

District Dispatch

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OCTOBER, 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Mark your Calendar	2
New Grant for District	3
Future Matters—Membership	5
'Let the Children Hear'—Uganda	6
World Polio Day	7
Foundation Seminar	7
Council on Legislation	8
E-Club Ceases Operation	8
Dates to Remember	8
Around the District	9-13
Congrats	14

Notes from DG Dee

Oh, yes, we are a busy, busy District. Our clubs are “doing good” and “lighting up Rotary” in their local communities and globally. It has been such a pleasure for me to visit your clubs, to hear about your projects, and to take part in some of your celebrations. Some of your activities have been years in the making – years of planning, years of work, years of fund raising and then, it happens just as you hoped it would!

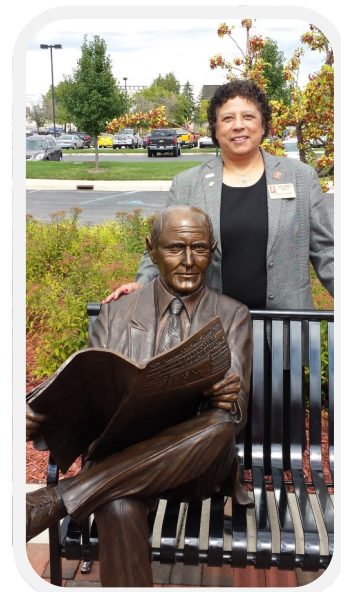
This past month I’ve been privileged to attend two ceremonies that were years in the making. On September 16, I attended the Rotary Club of Bay City’s Paul Harris Statue Dedication, the culmination of a six-year project. What a thrill it was for many of us in attendance to sit next to or stand near the statue of Rotary’s founder. If you have the opportunity, visit the Paul Harris statue, which is located in Rotary Park at Pere Marquette Depot in downtown Bay City.

On October 6, the Rotary Club of Saginaw hosted a Centennial Celebration at the Dow Event Center. The club dedicated and presented a mural depicting the history of Saginaw as their gift to their community. I urge you to visit downtown Saginaw and see the mural, which is the result of a project that was four years in the making.

Foundation Seminar and Membership Summit

A **Foundation Seminar** will be held on **October 25 in Saginaw**. Club presidents, treasurers, and foundation chairs are especially encouraged to attend. No advance registration is needed. More information is found in this edition of the Dispatch.

A **Membership Summit**, sponsored by District 6310 and Rotary Zone 29, will be held on **November 8 in Saginaw**. As I have visited your clubs, many of you have told me that attracting and retaining members is an issue for your club. Well, here is an opportunity to hear from our Rotary Zone Coordinators, Bob Small and Kathleen Tosco, and our District Membership Chair, Rich Fleming. The focus of the summit will be to “assist Clubs and strengthen their efforts to be creative, innovative, and inclusive as they attract new members and engage all members in our Club’s projects and programs.” I sincerely hope each club will make it a point to send one or two members to this Summit.



(continued on Page 2)

Notes from DG Dee (continued)

Youth Services Notes

On September 23 I visited the **Caro Interact Club** in the morning, then visited the Vassar Club at noon, drove back to Shepherd (and took a nap), and then visited the **CMU Rotaract Club** that evening. Yes, I said the Four Way Test three times that day! In case you're wondering ... it was a great day to be a Rotarian! My plan is to visit all of the Interact and Rotaract Clubs in our District within the next couple of months.

The **Youth Exchange** Students spent some time at Joe Sawyer's cottage at the end of September. They had a great time relaxing and becoming better acquainted with each other. I'm guessing from the pictures on Facebook, they had a lot of fun! I have enjoyed seeing some of them as I visit their host clubs. Catalina and I even spoke a little Spanish when I visited the Caro Club!

The date for **Rotary Youth Leadership Award** (Camp Rotary) has been set for June 14-18, 2015. Notice this is a week later than it is usually held.

"The Rotary way is to light a candle.

I light one.

You light one.

More than 1.2 million people all light one.

Together, we light up the world."

-RI President Gary Huang



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

All are invited to a seminar on the **nuts and bolts** of Foundation Giving. This workshop will discuss 2 items:

Polio Plus – update on eradication and fundraising needs and ideas

Foundation Giving – basics and how to submit gifts from club members

Rotary Foundation Seminar

Saturday, October 25, 2014

8:30 to 11:30 AM

First United Methodist Church

4790 Gratiot

Saginaw

Club Presidents, Treasurers, and Foundation Chairs are especially encouraged to attend. All are welcome.

No advance registration is needed.

District Receives New Grant For Filters, Latrines, and Handwashing

By Charles Adams

On Aug. 15, we got a one-line email from Melissa Franklin (Birch Run) that said: “I just got word that our grant was approved for the total amount of \$44,855. I am so happy!!!!” Melissa, I can assure you that we were just as thrilled to get that news in the Dominican Republic.

This new grant is 6310’s first Global Grant, the new grant system set up by The Rotary Foundation to replace the Matching Grant system. The grant is for a variety of projects in the villages of Moca, Juan Lopez, and Cayetano-Germosen in the Dominican Republic. Birch Run was the District’s lead club for the grant, and the Rotary Club of Juan Lopez is the Dominican partner. The project is expected to start this fall and be complete in 21 months.

For the past three years, 6310 has been attracted to the needs of people in the Moca area – an agricultural area only a half-hour east of Santiago in the north-central part of the Dominican Republic. A short review from the Dominican perspective will help see the truly impressive scope of the District’s major humanitarian initiatives in the DR and its current focus on the Moca area.

A Review

One Matching Grant of \$24,989 funded latrines, two wells, and two water storage tanks in Paso de Moca, a village outside the town of Moca. Randy Ettema and the Frankenmuth Morning Club lead this project. The Rotary Club of Moca, Inc. is the Dominican Partner.

Another Matching Grant of \$24,914 currently targets the village of Villa Trina, about 15 miles from Moca. This grant is building rainwater harvesting systems for the schools, repairing cisterns, building a water storage tank for the community, and building handwashing stations in 10 schools. Carl Hubinger and the Saginaw Club manage this project. The Rotary Club of Villa Trina is the Dominican partner.

Last year, the District received a Matching Grant of \$24,995 for Phase 2 of the Rotary Handwashing Campaign in the DR. Cheryl Peterson and the Owosso Club lead the District on this grant. The local partner is the Rotary Club of Quita Espuela, in San Francisco de Macoris – about a half-hour to the east of Moca. The Handwashing Campaign in this and other locations is managed by me and my wife, PDG Alexandra Martinez, as representatives of the 6310 in the DR. Phase 2 is for training teachers in 100 schools and training at least 15,000 students in handwashing and hygiene. The project now extends to the towns of Pimentel and Tenares. A team from 6310 observed teacher training in Pimentel, last November. The project is about three-fourths complete.

Chip Sassone and the Frankenmuth Noon Club are near completion of a \$25,000 Matching Grant project in La Cumbre, a village to the north of Santiago. The local partner is the Rotary Club of Santiago Gurabito. Based upon a “village concept,” the grant funds an aqueduct, distribution lines, 80 latrines, and other services for that mountain village. Following up, Frankenmuth and Gurabito have recently closed out a Matching Grant for \$24,990 that provided household filters to La Cumbre and other villages around Santiago – about 300 families in all.

Serving other areas around Santiago, the District recently closed out a grant for \$24,985 for Phase 1 of the Handwashing Campaign. Cheryl Peterson and the Owosso Club obtained this grant; the Dominican partner was the Rotary Club of Santiago Apóstol. This grant involved 101 schools where 304 teachers and 20,027 students were trained. Also trained were 787 households and 65 NGO workers. Phase 2 is in progress, and an application has been made to fund the next phase. The intention is to expand to a national handwashing campaign and, ultimately, to persuade the Ministry of Education to incorporate handwashing and hygiene into the national health curriculum.

(continued on Page 4)

District Receives New Grant (continued)

The New Grant

Melissa Franklin, who carried the spear for Birch Run to get the newest grant, calls it “the village grant” because it covers such a broad range of water and sanitation (WASH) initiatives for the Moca area.

Highlighting the grant will be the installation of hollow-fiber membrane water filters for 292 families -- Dominican and Haitian families around the bateys (sugar cane labor camps). The past year, Rotary has funded approximately 1,000 of the original Aqua Clara one-bucket filters in the DR; but this will be the first project to distribute a new two-bucket model of that filter, which avoids the recontamination of filtered water.

The earlier Aqua Clara models, similar to the bio-sand filters, discharged filtered water by means of a tube into containers such as five-gallon bottles or buckets. According to the World Health Organization, this procedure imposes serious risks of re-contaminating the filtered water. Lab test show that water going through the Aqua Clara filter comes out 99.9999% free of bacteria. Even so, pure water plus dirty tubes, buckets, or bottles still gives you contaminated water.

Chip Sassone and the Frankenmuth Noon Club got the first Foundation funding to pioneer the original one-bucket Aqua Clara hollow-tube filter. In this new grant, the District is introducing the new model, which comprises two buckets. The top bucket is for the filtration process; the bottom bucket provides a reservoir for the filtered water. This allows the user to take pure water for drinking or cooking directly from the spigot in the bottom bucket of the filter without risk of recontamination. The water, of course, can still be discharged into storage containers for bathing and other personal hygiene needs. During July, Alexandra and I had the opportunity to demonstrate this filter to 10 or 12 clubs in 6310.



Other water initiatives include a submersible water pump and the construction of tanks and water lines for storage/distribution systems in two villages.

Another feature of the grant is an emphasis upon sanitation. It calls for the construction of 55 latrines and extensive training on hygiene and handwashing in the communities. Extra attention is directed to the sanitation needs of the poor Haitian population, which tends to receive very few services in the normal course of things. Discrimination is simply a fact in the Dominican Republic, as in most other countries.

A very distinctive and somewhat unusual focus of the grant is upon training and capacity building. Multiple initiatives will be used to train households, communities, and community organizations. In addition to training members of Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact, special emphasis is placed upon the training of Rotary Community Corps (RCCs).

RCCs are community groups of volunteers formed and supervised by Rotary clubs to implement community projects. Although strongly encouraged and supported by Rotary International, RCCs are not well known in the U.S. However, in the DR and some other developing nations, RCCs form a crucial part of Rotary’s “distribution network” for humanitarian services.

It works like this. A sponsoring Rotary club will sit down with an RCC and discuss the needs of the RCC’s community. They will agree upon a project. The Rotary club will research it, prepare an application, and get it funded. The RCC will implement the project under the Rotary club’s supervision.

Basically, an RCC provides the labor and expertise to implement Rotary-funded projects in the RCC’s community. This allows Rotary clubs in the DR to take on and implement many more projects than a club could handle by itself. There are 28 RCCs in the DR. Some Rotary clubs that know how to use them well may have five or six RCCs.

This grant, wisely, recognizes the important role RCCs can perform not only to implement the projects but also in monitoring and follow-up support, which are essential to sustainability. To do this, however, requires training the RCCs, which this grant provides for.

(continued on Page 14)

Future Matters...

A Rotary Point of Emphasis—MEMBERSHIP

By Chairman Richard J. Fleming

For many years the first focus of Rotary has been on the elimination of polio. Although this job remains a primary emphasis, a disturbing trend in the membership in service clubs worldwide has caught the attention of the leadership of Rotary International. An average of 44,000 new individuals join Rotary clubs in North America each year, while an average of 51,000 are lost. Since July 1, 2007, membership in North America has declined by more than 28,000 members, about 7 %.

Lest we think these problems are not close to home, statistics show that our own District 6310 membership has declined by 70 members in the last five years. A statistic that is quite striking is that in the past 10 years, 691 new members were inducted into our clubs, but of those 691 individuals, 236 later resigned. This is a startling loss.

Rotary International has responded with membership plans. Zones 28 and 29 have combined to develop a plan that will affect our District, which is a part of Zone 29. These zones include clubs from as far west as Nebraska, north to the Dakotas and Ontario and east to New York and Maryland. The plans involve a round of leadership training which began last June and will extend through the year to the District Conferences. A Membership Summit will be held in our District in November and is designed to include membership chairs from each of our 32 clubs.

As you can see from the numbers above, the problem isn't just that we are not inviting people to join Rotary, but rather that we are not holding on to them. We know that people leave their clubs for a variety of reasons, many of which are unpreventable. On the other hand, RI is convinced that more attention needs to be placed on this problem. The Zone 28/29 Plan includes the following recommendations.

1. Defining Rotary International's "customer" as current Rotarians and creating messages, leadership best practices, training and administrative and planning processes to focus club, district, and zone activities on this single concept.

2. Identifying, defining, and pursuing Rotary's value proposition to these customers by increasing the focus on the exclusive and significant benefits of membership in Rotary.
3. Training club leadership and providing usable resources to assess club practices, as well as developing and implementing changes to build and maintain strong, vibrant clubs.
4. Helping clubs recognize that increased customer satisfaction will create increased interest and demand among qualified potential customers to join Rotary and continue with Rotary.

There is no question that Rotary cannot continue to do all the great things it does in our communities and in the world if it does not have enough members. In sharing our story, perhaps we should be prepared to answer the question "Why are you a member of Rotary?"

The plans being developed have three principal thrusts: attracting members, engaging members, and developing new clubs. In each of our clubs we need to be thinking of ways to address these ideas. Here are a few ideas I might suggest. You will think of many others.

1. Each club should have a membership chair and committee.
2. We can ask members to think about why they are members of Rotary. (Two common answers are friendship and fellowship, and making a positive impact in the community. We can all think of others.)
3. When we set membership goals, do not think in terms of "net changes," but set goals for both attraction and retention.
4. Plan for engagement of new members.

The "brand" of Rotary is to "Join leaders, exchange ideas, take action." We hope to see membership chairs at our Membership Summit in November because "Future Matters..."

‘Let the Children Hear’—Uganda

District Foundation Chair Eileen Jennings received a request from Paul Denton, of the Rotary Club of Luton North in District 1260 in the United Kingdom for support of a project in Kampala, Uganda. This is our Global Scholar, Peter Ekadu’s, home city.

District 1260 is working with Rotary Clubs in Kampala to establish ‘Let the Children Hear’ in the Namuwonga slum in Kampala. This project will set up a hearing clinic for children. Paul asked if our District would participate in the project. Unfortunately the District cannot provide the requested funds. We shared the information about the project with all clubs, hoping that maybe one or more clubs would like to participate. We also shared the information with Peter, who wrote this letter of support for the project.

LETTER OF SUPPORT

As a Global Scholar, it gives me great pleasure to write this letter of support for ‘Let the Children Hear’- Uganda. This program which will provide free hearing healthcare Services for children within Namuwonga slum area will enhance public awareness about preventable causes of hearing in children, provide opportunity for early detection and management of hearing loss, provide hearing aids and rehabilitations, which will promote better health of the community being served.

Growing up in an area close to the location of this project. I can confirm that the project will be very beneficial to the target population. Namuwonga where the project is located is located approximately 6 miles from Bweyogere-Kampala where I grew up. I often visited some friends of mine who lived in this area.

Namuwonga-Kisugu-Wabigalo area where the project is located is one of the largest slums in Uganda. It has a population of approximately 25,000 people; most of whom are illiterate and their source of survival are menial jobs. The families have an average of 5 members and people there live in abject poverty barely surviving on one dollar a day. To a majority of the residents, surviving to see the next day is a priority as opposed to attaining better health. Looking at the holistic wellbeing of this community, they can only attain full productivity and break out of the vicious cycle of poverty by having better education and having a healthy life—something that ‘Let the Children Hear’- Uganda seeks to promote.

I personally suffered from a chronic ear infection for a long time while growing up. I come from a low-income family and I can confirm how it is costly and difficult to get a good ENT specialist to diagnose and later treat an ear infection in Uganda. It took me 10 years to see a good specialist and have a major surgery to rectify the problem at a cost of \$1500—an amount that many families in this area cannot raise. I later learned that the cause of my illness was a bacterial infection, which could have been detected, prevented, or treated earlier without requiring a major operation later.

The challenges that I had while attending school with an ear infection were discomfort whenever I had a discharge from my ear. Sometimes I could not make it to class because I was feeling drowsy from the antibiotic eardrops, which interrupted my education. Good health is a very important component of success in education. I strongly believe that the target community for the program will be uplifted from poverty by the children getting access to better health and being able to attend school.

‘Let the Children Hear’-Uganda is a viable organization and their goals and mission are in line with trying to uplift humanity. I have full confidence in their ability to run this program, fulfill their objectives, and manage the funds that they seek from District 6310 for the grant. Congratulations on your proposal, and I wish you much success with the application. I look forward to visiting your project and working with you in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Peter Ekadu
Email: ekadu.peter@gmail.com
District 6310 Global Grant Scholar

World Polio Day October 24

By Chairman Chuck Cusick

Rotary will host a live-streamed global status update on the fight to end polio. Guests include Global Eradication Initiative partners, celebrity ambassadors, polio survivors, and Rotary members. Watch the event live and join the conversation at: <http://www.endpolio.org/worldpolioday>.

Today, the vast majority of the world is polio-free. Nearly 80 percent of all polio cases are concentrated in just one country: Pakistan. The two other remaining polio-endemic countries – Afghanistan and Nigeria – continue to show progress. Nigeria has decreased cases by 87 percent and Afghanistan has recorded only 10 cases of this devastating disease.

October 24 is our district's "Pizza for Polio" day. Has your club lined up participating pizza parlors? This is a great opportunity to raise awareness and fundraise for this cause.

How is your club doing on the change jar? **"The CHANGE in your pocket can CHANGE a life"**.

Wiping a disease from the face of the earth is not easy, and the final push is the most challenging. With your support and your voice, we can end polio now.

Foundation Seminar October 25

By Chairman Eileen Jennings

The District Foundation Committee is offering a Foundation Seminar on **October 25**, in Saginaw. The Seminar is designed to address many practical questions about

- The difference between recognition amounts and recognition points
- How to submit club members' contributions to The Rotary Foundation
- How to complete forms to accompany contributions from multiple club members
- Setting Club Goals
- The difference between Paul Harris Fellows and members of the Paul Harris Society
- Ideas for promoting giving to the Annual Fund
- Other issues

The Seminar will also present updated information on the status of polio eradication and programs for fundraising for Polio Plus. It is designed to deal with the nuts and bolts issues around raising money for the Foundation. The seminar is designed especially for Foundation Chairs, Club Treasurers, and Club Presidents. Others are more than welcome.

We will have coffee and donuts from 8:30 – 9:00. The seminar will begin promptly at 9:00 and end at 11:30. Location information is below. Bring your practical questions. If possible, send your questions ahead of time to eileen.jennings811@gmail.com.

Seminar Location: First United Methodist Church, 4790 Gratiot, Saginaw (Gratiot is also M-46.)
The Church is 3 blocks east of Center, west of Country Club, and next to Roselawn Cemetery.
Consult your GPS!

Council on Legislation

By PDG Georgene Hildenrand

Every three years Rotary International's Council on Legislation meets to debate and vote on legislation submitted by Rotarians. The deadline for submitting a proposed change from the district is 31 December 2014, *no exceptions*. If you or your club is thinking about submitting a change, the below excerpt is taken directly from the article on How to Propose Legislation. My-rotary→ Learning and Reference→ Council on Legislation→ Proposing Legislation→ three topics to assist you,

- 1) How to propose legislation,
- 2) How to draft proposed legislation
- 3) Online legislation certification form.

Or, you can just call me and we will work through the idea. This is *your* chance to update our operating procedures at the International level.

Contact information for District 6310 Council on Legislation Representative Georgene Hildebrand is 989-657-2428,

District 6310 E-Club Ceases Operation

By PDG Ed Eichler

The District 6310 e-club has ceased operation. Currently there is no shortage of "brick and mortar" clubs in D6310. Someone who wishes to align themselves with Rotary has already done so through a physical club. In the beginning, there was great interest expressed in the e-club, but no one wanted to jump ship from their traditional club. Towards the end, we tried to get some traffic by using it as an opportunity for makeup meetings for Rotarians in D6310. There was still little interest. There was only one Pigeon member to use the e-club as a makeup.

E-clubs seem to shine in rural areas where there isn't a presence of many easily accessible traditional clubs, such as in Australia. Rotary is a great opportunity to do great things for local communities and the world. People who want to give back seem to prefer a traditional club setting where it is available. Our District has many options available for this type of person in existing, well-established, traditional clubs.

Dates to Remember

World Polio Day and Pizza For Polio Day

October 24

At your local pizzeria

Foundation Seminar

October 25

Saginaw

Membership Summit

November 8

Saginaw

The Rotary Foundation Gala

November 21

Frankenmuth

Around the District

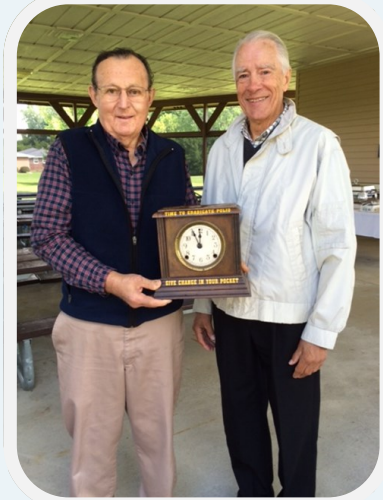


The **Alma-St. Louis Rotary Club** President Elect Marge Roslund thought the soccer balls with the Rotary emblem on them for sale at PETS training this spring were so cool, that she purchased a couple. One she donated in the Alma-St. Louis Rotary Club's donated silent auction basket at the District 6310 Conference. The second she donated to Club President Harmony Nowlin (pictured), to take on a mission trip with her church (Mt. Pleasant Community Church).

When Alma/St. Louis Rotary President Harmony Nowlin read the plea from District Governor Dee Brock regarding the "Change for Polio" campaign, she knew exactly what to do! She asked fellow Rotarian John Pavlik to come up with an idea for a container to put the weekly change in. John immediately agreed to help.



As a retired Auctioneer, John had plenty of antiques to choose from. What he settled on was an antique clock, complete with personalized lettering "Time to eradicate polio! Give change in your pocket!" "This container is sure to gain attention at our weekly meetings, and help us raise money toward our Club's Polio annual giving goal," stated President Nowlin. Pictured at right: John Pavlik (left) presenting the clock to Don Weis (right), both long-term Rotarians!



District Governor Dee Brock attended the Alma/St. Louis Rotary meeting and shared her goals for 2014/2015 Rotary year!

She was greeted with the Club singing "Welcome to Rotary Governor" and a special "Parting Poetry Poem" written by President Harmony Nowlin, entitled "District Governor."



The [Bad Axe Rotary Club](#) eradicated polio in Huron County five decades ago by raising money and volunteering service to immunize children. 50 years later, Rotary International is still fighting polio worldwide, but it's job is almost finished. Rotary International asked every Rotary Club in the world to contribute \$1,500 this year to the critical endgame phase of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Our Club instantly thought of partnering with the Bad Axe Public Schools to raise funds for this very important initiative. We knew the students could get the job done, that it would be a great service opportunity for them, and that it would be an educational opportunity to learn about a long-forgotten disease.

The Bad Axe High School Student Council took the challenge and set out to raise \$1,000 for Rotary to fight polio during homecoming spirit week. The students developed a presentation for the classes at the high school about the disease of polio and asked every student to donate at least 60 cents (the cost of a polio vaccination) to their cause.

The Student Council had help from several male teachers at the school to motivate the students. They developed a tiered reward system. If \$125 was raised, gym teacher and soccer coach Mr. Sutherland would have his finger nails painted purple. If \$250 was raised, Mr. VanTiem would have makeup put on. If \$500 was raised, Mr. Schmitt would wear a dress. If \$750 was raised, wrestling coach Mr. Hollingsworth would have his legs shaved. If \$1,000 was raised, Mr. Varner would have his head shaved! As of Wednesday, the donation total was only around \$500. The thought of Mr. Varner not getting his head shaved truly pushed the students to get the job done. By Friday the total shot up to \$1,701! All of these teachers graciously entertained the student body at the homecoming pep assembly by fulfilling their obligations for the donations.

The impact of the students' hard work is even greater. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is matching all of the money Rotary raises for polio \$2 for every \$1 raised. That means that the Bad Axe High School effectively raised \$5,103 for polio eradication! Well done!

The Bad Axe Rotary Club cannot thank the students and staff of Bad Axe High School enough for going above and beyond in helping us raise this money to End Polio Now!



On September 23rd, 15 new members were inducted into the [CMU Rotaract Club](#), led by President Ben Reyhl. District Governor Dee Brock opened the evening by speaking on the benefits of being in Rotary. The club celebrated the ceremony with cake and soda.



From left: Rob Clark, President Ron Bloomfield, Sculptor Carl McCleskey, Don Carlyon, PDG Jerome Yantz

The **Rotary Club of Bay City** met Tuesday, September 16, at the Pere Marquette Depot for the unveiling of the Paul Harris Statue residing outside in Rotary Park. During the abbreviated program, dignitaries were introduced including the sculptor, Carl McCleskey, from Cloudland, Georgia.

At 12:45 PM the gathered Rotarians and guests went outside to Rotary Park where they joined others who had come for the dedication. Short speeches were made including the history of the project. McCleskey then gave a short talk about the process of creating the statue, which involved both himself and his wife, Betsy Scott, who was the project lead and who did the face.

The statue faces the Bay County Building and shows Paul Harris reading an article covering the dedication of that building in the 1930's.

The sculpture was the idea of Don Carylton, who proposed it to Jerome Yantz some six years ago. Since then, these two, and others, including Bob and Cindy Chadwick, spearheaded an effort that raised some \$50,000.

The finished piece is the third full-size sculpture in the world of Paul Harris. This is the only piece that is in a setting that invites the public to sit and have their picture taken with Paul.



Driathlon Chairman John Shankool, Boys and Girls Club Board Chairman Jim Sharrard and Executive Director Ginger Drzewicki, and Club President Larry Arendt.

The **Bay City Morning Rotary Club** successfully completed its 4th Annual Driathlon on September 14th. Over 200 teams of two competed against each other in canoes, on bikes, and in their running shoes.

Participants were directed on the river, the Railtrail, and the River-Walk with the transition area stationed in Veterans Memorial Park.

Partnering with the club this year was the Boys and Girls Club of the Great Lakes Bay Region. They were presented with a check for \$3,000 from the proceeds of the event.

The **Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club** held it's first annual 5k Race. 110 runners and several local sponsors contributed to a night of success. This is a new fund raiser for the club, that attracted a younger group of people who were not familiar with Rotary. Thanks to Rotarians Brandon Bliss, Katie and Jena Eisenburger for putting the event together. Also, many thanks to Rotarian Paula Arndt and Weichert Realty for being a sponsor. District Governor Dee Brock came out. She enjoyed seeing the 4 CMU Rotaract Students who came out to help work the event. Mt. Pleasant High School Interact also sent volunteers to work. A great time was had by all.



Positive energy filled the room, as two dynamic Rotarians new to the **Owosso Rotary Club** presented Classification talks to the club.

Mr. Aaron Maike, the new President of Baker College of Owosso, and Dr. Jessica LaForest, OB-GYN at Memorial Hospital spoke about their backgrounds, life experience and commitment to Rotary.

Growing up in tiny Whitmore Lake, Michigan, Dr. LaForest stated that she loves small town life and therefore, Owosso is the perfect place to work and live.

As a transfer member from the Allen Park Rotary Club, Aaron Maike brings outstanding experience from his 12 year membership in Rotary.



The **Northern Bay & Arenac Rotary Club (Pinconning and Standish)** is pleased to be able to offer another special raffle item at Rotary International Night, which will be held Thursday, October 23rd, at the Bay City Country Club. International Night is a fundraising event of the Rotary Club of Bay City.

Two years ago, the club's raffle item was an afghan designed and knit by a prison inmate. Last year's item was a quilt of historic design created by Tina Bauer, owner of the Bittersweet Quilt Shop of Pinconning.

This year's quilt was made possible because of the special volunteer relationship between one of the club's members and inmates in the sewing and knitting groups at the Saginaw Correctional Facility. The fabulous quilt is made of denim and batik fabrics, in a clever and fun design introduced to the inmates by the ladies of St. Agatha's Catholic Church in Gagetown, who have also donated materials for the group's other projects.

The men have made a number of quilts for non-profit groups to use in their fundraisers. Over the last year, they have made 205 children's winter jackets, 95 quilts, and 189 fleece hats, all of which have been donated to agencies and schools in the region. All materials used are donated by the public.

This year's quilt was made using blue jeans donated by members of the Pinconning-Standish club, as well as fabrics provided by other individuals. The prison sewing group operates with donated sewing machines, thread, fabrics, and blunt-nosed scissors suitable for small children. It is amazing to see what can be done when people set their minds to it.

Members of the **Rotary Club of Saginaw** dedicated a large historic timeline of the Saginaw region on Monday, October 6.

The mural, titled "Saginaw: A rich history, A bright future," spans three centuries, from the Treaty of 1819 to recent developments, such as the opening of The Dow Event Center.

The idea behind the project was to find a way to educate everyone about Saginaw's rich history, including youth in the community who may not know that much about the life-cycle of their hometown.

The gift of the timeline is in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the club, which was the 93rd in the world. The timeline will be a permanent fixture and graces a wall inside of the atrium of the Dow Event Center.



District Receives New Grant (continued)

The Way We See It

Looking at 6310 from the Dominican Republic, we see a most remarkable District. While it may have contributed more projects and funding for the Dominican people than any other Rotary district in the world, over the past three to four years, that is only one thing that makes it remarkable. Two other things distinguish this District. One is the **focus and concentration** of projects, which allows much more impact and momentum than loosely scattered projects. The second thing, however, is the key distinction: 6310 is willing to be a **pioneer**, it is willing to consider new technologies and ways of doing things that are unusual for Rotary.

6310 has pioneered the Rotary Handwashing Campaign. Now in 300 schools serving over 100,000 students, we have another 175 schools and 50,000 students in our sights. Since Rotary is not set up to organize and manage large regional projects like this, 6310 has worked with us to lay the foundation for a national campaign by putting together centralized management from a puzzle of single, individual projects. The Handwashing Campaign has the potential to reduce more disease and save more lives than any other known health intervention. 6310 is right on the firing line to make that happen for an entire country.

6310 has also pioneered the introduction of a high technology for low-cost water filtration in humanitarian projects – the hollow-fiber membrane water filter. While the technology has been around for 40 years, only now is it becoming an economical, mainstream possibility for purifying water in developing nations. Now, with the new grant, 6310 is introducing the second generation of these filters. No place else in the Rotary world is this happening.

Soon, we will be ready to announce the most recent application of the hollow-fiber technology for schools, but you'll have to wait for a future edition of the *District Dispatch* to learn about that.

To us "worker bees" on the ground in the Dominican Republic, we see the vision and support of 6310 as a true Godsend. We shall forever be in your debt.

An amusing anecdote, reported by Chip Sassone. When Frankenmuth funded the first Aqua Clara filters for the DR, several Rotarians also purchased filters for their vacation homes. One gentleman, seeing how simple the filter looked, said, "I don't believe that this thing can produce pure water." So they scooped up a bucket full of muddy water from the Cass River and took it to the Saginaw Water Treatment Plant to test the filter. A few days later, the tests came back showing no evidence of any bacterial contamination: "This water would be drinkable as far as bacterial contaminants. We test for coliforms, which are an indicator of fecal contamination in water." Another great story of how expensive high technology has, in 40 years, become economical for poor people.

Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating an anniversary this month

Midland Morning - 26 years - Chartered October 10, 1988

Pinconning/Standish - 7 years - Chartered October 12, 2007

Saginaw Valley - 42 years - Chartered October 21, 1972

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