this year so the banners had not yet arrived at the time of the dinner. See Governor Georgene’s article about these clubs on page xxx.

The next award was for clubs where all members contributed to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund and the Annual Fund per capita contributions averaged \$100 or more. We had two clubs in the district qualify for this award: **Birch Run Club** and **Durand Club**.

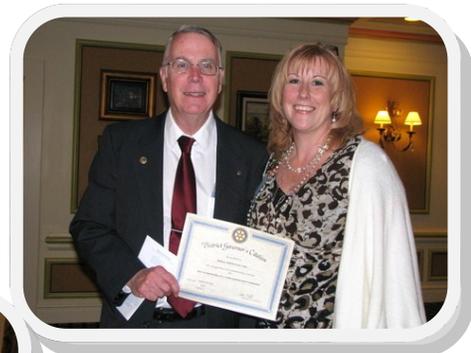
The final award was presented to the three clubs in the district with the highest average per capita giving to the Annual Fund. The club with the third highest per capita giving to the annual fund was the **Saginaw Sunrise Club** with an average per capita contribution of \$195.28

The club with the second highest per capita giving to the Annual Fund was the **Frankenmuth Club** with an average per capita contribution of \$206.21.

The club with the highest per capita giving to the annual fund for the year 2011/2012 was the **Pigeon Club**. Pigeon celebrated its 75th anniversary in May. As part of their celebration, they ended the year with 100% of their membership holding the Paul Harris Fellow designation. Pigeon’s average per capita contribution was \$228.56. What an achievement!

Our heartiest congratulations to each of these clubs and to the outstanding Rotary members whose generous donations made Becky these awards possible.

Rotary Foundation Gala Photos



All photographs are compliments of PDG Ruby Iwamasa

Updated awards

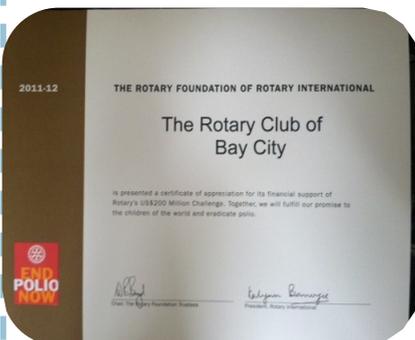
Contrary to what was announced to the Foundation Gala with September numbers, listed below are the latest leaders in Foundation giving. PDG Al Nietzke will present each club with their banner within the next few weeks.

CARO Club received the largest banner to attain the status as a **100% Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member Club**. (A club must achieve 100% of all active members personally contributing US\$100 or more to the Annual Fund during the Rotary year.) Congratulations CARO! You are one of 1,064 clubs worldwide to attain this status. (Remember, there are over 34,000 clubs.)



The next banners go to: **Saginaw Sunrise, Birch Run, Durand, and Caro Clubs** as **Every Rotarian, Every year Club** (Clubs must have achieved a US\$100 per capita with every active member making a personal contribution of *some* amount to the Annual Fund). These clubs are one of only 2,114 clubs worldwide to achieve this banner! Way to go!

As PDG Al noted at the Gala, the number one club in giving in the district was the **Pigeon Club**.



Polio Plus contributions are an important part of our Foundation. Four clubs contributed at least US \$2,000 to receive a certificate of appreciation.

Alpena, Bay City, Frankenmuth, and Mt. Pleasant.

Thank you Rotarians, for the generous contributions to the Foundation during the year 2011-2012.

District Governor Georgene



Youth Exchange – Madeline Levinson

Midland Morning Rotary to Ponte Nova, Brazil

When I was assigned my city; Ponte Nova, MG, Brazil; I could barely find any information about it on Google. I had no idea what to expect. I arrived to find a very small town that doesn't have much to do or see. Because of this, the exchange students who come here become kind of famous. This has allowed me to talk to so many different types of people who have so many different things to offer to my exchange. I have met people to teach me how to make amazing food, help me learn the language, show me my city, and show me different places in Brazil. Having so many people who care about how you're feeling and what you're doing is definitely a perk of being in a small city.

I've been here almost three months now and am having an amazing time. I've traveled more than I thought I would. I've taken 12 hour bus rides around mountain curves in order to see some of the most beautiful cities. I've tried every food possible. My host-dad even complimented me on how I eat some Brazilian food that even he doesn't eat. I've met so many amazing people and have been blessed with such an amazing host family. But having an incredible exchange doesn't come without trials. I have struggled with the language and loneliness, but pushing past these struggles and feeling yourself get stronger because of them is one of the most satisfying feelings.



Learning about my new country has been accompanied directly by learning about my own country. Now I can physically see all of the things I took for granted when I was in the United States. I am excited to be immersed in a different culture, but I am also so proud to be an American. I am truly blessed to be able to have this amazing experience. I am very thankful to Rotary for sponsoring me and supporting me on my journey.

Update on Exchange Student Jency Schnettler

Things are going well here. I have just finished another weekend in Shanghai. This week starts my 9th week of school, and we will begin the process of really working on research papers, presentations, and other preparations that will come to a close at the end of the semester. Most of the semester's work load is piled on in the last two weeks which is unfortunate but feels rather normal in terms of college courses.

This past weekend I went to visit the hospital in Suzhou, a city about a 30 minute train ride from Shanghai. I went there because Rotary is currently sponsoring four children who were receiving heart surgery through their Gift of Life Program. It was probably one of the most rewarding things I have done since I have arrived here. The four children were from 22 months old to 14 years old. I have to say that it was not only incredible to see these children and play with them, but also to observe how happy and excited their parents were. The parents were so incredibly thankful and pleased and willing to let us meet their children.



We arrived a bit late to the event due to train ticket issues so I was lucky enough to have just a few of us in my group. This let me really get a chance to play with the children.



Hope all is well back in Michigan and you are rested after gaining an extra hour last weekend.



Newest Rotarian Lonna Hummel, sponsored by Jean Saxon



President Thomas Boetefuer leads the way in becoming a Paul Harris Fellow of the Pinconning/Standish Club. The club recently celebrated their 5th year anniversary.



District Governor Georgene presents a Rotary Peace Through Service Pen to September District Dispatch "Find the Hidden Names" solver Andreas Teich of the Bay City Club.



Meet our 2013 Group Study Exchange Team

The District 6310 Group Study Exchange team will be led by John Zimmerman of Midland. They will be visiting District 3680 in Daejeon, South Korea. Planned dates are April 3 to May 4, 2013.

The following team members have been selected:

- Kimberli McMahan is a Spanish teacher at Adams Elementary in Midland. She is also founding director of the 5th Grade Culture Club which studies other cultures in order to develop the students into better global citizens.
- Monique Scott is also a teacher in the Midland Public Schools teaching Economics and Government to Special Education students.
- Nate Payovich is the Academic Support and Disability Services Coordinator at Alma College.
- Stephanie Wirtz is Outdoor Recreation and Event Coordinator for Saginaw County Parks and Recreation.

There is some diversity and some interesting cross-over themes among the group. The district selection committee is confident that we have an outstanding team.

Put these dates on your calendar!

November:	Rotary Foundation Month
November 30 – Dec 2	Peace Forum, Berlin Germany: Peace Without Borders
December:	Family of Rotary Month
January 25-27	Peace Forum, Honolulu Hawaii; The Green Path to Peace
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:	Rotary Leadership Institute, Mt. Pleasant, MI

The District 6310 newsletter is published monthly. Articles 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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