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District Dispatch

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Notes from DG Dee

Family of Rotary Month

In Rotary, December is Family Month. How appropriate that is! Even as we make plans to get together with our own families during the holiday season, we are also making plans to celebrate the season with our Rotary family. And some of our Rotary clubs are working on projects to make the season a little brighter for needy families in our own communities and around the world. Because it's always a good day to be a Rotarian, our good work doesn't end!

Foundation Gala

District 6310 Eighth Annual Foundation Gala was held on November 21, 2014 at Zehnder's in Frankenmuth. PDG Bill Parlberg was our featured speaker, and he gave a wonderful, inspiring speech. His slide presentation can be found on the District website (rotary6310.org). I would encourage you to download it and share it at one of your Rotary Club meetings.

Dominican Republic Trip

Members of District 6310 Water and Sanitation Committee returned safely from their trip to the Dominican Republic. They had a great experience and were able to see some of our District's past and current projects and spent time with Rotarians from District 4060 with whom we work closely together on these projects. Hope you are reading some of the articles that appear every month in the Dispatch regarding our projects in the DR. Some truly remarkable work is being done there!

District Conference April 17 – 18, 2015

It's a few months before the District Conference, but rest assured we are already hard at work planning and making arrangements for the event! We hope to have registration information to you in late January, but please save the date so you won't miss this event. If you have any ideas for break out sessions or displays, please let me know.



2014-2015 District Governor
Delores "Dee" Brock

(continued on Page 2)

Notes from DG Dee (continued)

Celebrations

It's always nice to celebrate our accomplishments and good works. The Rotary Club of Durand held their annual "Santa at the Depot" project on November 28th. I was absolutely thrilled to see the transformation of the depot into a festival of trees and winter wonderland, and yes, I did get to sit on Santa's lap! I'm sure the community of Durand appreciates all the time and effort the Rotary Club of Durand puts into this grand event!

The Alma-St. Louis club had its 84th birthday on December 2nd and honored their past by inviting several of its current and former members to share some memories of the past work that has been done by the club. It was a wonderful celebration that would have made the founding fathers of Rotary very proud!

Youth Services



The **Youth Exchange** students met in Midland last weekend for their December get-together. Just look at the smiles on their faces, and you will know they had a great time!



CMU Rotaract met on December 2nd for their end-of-the-semester and Christmas celebration. I'm including a picture of their smiling faces, too,



Congratulations to Tia Fedor, granddaughter of PDG Ken Schaeffer and new Paul Harris Fellow!

District Foundation Chair Eileen Jennings presented the honor during a meeting of the Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant in November. Tia attended **RYLA** last summer and is a member of the **Mt. Pleasant Interact Club**.

There have been several questions lately about **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)** so I thought I would take a moment to answer the big questions I have been receiving! The camp dates are June 14 – 18, 2015 at Camp Rotary near Clare. Registration packets will not be available until March (possibly earlier, but no promises) as we usually have them available for P.E.T.S. The packet will also be available on the District website as soon as it is ready. The registration fee is \$300.00 per student. If you need any other information, please contact me.

District Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Update

By Lynn Zuellig and Randy Ettema

The Dominican Republic is a land of unparalleled shorelines, beaches, lush mountains, aromatic coffees and refreshing national beers. It rivals Michigan as a vacation destination with its natural beauty and ability to soothe the spirits of its many guests. Dominican rum calms; Dominican mahogany furniture delights; Dominican hospitality creates peace and tranquility.

For Rotarians in District 6310 the Dominican Republic is home for water, sanitation and hygiene projects. The rural village areas surrounding Moca and Santiago are rich with opportunities to Light up Rotary through thoughtful, efficient and well-executed collaborative Rotarian initiatives.

Four years ago Oscoda Rotary had our district's first grant in the Dominican Republic. This began the partnership between Michigan District 6310 and Dominican District 6040. Momentum continued with Bay City, Frankenmuth Noon, Frankenmuth Morning, Saginaw, Midland Morning, and Birch Run sponsoring projects. All clubs in 6310 have participated by funding these projects.

While the needs are 'grande' and range from health, to literacy, to housing, to schools, to education three themes kept reoccurring: Clean water, sanitation and handwashing. The tendency to do everything can be overwhelming, but the ongoing Rotarian collaboration has been very diligent in narrowing the focus to ensure maximum impact with judicious resource allocation. Rotarians responded over the past four years developing and executing ten matching grants (completed or in progress), one global grant in process, and one global grant in development.

Wisely, part of the grant process includes periodic site visits. The latest such visit occurred October 31-November 13, 2014. All visiting Rotarians from District 6310 were hosted by a variety of clubs in District 6040 in their homes. The vast majority of the host Rotarian's English was far superior to the visiting Rotarian's Espanol! But communication was strong, friendships were strengthened, progress was witnessed in the community villages and plans to ensure sustainability and expansion of needs were addressed.

Key learnings include: Biosand filters were the first and best water filters available at the time. Currently, updated filters using hollow membrane filters, which have been in use for many years in the clinical settings, are being designed for point of use in family homes, school sites, and community settings.



Randy Ettema, Frankenmuth Morning Club President; Luis Cruz, Moca Club President; Mike Kelly, Alpena, District 6310 Governor-elect



Lynn Zuellig and Randy Ettema in classroom

Primary benefits are:

- Greater efficiency in water filtration speed,
- improved filtering of bacteria, and
- greater ease in transport and reduced costs.
- Community residents using water filters report decreased diarrhea, colds and skin rashes resulting in generally improved health.
- Teachers report improved school attendance due to fewer student illnesses.

District Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Update (continued)

Many of the communities visited still need both water sources and filtration systems. Latrines are an ongoing need in many communities. Some situations are desperate.

Clean water through filtration and hand washing is the single greatest economical approach to decreasing disease. This requires organized and consistent education of teachers, students and families. While some teaching has been done with tremendous success, the need continues for ongoing teaching and point of use water sources, filters and handwashing stations.

La Cumbre has been working with Frankenmuth Noon to install water holding tanks, pumps, piping, latrines, and water filters. All but 30 latrines have been completed. This is great progress! However, steep roads, rainy season interruptions, holidays, and cultural beliefs all play a significant role in completing the project. 'Dominican Time' cannot be underestimated.



Handwashing Station at school



Happy homeowner at new latrine

Villa Trina has been working with Saginaw Rotary. It is a village located in the mountains. Rain water capture was improved at a large school with 20 teachers and 30 mothers trained in handwashing. Also a large cistern was just installed to provide water to residents and for the local fire department.

Paso de Moca means step from Moca. Moca Rotary recently partnered with the Frankenmuth Morning Rotary. Improvements are completed in this small village of Paso de Moca. Builders Beyond Borders was an unexpected additional partner that participated in latrine construction. There are now 40 Rotary blue and gold latrines dotting the village! Two water tanks support a reliable water supply where none existed prior to Rotary! Rotary blue and gold are the two new favorite colors lighting up Pasa da Moca.

Almost every village has developed very active Rotary Community Corps. These are volunteers within the community who work with the local Rotary club to get the work done. Without them progress would have been slow, sporadic or non-existent throughout the last four years.

Pride is alive and well in villages lit up by Rotary! Latrines, clean water sources and knowledge on how to decrease disease through handwashing and hygiene have lit up their lives. It is amazing and humbling to receive the gratitude and see the unabashed joy.

BUT we are not done yet. Projects related to water, sanitation, and handwashing are being expanded. While a firm foundation is being laid we must build new Rotary Club partnerships. Every club in our two districts must stretch to reach more people. The smiles on the faces of people who serve each other together through Rotary partnerships remind us that each of us has the choice to Light Up Rotary!



Home use of a water filter

Eighth Annual Gala — Another Success!

By Foundation Chair Eileen Jennings

Almost 200 Rotarians, spouses and friends attended the Eighth Annual Foundation Gala on November 21, 2014.

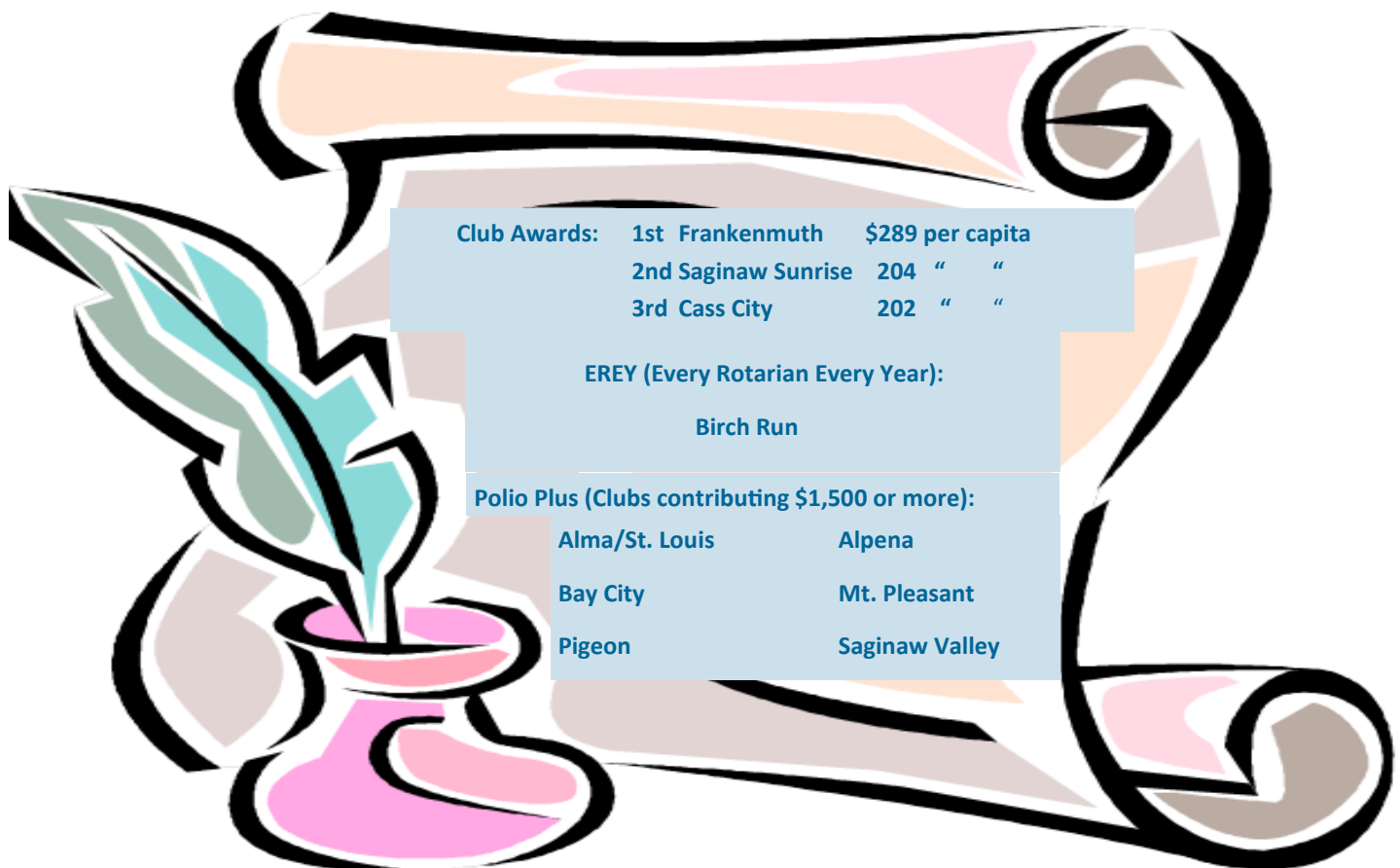
The featured speaker was our own Past District Governor, Bill Parlberg. He told his own story of becoming a Rotarian and the reasons for his commitment to The Rotary Foundation. He also shared select statistics showing the tremendous increase in our district's participation in the Annual Fund and Polio Plus giving. One number that stayed in many minds was the fact that only 140 Rotarians in this district have never given to the Foundation. This is a very low number, and one we hope to reduce even further in the next year.

The length of the social hour was extended this year, and attendees took full advantage of this time to visit and catch up with friends from throughout the District. The Gala has become an extremely popular event, and a good share of the enthusiasm for it seems to revolve around the chance to visit with old Rotary friends.

The District recognized the highest giving clubs in 2012-2013, and new and continuing Major donors and members of the Paul Harris Society and the Bequest Society. This past year, our district welcomed seven Rotarians into Major Donor status; these are persons who have given a total of \$10,000 or more to The Rotary Foundation.

Zehnder's provided a delicious dinner including veal and fried chicken – veal for the frequent diners and something for the infrequent diners who love the famous fried chicken. Thanks to Zehnder's and its staff for making this another memorable evening.

Congratulations to the following who were recognized at the Gala:



Future Matters... Vocational Training Teams

By Chairman Lynn Mischley

Vocational Training Teams (VTT), what are they?

Vocational training teams are groups of professionals who travel, either to learn more about their vocation or to teach local professionals about a particular field. These teams can help expand the knowledge and skills of individuals and communities. The vocational training team concept is inspired by the successes of past grant programs, including Group Study Exchange and Volunteer Service Grants. Rotary clubs and districts can support vocational training teams with district grants or global grants.

Global Grant funding, the vocational training team must meet the following criteria:

- The grant activities must be aligned with one or more areas of focus. The activities may be multi-vocational but must share a common purpose in support of the selected area of focus.
- The activities must increase the skills of either the team members or residents of a specific community, and they must be measurable.
- The minimum project budget amount is \$30,000.
- The activity must be sponsored by two Rotary clubs or districts: a host partner in the country where the activity takes place and an international partner outside that country.

District Grant funding, VTT needs to meet the following:

- District grant activities must align with the Foundation's mission to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.
- District grants can support many types of vocational training teams, whether they're similar to traditional Group Study Exchange teams or focused more on training. Participants can experience the host country's culture, observe how their professions are practiced abroad, exchange ideas, and lead training courses.
- Using district grants to support vocational training activities offers significant flexibility for clubs and districts, as there are no restrictions on the age of participants or duration of the training.

All Clubs in our District are encouraged to think about opportunities in this arena and bring potential team ideas to the District VTT chair, Lynne Mischley, lynnemischley@gmail.com

“Our Rotary friendships give light to our lives, and it is Rotary friendship – as well as service – that lets us Light Up Rotary.”

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Progress in Fight to End Polio Continues

By Chairman Chuck Cusick



Progress in our fight to end polio continues. Type 3 wild poliovirus was last seen in Nigeria and Pakistan in 2012. Type 3 poliovirus causes fewer illnesses than Type 1. Thus, the virus can be transmitted longer without being detected. We do hope that this virus has been eliminated. Our efforts now are toward Type 1, which means we can use a vaccine that will attack only one virus rather than two.

As of 3 December, there have been 316 cases of polio this year. Pakistan reported 268 cases, Afghanistan 23 cases, and Nigeria holds at 6 cases. For the first time ever, only 1 case of wild poliovirus has been reported in Africa in the last four months. Nigeria might be the next country to be declared polio free.

One of the legacies from our efforts to eradicate polio is the infrastructure we have set up in a country's health system. Our polio infrastructure is credited for stopping the Ebola virus in Nigeria. This is but one more thing that makes me proud to be a Rotarian.

Rotary Recognized Again as One of Best Charities

By Eileen Jennings

The Rotary Foundation was recently ranked 85th in *The Chronicle of Philanthropy's* annual ranking of the top 400 nonprofit organizations in the United States. The ranking is based on monetary contributions from private sources and reflects the increasing generosity of those who support Rotary's mission. This recognition is in addition to the Foundation's four star rating from *Charity Navigator*, the largest and most prestigious independent evaluator of nonprofits in the United States.

In the 2013-14 Rotary year, 92 percent of the Foundation's expenditures were applied to programs, with only 6 percent spent on fundraising and 2 percent on administrative expenses. The Foundation funded \$23.5 million in district grants and \$47.3 million in global grants. These grants support local and international humanitarian projects as well as scholarships.

Together with its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has led the effort to eradicate polio, contributing more than \$1.3 billion to the initiative since its outset. In 2013, The Rotary Foundation provided over \$1million to help stop outbreaks of polio in Africa and the Middle East.

Our Rotary Foundation is one of the very best charities to receive our contributions. We can be proud of the way our money is invested and spent to *DO GOOD IN THE WORLD*. There is no better organization to receive our charitable giving.

If you haven't yet given this year, please do so before the end of December.

You can give through your club or at www.rotary.org.



The Rotary Club of Pigeon
Presents
Rob Miller
2015 Rotary Leadership Seminar
Monday January 26th
Laker High School Auditorium
9:00AM - Noon

Registration Information Coming Soon

[http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=648508f4b823572e73ff704af&id=72800f8794&e=\[UNIQID\]](http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=648508f4b823572e73ff704af&id=72800f8794&e=[UNIQID])



*Happy
Holidays
from your*



*Rotary
District
6310
Family*



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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