



# District Dispatch

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## Help Us Reach Our Goal!

**PDG Eileen Jennings**

We are fast approaching the end of this Rotary year. Foundation giving is calculated based on the Rotary fiscal year – July 1 through June 30.

Our clubs have given generously this year to Polio Plus and the Annual Fund. And we know that many clubs give most of their money during the month of June. If your club has already given, thank you. If you have delayed submitting your gifts, please delay no longer. Submit those gifts before the middle of June, to be sure they will be counted for the current Rotary year.

As of the end of May, only three clubs have given nothing to the Annual Fund. You know who you are! Please, please give so that our district may have 100% participation.

Our goal is to have every club give at least \$100 per member, with every member of the club giving something. As of the end of May, EIGHT clubs have given more than \$100 per member, but not all of those clubs have submitted contributions from every member of the club. ELEVEN clubs have surpassed the Annual Fund goal they set last summer. According to Rotary records, though, only THREE clubs have participation in the Annual Fund by 100% of their members.

Thus far, our district has given \$121,595 to the Annual Fund, and another \$31,412 to other funds (mostly polio). Governor Duane has challenged us to give a total of \$150,000 to the Annual Fund this year. If every member gave an additional \$20.50 before June 30 to the Annual Fund, we could meet this goal.

Dig deep and help Governor Duane and our district set an all-time high contribution level for District 6310! And thanks again to those Rotarians who have already given generously.

# Around the District

At a recent meeting of the **Owosso Rotary Club**, Barbara VanderMolen, author of the two-volume book, "Discovering Michigan, County by County," published in cooperation with the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture, was the featured speaker.

Strapped for time – she had but 20 minutes to comment on each of Michigan's 83 counties – she raced through the whole lot of them, introducing each with "Did you know...?" Here's but a sampling of things we probably did not know about our Michigan counties, starting with those in the Upper Peninsula.

Alger – No.1 in the U.S. in production of low fat ice cream mix.

Baraga – No. 1 in harvest of dry edible peas and, along with other counties bordering Lake Superior, it's not unusual to receive up to 300 inches of snow in the winter.

Chippewa – Established in 1668, the county's Sault Ste. Marie is the oldest city in the U.S. Midwest.

Delta – Often referred to as the Upper Peninsula's "Banana Belt" with lesser amounts of snowfall and moderate temperatures.

Houghton – the county's Hancock, "Finnish Capital of the U.S.," is the northernmost city in Michigan.

Keenan – Home of Isle Royale, a national park in Lake Superior.

Luce – Tahquamenon Falls, on the river of the same name, is the second largest waterfall east of the Mississippi River.

Mackinac – The Grand Hotel, the world's largest summer hotel.

Marquette – The largest county (in area) in Michigan.

And in Michigan's Lower Peninsula:

Alpena – World's largest cement plant and home of the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center.

Antrim – Torch is the deepest lake in Michigan and the second largest.

Barry – Hickory Corners, home of the Gilmore Car Museum, the nation's "premier automotive history destination."

Bay – Home of Michigan Sugar Company (Pioneer Sugar), the only sugar beet factory east of the Mississippi River.

Benzie – In Honor, the National Coho Salmon Festival every August.



BARBARA J. VANDERMOLEN

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Calhoun – Battle Creek, home of the W. K. Kellogg Company, world’s leading producer of cereals

Charlevoix – Mormon dissenter “King” James Strang established a colony in 1847 on Beaver Island. In 1856, he was assassinated and his followers evicted from the island.

Clare – Where “Up North” begins.

Clinton – St. Johns, “Mint capital of the world.”

Emmet – Pellston, “Ice Box of the Nation,” holds the record for Michigan’s lowest temperature of 53 degrees below zero.

Gratiot – Alma, home of the Highland Festival (May). Scottish pageantry.

Ingham – Home of Michigan State University, pioneer land grant institution.

Isabella – Mt. Pleasant, home of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe’s Soaring Eagle Casino.

Jackson – Republican Party formed in Jackson in 1854.

Kalamazoo – No. 1 county in the U.S. for bedding plant production.

Kent – Grand Rapids, home of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

Leelanau – Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Mason – Ludington, home port of the car ferry SS Badger, which crosses Lake Michigan to Manitowoc, WI.

Midland – Headquarters of Dow Chemical Company.

Monroe – Home of La-Z-Boy, Inc. (chairs) and General George Armstrong Custer.

Newaygo – Fremont, home of Gerber Products, world’s first and largest baby food manufacturing plant. 2

Ottawa – Holland Tulip Festival (May).

Shiawassee – Owosso, home of the Steam Railroading Institute, host of Train Expo 2014, June 20-22.

St. Clair – Port Huron, gateway to Canada via the Blue Water Bridge.

Washtenaw – In Ann Arbor, Michigan Stadium, the largest college-owned (U-M) stadium in the U.S.

That’s information on 34 of Michigan’s 83 counties, but Barbara VanderMolen’s books contain information on all of Michigan’s counties. To purchase her books, contact Thunder Bay Press, Holt, Mich. 48842.

Submitted by PDG Dick Campbell



Presiding at her last board meeting as **Bay City Morning Rotary Club** President, Magen Samyn takes care of business while taking care of Carter. What a treat to have him visit the club.

Definitely a future Rotarian!

Global Scholar Peter Ekadu recently shared details of the Flag of Uganda with the **Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club**.

Adopted in 1962, the year Uganda became independent from the United Kingdom, the flag consists of six equal horizontal bands of black, yellow, and red with a white disc at the center depicting the national symbol, a grey crowned crane. The three colors are representative of African people (black), Africa's sunshine (yellow), and African brotherhood (red being the color of blood, through which all Africans are connected). The grey crowned crane is known for its quiet, gentle nature.



Peter is from Kampala City, which has a population of 4 million, which is a little bigger than Mt Pleasant.

Peter pointed out the differences in public transportation. In Uganda, you can ride a taxi for 3 cents for up to 6 miles. He also showed the traffic jams in Uganda where cars, bikes and people all on the same street. He also talked about the farmer's market, health care, and clean water.

He enjoyed his recent trip to Chicago and is looking forward to his trip to the Dominican Republic.



## Save the Date

Tentative Rotary Day at the Loons Game, Sunday, August 3, 2014

Look for details in an upcoming District Dispatch!

# Rotary's Historic Climb in Sydney



*Rotary members climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge and break the world record for most flags flown. Photo credit: Rotary International/Ayce Henson*

The massive turnout eclipsed Oprah Winfrey's world-record climb in 2011 when she summited the bridge alongside 315 of her most ardent fans. But for Rotary members, the record paled in comparison to the experience and the opportunity to take a step closer to ending polio forever. The event raised 110,000 Australian dollars (US \$102,300).

"It made me even prouder to be a Rotarian," said John Avakian from Healdsburg, California, USA. "It was an incredible experience of tremendous camaraderie."

Rotary members cheered for each of the 26 groups as they made way through the lobby to the entrance of the bridge climb. Cloud cover hid the sun for most of the morning, but light broke through briefly as the climbers unfurled their flags, which had been tucked into their sleeves during the ascent. Helicopters circled overhead from a variety of local Sydney news stations. Climbers cheered, danced, and even broke into the "Wave" from 400 feet above ground.

"I think that's exactly what Rotary needs," said Nate Harimoto of Thousand Oaks, California, "a show of force from all around the world."

Climbers from Taiwan, Australia, China, Japan, United States, and dozens of other countries and regions supported each other during the event. They watched each other's backs, literally and figuratively, helping to steer climbers' heads away from hanging steel beams. For a day, their commitment to help others also became a commitment to help each other. And in the process, they raised enough money to show the world how committed they are to polio eradication.

For Leilani Ross of Queensland, however, the climb was also about closing an important family chapter. She had long wanted to climb the bridge with her father, but didn't get the chance before he died a few years ago. "The friendliness is just wonderful," Ross said. "Everyone is welcoming."

Cheryl Drozdowicz, a former Youth Exchange student from Wisconsin, USA, who stayed with Ross 35 years ago, watched her go up. After the convention, Drozdowicz will travel back to Queensland for the first time since her program all those years ago. "I always feel like a piece of my heart is still there," Drozdowicz said.

Fondly known as the "Coat Hanger," the bridge officially opened in 1931. The bridge is also referred to as the "Iron Lung" because it employed so many Australians during the Great Depression. Tourists began climbing the bridge in 1998, which is now considered a tourist must with over 3 million visitors from over 130 countries in that time.

During Friday's world record-breaking Sydney Harbour bridge climb, Rotary members raised enough money to protect 240,000 from polio.

Despite the physically grueling four-hour trek up and down the bridge's storied steel arches, the 340 participants kept their good spirits and stood side-by-side waving 278 flags.

"When the helicopters were going around, Graeme Davies, district governor of the Rotary Club of Kincumber in Australia.

**Club members.** You are the heart and soul of Rotary. You make it work. You are the reason why Rotary does good in the world. Lives change. You do it through direct actions and with contributions that allow others to act. You are Rotary. That was my vision as I started the year as governor. That's my take away as this year closes.

**Thank you.** You allowed me the honor of serving you this year as governor. I will always cherish this time. To all the club presidents, I give a special thank you. Your job is the most difficult yet rewarding job in Rotary. Thank you for your time, commitment, and energy. You made this a successful year. It's been a privilege to visit each club and to work with each of you. It will be a privilege to work side-by-side with you in other capacities in the future. Assistant governors, committee chairs, and everyone who works tirelessly to keep District 6310 moving forward are all part of a wonderful family.

**Highlights galore.** What a year we've had!

- Implemented the new Rotary Foundation grant model
- Certified India as polio-free
- Learned next generation of club governance and transparency with Rotary Club Central
- Redesigned the Rotary International website
- Rebranded the Rotary logo
- Revised our standardized club constitutional documents
- Welcomed Global Scholar Peter Ekadu
- Continued our success with the District's water, sanitation, and hand washing projects
- Chartered two new interact clubs

**Club milestones.** Eight clubs are enjoying significant milestones. Rotary in Saginaw started 100 years ago. Bad Axe is celebrating 90 years. Breckenridge, Chesaning, Corunna, Durand, Frankenmuth, and Sebewaing are all celebrating 75 years. And congratulations to the Birch Run and Caro clubs for their success in starting Interact Clubs in their high schools. What a remarkable contribution to service!

**Closing thoughts.** We have a special family of Rotary in District 6310. Like a family, each club has its own unique qualities and personalities. Diversity allows us to do special things. Keep that energy and uniqueness alive. Your individual sparks add vibrancy of our clubs. Whether you prefer to work behind the scenes or in more visible roles, we need everybody. Don't be afraid of change and keep your clubs moving forward. Your clubs all have a welcoming spirit. Nurture that spirit and have fun.

The Rotary year comes to a close on June 30, but it's really just another day. The good work we do continues and that is the most important message of all. We choose to engage Rotary as a personal commitment. How we do it is a matter of choice, but the results are the same. You have changed the lives of countless individuals, families, and communities because you took the time



**2013-2014 District 6310  
Governor Duane Reyhl**



### Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating birthdays this month

**Mt. Pleasant** - 89 years - Chartered June 16, 1925

**Cass City** - 84 years - Chartered June 21, 1930

**Sebewaing** - 75 years - Chartered June 27, 1939



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:

Connie M. Deford, Administrative Assistant  
connie.district6310@gmail.com