

District Dispatch

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Notes from DG Dee

Water and Sanitation Month

Zone 29 Rotary Coordinator Mary Berge notified district governors a few days ago "that the Board has modified Rotary's Calendar of Special Observances to highlight the "Areas of Focus" and to closely align our service with international recognition days/events." So, March is designated as Water and Sanitation Month, April will be Maternal and Child Health Month, May will be Youth Services Month, and June will be Rotary Fellowships Month.

Since this is March, that means we are celebrating Water and Sanitation Month. As many of you already know we have an active, dedicated Water and Sanitation (WAS) Committee in our District. Some of your clubs have had programs presented by a WAS committee member, but I want to encourage all clubs to invite someone from the committee to visit your club and give your members the opportunity to hear about the great work being done around the world.

District Conference – April 17-18

The District Conference will take place on April 17th and 18th at the Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn and Suites. Registration is available on our district website, www.rotary6310.org. You can register online or download a mail-in registration form. We have some informative and interesting sessions planned and some terrific speakers scheduled. Hope you can plan to attend part or all of the conference. More information will be sent to the presidents next week.

P.E.T.S.

The Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (P.E.T.S.) is scheduled for March 19-21 at the Radisson Plaza Inn and Suites in Kalamazoo. Incoming club presidents are required to attend and presidents-nominee are strongly encouraged to attend.

Our district is one of six districts that make up the Great Lakes Rotary PETS. By combining our resources and talents, we are able to provide one fantastic training program. The speakers and breakout sessions are excellent. It is Rotary fellowship at its finest.

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**2014-2015 District Governor
Delores "Dee" Brock**

Notes from DG Dee (continued)

Youth Services

So many exciting moments are happening with our district youth! The **Youth Exchange** students have welcomed Cecelia Da Silva from Argentina to their group. Cecelia's host club is the Rotary Club of Midland.

Caro's **Interact** Club is making a difference in their community with projects such as a coat drive for the needy, Imagination Library Carnival support, and monthly visits with residents at the Tuscola County Medical Care Facility. Nearly forty students are members of the club and are enjoying the benefits of making new friends, improving their community, developing leadership skills, and making a difference in the world. Congratulations to the Caro Interact Club and their sponsor, the Rotary Club of Caro. Keep up the great work!

The CMU **Rotaract** Club has been busy these past few weeks. They helped The Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant with their Annual Beef Dinner, raised money for Special Olympics by taking the Polar Plunge, had a bake sale, and celebrated the Chinese New Year at a recent meeting.

The district committee for Rotary Youth Leadership Award (**RYLA**) will have information and applications ready within the next couple of weeks. RYLA will take place at Camp Rotary in Clare June 14th -18th.

Polio Update

By Chairman Chuck Cusick

Rotary released \$34.8 million to end polio worldwide. These funds will be used by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF for polio immunizations, surveillance, and research activities in ten countries in Africa, and in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donated \$70 million in a two for one match to Rotary's gift.

Pakistan has reported seven new cases of polio this year. There have been no other cases reported.

Last fall, WHO joined forces with Vaxxas, the biotechnology company responsible for developing a revolutionary vaccine delivery method called the Nanopatch. The patch will replace the needle and syringe, does not require cold storage, and becomes a useful device to take the vaccine to remote locations with weak medical infrastructure. This device is currently in clinical trials in India.

As of mid-February, 18 clubs in our district have donated \$34,512 to Polio Plus. Fourteen clubs have not reported. Let's continue to collect our change at each meeting. We have shown that small amounts do add up.



"In Rotary, strong friendships and great service go hand in hand."

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Let's All Start Living by the Four-Way Test

By Tom Cook, Owosso Rotary Club

Our country, our communities, and our clubs need the Four-Way Test now, perhaps more than ever. We display Rotary's moral code on our wall, we have it imprinted on coins and cards, and we frequently recite it. We know it, but do we live it? And if we live it, how do share it and spread its benefits?

At the national political level, we see a discourse of name-calling. "Spin," the distortion of facts, and outright misstatements of fact are now acceptable in policy, business, and even media circles. Popular figures seem comfortable lying, or exaggerating about, their achievements; and we relish kicking them when they have fallen. Hardly is any of this "beneficial to all concerned."

At the local level, many public comment periods at city council and school board meetings become tainted with personal attacks. There are important issues that require dialogue, contrasting points of view, and compromise to resolve. If more people engaged in these discussions were to follow even half the Four-Way Test and ask "Is it true? Is it fair?" we could then focus on the issues, create space for new ideas, and foster consensus.

Perhaps it is the internet culture that drains away the goodwill from our conversations. There was a recent story in Owosso's Argus Press about how an exchange on Facebook led to a confrontation that resulted in a knifing. Spend even a little time looking at what people write online and you will find the worst kinds of lies, demeaning language, and use of profanity-laced personal attacks.

So where do we start with employing the Four-Way Test? First in monitoring ourselves in what we think, say, or do. Then, at the club level we need to go beyond just reciting the test, but thinking about how it guides us. It's fun to joke, but it troubles me (a little) when people tease other club members about the things they hold dear, or apply a political label to their points of view. These aren't violations of the truth, but they don't always build goodwill and better friendship. I think we need to take the extra step to foster a culture of mutual respect and constant compliments.

More importantly, I feel like we need to find ways to promote the Four-Way Test in our communities. I am not sure how we go about this, but we could all use some relief from negativism, angry voices, and personal attacks. Perhaps we need to start by pointing out, respectfully, when people are not being true or fair in their criticisms, and applaud people when they say or act in ways that build goodwill and better friendships.

Let's have a discussion with one another in our clubs about how to build communities, workplaces, and online chats that are beneficial to all concerned.

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings:

Of the things we think, say or do

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Around the District



Doug Hoard was recognized at a recent **Alma/St. Louis Rotary Club** meeting as a major donor to The Rotary Foundation, for his substantial contribution toward the goal of international understanding and peace. His donation is in support of the humanitarian and educational programs of The Rotary Foundation.

Thank you, Doug, for your generous and ongoing support! The Alma/St. Louis Rotary Club is very proud of you!" Pictured: Alma/St. Louis Rotary President Harmony Nowlin and Doug Hoard, with his Major Donor Crystal.



Midland's Youth Exchange Students attended the **Rotary Club of Midland** celebration of the 110th birthday of Rotary.

Pictured from left with their country flag are: Cecelia from Argentina, Ana from Brazil, Caroline from France, and Tig from Thailand.

The **Northern Bay & Arenac Rotary Club** recently heard a presentation about a local volunteer organization, the Area Baby Closet. A group of knitters made the initial contribution to establish the Baby Closet, the purpose of which is to provide families of newborn children with basic essentials to get them started. This includes such things as a swaddling blanket, a receiving blanket, socks, bibs, hats, diapers, wipes, quilts, and a variety of clothing.

Contributions are solicited from local businesses, professional offices, churches, and individuals. At least 15 organizations have provided support over the last few years, which has allowed the Baby Closet to provide assistance to 72 families. Grants have also been received from the Bay Area Community Foundation. The greatest need is always for disposable diapers. About 500 dozen packages of diapers and 250 packages of wipes have been distributed.



Pictured are Sue Penberthy & Pat Jaynes from the Area Baby Closet

Rotary Club of Alpena Presents Prestigious Cliff Dochterman Award for Scouting

October 27, 2014 was a special day for the Alpena Rotary Club as District Governor Dee Brock was joined by Alpena Club President Eric Magness Eubank and Boy Scout leaders from throughout the Boy Scouts Thunderhead District to present the prestigious Cliff Dochterman Award to Alpena Rotarian Steven Wright.

The Cliff Dochterman Award is an honor available to recognize an individual Rotarian or Rotaractor who acts as a role model and renders distinguished and dedicated service to Scouting through active service, leadership, or other exemplary contributions to the Scout Association as well as taking an active role in Rotary.



From the Rotary perspective, Steve is more than qualified. Steve is the morning DJ and Operations Manager for the local Country Western Station, WATZ in Alpena, and frequently invites Rotarians and Scouting leaders on his program to promote their programs and organizations. Steve has 13 years of perfect attendance, is one of the first to volunteer for ALL service projects, and is the chairman (for over ten years) of the raffle committee, which is one of the clubs most successful fundraisers.

Steve is past "Rotarian of the Year" and is annually under consideration for that award. Steve has accepted several exchange students into his home, is very active in the local 4-H, and assists in the organization and operation of the local Alpena County Fair, a huge endeavor. Steve is the first to volunteer for any special requests that the Rotary Club issues for assistance on special projects or community activities. He is a leader within the club by his continuous example of Service Above Self!

Steven's distinguished service and outstanding dedication to the program of Scouting is even more impressive. Steven is an Eagle Scout, his father was an Eagle Scout, and his son is an Eagle Scout. He has held numerous positions within the district committee and scouting units since 1972, both as a youth and an adult, and has recently held the following leadership positions:

District Vice Chair for Operations for Thunderhead District, Water and Woods Field Service Council 2008 - 2011
District Chair for Thunderhead District, Water and Woods Field Service Council 2011- 2014
Council Executive Board 2011 – 2013

In presenting the award DG Dee Brock spoke of the close parallel of the citizenship and leadership values that both scouting and Rotary promote and the importance of the two organizations to work together in improving our communities and the world we live in.

The Rotary Club of Alpena is proud to call Steve Wright a member !

Caro Interact Club (republished from an article in the local newspaper)

Youth in the community of Caro have much in common with their peers from around the world. Many are social media experts, spend their free time engaged in games based on Xbox and PlayStation and seemingly grow up very fast in a world that gets smaller and smaller by the day. But one thing that is new to Caro High School students, but uncommon in our area and in much of Michigan, is an organization called “Interact.”

Interact is Rotary International’s service club for young people ages 14-18 and was formed in Caro at the start of the 2013 school year by Caro’s own local Rotary Club. With over 250,000 members in more than 120 countries and geographical areas, Interact—like Rotary International itself—is worldwide.

Interact carries out various community service projects each year, including ones that further international understanding and goodwill. With a motto of *Service above Self*, Caro’s local Interact Club has made an immediate local impact with projects such as:

- coat drives for the needy,
- Imagination Library Carnival support (celebrating 100,000 books given to young readers), and
- monthly visits with residents of the Tuscola County Medical Care Facility.

The Interact Club at Caro High School has enjoyed an early and enthusiastic response from students growing from its inaugural year’s 25 members to a second-year membership of nearly 40!

Open to all youth 14-18 who live in the Caro area, Interact is their chance to:

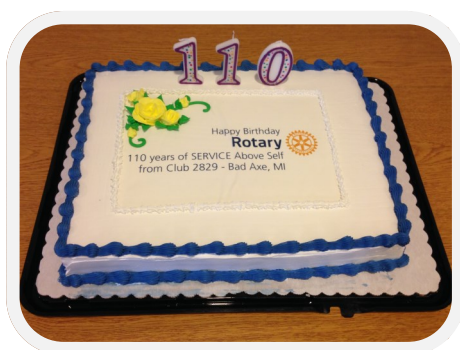
- Make new friends
- Improve their community
- Develop leadership skills
- Make a difference in the world.

Rotary International now provides opportunities to youth (Interact), college students (Rotaract), and adults in local communities (Rotary) and from around the world to engage in service programs that enhance the lives of others. Young people in Caro, MI, can now participate in that worthwhile—and hopefully—lifelong effort to help others in our own com-

The **Pigeon Rotary Club**, as part of their strategic planning process, recently completed a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats/challenges).

The club is looking at where they want to be on July 1, 2018. Some of their goals include:

- Maintain 50 quality members with a retention rate of 90%.
- Committee structure to be more intentional, formal and get new members involved.
- Donations to The Rotary Foundation at \$100 per member per year.
- Balance of Projects (80% local, 20% international)
- Local Projects – Rotary Track Meet, Roadside Pickup, Rotary Hill (factor in park improvement plan), Annual Cleanup Day
- International Projects – Support other clubs, partner with other community based groups to help bring Rotary into it for more funding (Hunger Relief, Lions, or other), Lead/Initiate a project
- Youth – annual scholarships and RYLA



Bad Axe Rotary Club



Cass City Rotary Club



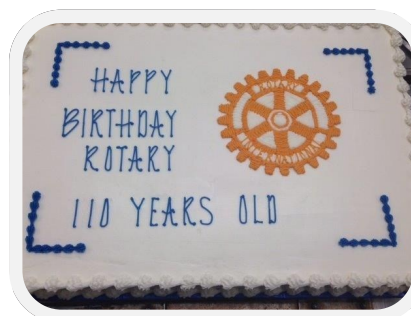
Durand Rotary Club



Frankenmuth Morning Rotary Club



Frankenmuth Morning Rotary Club
at the Wine Affair



Midland Rotary Club



Midland Morning Rotary Club



Owosso Rotary Club



Pinconning/Standish Rotary Club



Saginaw Rotary Club



Saginaw Valley Rotary Club



Shepherd Rotary Club

Upcoming Events

Caro Rotary Club and Thumb Area Center for the Arts
present

A Night of Wine and Murder

Featuring murder mystery show:
"Vintage Murder"
Saturday, March 14, 2015
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.. Show begins at 6:00 p.m..

Brentwood Restaurant
178 Park Dr.
Caro, MI, 48723
989-673-2330

Chicken Alfredo Dinner, Dessert, Beverages. Cash bar.
Silent Auction! Prizes! And More!

All proceeds to benefit Caro Rotary Club and Thumb Area Center for the Arts.

TICKETS: \$25 each, \$40 per pair. Available at:

AAA 810 S. State Street Caro, MI, 48723 989-673-1488	Brentwood Restaurant 178 Park Dr. Caro, MI, 48723 989-673-2330,
Anderson, Tuckey, and Bernhardt 715 East Frank Street Caro, MI, 48723 989-673-3137	

For more information, contact:
Cindy at 989-672-6001
or
Mary at 989-274-8379.

www.carorotaryclub.org
www.tacfta.org



 **Come Celebrate** 
St. Patrick's Day

Live and Silent Auctions **15th Annual Cass City Rotary St Patrick's Day Dinner and Raffle** *Prize for Best Dressed*

Gun Raffle **Saturday March 14, 2015** *Green Beer*
Cocktails 5:30
Dinner 6:30 *Reverse 50/50 Raffle*

Music By Dave LeMaster **Cass City VFW Hall**

Tickets \$30.00 each, Includes Dinner, Drinks and Dancing Available at Thumb National, Independent, Knights Insurance or from any Cass City Rotary Member!

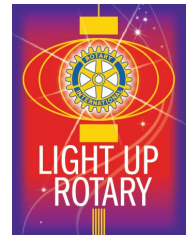


****Save The Date****

**Frankenmuth Morning Rotary Club's
Fahrrad Bicycle Tour
May 17, 2015**



District 6310 Conference



Join Leaders — Exchange Ideas — Take Action

- When:** Friday, April 17, and Saturday, April 18
- Where:** Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn and Suites
2424 S. Mission Street
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: (989) 772-4000
Hotel rooms: \$109 per night through April 3, 2015
(Please book room separately)
- Cost:** Conference: \$140 early registration through April 3, 2015
\$160 after April 3, 2015
For partial conference attendance and to register online or by mail,
please go to www.rotary6310.org

Breakout sessions will cover all of Rotary International's "Six Areas of Focus" plus plenty of sessions to help your club stay vibrant. Idea exchange sessions will give you lots of ideas for speakers, programs, and club promotion. You can attend sessions devoted to youth service, membership, polio eradication, Water and Sanitation, District Grant Seminar, service projects, public image and more.

Special Friday events: District Assembly Training in the morning; special lunch presentations by the Rotary Clubs of Shepherd and Mt. Pleasant; District Business Meeting; the Yellow Rose Ceremony; The Parade of Flags by our Youth Exchange; speakers RPIC Georgene Hildebrand, "The Incredible Dr. Pol" and RI Representative PDG Wayne C. Cusick.

Special Saturday Events: Rotary Hero Awards presented, video "The Boys of 1905", Presidential Citation and Club Leader Awards, District Leadership Acknowledgements, speakers Geoff Goll, a polio survivor and RI Representative PDG Wayne C. Cusick.

Other conference highlights include club basket auctions; special presentations by Global Scholar Peter Ekadu and Peace Scholar Jeanne Schaller; a special recognition for the Rotary Club of Bay City's 100th anniversary; Rotary fellowship and lots more.

Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating an anniversary this month

Alpena - 93 years - Chartered March 1, 1922

Vassar - 80 years - Chartered March 22, 1935

Gladwin - 77 years - Chartered March 1, 1938

Corunna - 76 years - Chartered March 29, 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:

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