



## **Global Network for Blood Donation, A Rotarian Action Group (GNBD)**

**2007-08 Annual Report  
to the Secretary General  
of Rotary International,  
September 2008.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Global Network for Blood Donation (GNBD) was founded in late 2006 as an umbrella organization for blood donor projects within Rotary International. GNBD was recognized in February 2007 by [Rotary International's Board of Directors](#) as a Rotarian Action Group. Website: [www.ourblooddrive.org](http://www.ourblooddrive.org).

### **FORWARD**

It is estimated that blood drives by Rotary Clubs and Districts around the world bring in annually 817,000 units of blood, corresponding to the amount needed to save or improve the lives of more than two million people each year.\* This amount of blood constitutes about one percent of the world's blood supply. The joint efforts by so many clubs/districts within Rotary International in the field of non-remunerated blood donation was recognized in 2006 with an "outstanding organization" award by [AABB](#), an international association involved in blood transfusion and cellular therapies.

### **THE PURPOSE OF GNBD IS**

- **to develop** an international network of Rotarians and Rotaractors, their clubs and districts, families and friends, around the world, who are involved in blood donor projects;
- **to inspire** other clubs and districts to join this lifesaving endeavour; and
- **to be a forum** where all parties involved may share their experiences.

### **PROFILED ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIP RETENTION**

By the end of the Rotary Year, GNBD had about 700 members in more than 70 countries. About 200 new members were added at the Rotary International Convention held in Los Angeles during June 2008, primarily visitors at our blood exhibition booth in the House of Friendship. In addition, we have received several requests for membership from individual Rotarians and Rotaractors who have been visiting our website, [www.ourblooddrive.org](http://www.ourblooddrive.org). Non-Rotarians who request membership are added to the membership list as Friends.

GNBD hosted a blood donor exhibition booth and a Breakout Session at the LA Convention. It was the second time that GNBD participated as a RAG with an exhibition booth in a House of Friendship at a RI Convention, and the first time that we hosted a Breakout Session.

GNBD President and co-founder, PDG Chuck Kurtzman of District 5790, chaired the Breakout Session. The following panelists participated:

- Rotarian Merlyn H. Sayers, District 5790, USA. M.B., B.Ch., Ph.D. President, Chief Executive Officer Carter BloodCare.
- Rotaractor Nina Kolenc, District 1910, Slovenia. Founder and Project Manager for the Rotoract Week blood donation project "Magna est vis humanitatis."

- Rotarian P T Prabhakar, PDG, District 3230, India. Project Chairman for Rotary Central – TTK- VHS Blood Bank, Madras.
- Rotarian Haagen P. Cumlet, District 1480, Denmark. GNBD President Elect and co-founder of GNBD.

The activities of GNBD have been centered on the website [www.ourblooddrive.org](http://www.ourblooddrive.org), which is gradually being developed into an electronic journal for blood donor projects, including matching grant seekers. About every month, new blood donor projects within Rotary or Rotaract have been profiled journalistically, or updated on the website, including pictures, graphics and links.

The GNBD newsletter is published about four times a year and distributed to members by e-mail and can also be downloaded from our website.

In addition to our communication with Rotary Clubs/Districts and Rotaractors involved in voluntary blood donation, we were approached from the “outside” world by three blood donor organizations: In Ukraine (Association for Non-Remunerated Blood Donation, PoKroVa), Zanzibar (Zanzibar Blood Voluntary Donor Association, ZABVODA), and Myanmar (Cunghu Volunteer Blood Donor Foundation in Chin State). In all three areas, voluntary blood donation is not developed.

- In the case of Zanzibar, we have encouraged a local Rotary Club to get involved. Contact between the parties has been confirmed.
- In the case of (Chin State) Myanmar, we have been seeking advice from the Red Cross, WHO and other experts.
- In the case of Ukraine, we will keep asking District and Clubs to add voluntary blood donor projects to their agenda in cooperation with the newly founded blood donor organization, PoKroVa.

Throughout the year, we have seen some major blood donor projects within the GNBD family expand – or plan to expand – across borders, even continents:

- The French “Mon Sang pour les Autres/My Blood for Others” has branched out into the French-speaking part of Africa;
- The “Governors’ Challenge Blood Drive” is on the move in Southern Africa, originally an offspring of the “Governors’ Challenge Blood Drive” in Texas.

Special transfusion/blood bank related expertise has been offered by:

- Rotarian Cees Th. Smit Sibinga: Prof. MD, PhD, FRCP Edin, FRCPath. (Dr. Sibinga has made available his Academic Institute for International Development of Transfusion Medicine (IDTM) at the University Medical Centre Groningen, the Netherlands, as a liaison institute to the Global Network for Blood Donation).
- Rotarian Joe Ridley, Executive Director, Regional Operations for Carter BloodCare in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.
- Rotarian Merlyn H. Sayers, M.B., B.Ch., Ph.D. President, Chief Executive Officer for Carter BloodCare.

A GNBD Handbook (version 2007-08) on how to organize blood drives/blood camps and other materials is offered as a download from the website [www.ourblooddrive.org](http://www.ourblooddrive.org). Approximately 2,000 printed copies were distributed at various Rotary events including the Lone Star PET seminar, various Zone Institutes, District Conferences, and the House of Friendship/Breakout Session at the Los Angeles Convention.

The GNBD was invited to present a session at the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals at their convention in Halifax, Canada in May 2008. Chuck Kurtzman, Bob Grigsby, and Joe Ridley ran the session.

GNBD President and co-founder Chuck Kurtzman was named by RI President Elect Dong Kurn Lee as Assistant General Coordinator, Health and Hunger Resource Group, Rotary International, and was the main author of the group's first publication, [Things We Can Do](#) (2008-09).

A relationship is developing among GNBD, Rotary Clubs, Blood Centers, and MediSend (a NGO specializing in redeploying medical equipment to developing countries in concert with specialist training for indigenous personnel as instrumentation technicians.) Rotary Clubs encourage USA-based blood centers to redeploy serviceable equipment to MediSend. Rotary Clubs will help with shipment to MediSend in Dallas, Texas. There, MediSend will train visiting instrument technicians to install and support the devices. MediSend will then send suites of equipment with needed supplies to the recipient country after the technicians have been trained.

### **Some things we encourage our members to do**

- Help their local blood bank/hospital to organize blood drives/blood camps; challenge neighboring clubs in a competitive network of such blood drives/camps.
- Help organize a register for regular voluntary blood donors; establish a local blood bank, and Club 25 programs, where no such facilities are present, but could be needed.
- Take part in the celebration of World Blood Donor Day, June 14. The World Blood Donor Day is sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT), the International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations (FIODS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- Help redeploy equipment from their community blood center or hospital to less fortunate parts of the world, where such equipment might be needed.
- Pay attention to the 2008-09 theme of RI President Dong Kurn Lee: *Make Dreams Real* - for children in need.

### **ANNUAL MEETING and BOARD MEETINGS**

During the year, the GNBD President called a number of board meetings, conducted by e-mail. The annual meeting, including the election of new board members, was conducted over a period of time by means of e-mails to members. President Chuck Kurtzman chaired the process. The 2008-09 Board was expanded from four to eleven members. A special liaison to Rotaract (non-voting) was created. At the suggestion of the GNBD Board of Directors, 2007-08, the GNBD leadership for 2008-09 will be:

- President – Haagen P. Cumlet, Denmark ([editor@ourblooddrive.org](mailto:editor@ourblooddrive.org))
- Vice President - Chuck Kurtzman, PDG, USA ([c.kurtzman@ourblooddrive.org](mailto:c.kurtzman@ourblooddrive.org))
- Treasurer – Bobby Grigsby, USA ([BGrigsby@carterbloodcare.org](mailto:BGrigsby@carterbloodcare.org))
- Secretary – George Elking, USA ([GJELKING@aol.com](mailto:GJELKING@aol.com))

New GNBD Directors for the Rotary year 2008-09:

- Jean-Claude Brocart, PDG, France ([jc.brocart@free.fr](mailto:jc.brocart@free.fr))
- Marco Kappenberger, Samoa ([kappenberger@gmail.com](mailto:kappenberger@gmail.com))
- P T Prabhakar, PDG, India ([ptp@md4.vsnl.net.in](mailto:ptp@md4.vsnl.net.in))
- Joe Ridley, USA ([JRidley@carterbloodcare.org](mailto:JRidley@carterbloodcare.org))

- Merlyn Sayers, USA ([MSayers@carterbloodcare.org](mailto:MSayers@carterbloodcare.org))
- Cees Smit Sibinga, Netherlands ([c.sibinga@planet.nl](mailto:c.sibinga@planet.nl))
- Elena Tscherny, USA ([elena.tscherny@dc.gov](mailto:elena.tscherny@dc.gov))
- Rotaract representative Nina Kolenc, Slovenia, ([ninakolenc@yahoo.com](mailto:ninakolenc@yahoo.com)) (non-voting).

In addition, supporting positions include Web Editor (Haagen P. Cumlet); Web Master (Charles Kurtzman); Data Entry (Ellen Kurtzman); Liaison to Professional Community (Joe Ridley); Liaison for Best Practice (Geoff Graham).

## FINANCES

For specifics, please see appended INCOME STATEMENT and BALANCE SHEET.

All GBND expenses were covered by sponsorships. This financial support substituted for membership fee.

The GNBD website, [www.ourblooddrive.org](http://www.ourblooddrive.org), was sponsored by District 5790 and the Koege Bugt Morgen Klub of District 1480 (based on the calendar year).

Carter BloodCare has generously supported the GNBD by producing and distributing the Handbooks, underwriting the costs of the presentation to the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals, and providing the assistance of their senior executives (all of whom are Rotarians) for the Breakout Session and exhibit at the Convention. (The Carter BloodCare sponsorship is not listed on our balance sheet).

On behalf of the GNBD Board of Directors 2007-08,

*Haagen P. Cumlet*

GNBD President 2008-09



\* A 2006 survey by Texas Christian University commissioned by Rotary District 5790, indicated that Rotary-based blood drives contribute over 817,000 units per year. In many developed areas, that blood is typically separated into components, which go to patients having different needs.