

District Newsletter

August 2009 Issue: 2



Membership & Extension Month!

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District Governor Sylvia visits with the leadership of the Penbay Yachting Rotarians Fellowship in Camden Maine aboard Commodore Willard Wight's vessel. DG Sylvia got to see first hand what a Rotary Fellowship means as she toured Penobscot Bay. Pictured Left to Right: Vice Commodore Jim Bowditch, Commodore Willard Wight, District Governor Sylvia & Rear Commodore Don Gross.

Sylvia Plourde

District Governor 2009-2010

This month's issue is focused on Membership Development and Club Extension. Membership in our District has been declining for a number of years and it is affecting the types and qualities of programs we offer. This is especially of concern with the upcoming Future Vision Plan concept. But thanks to club responses within our district, your pledges to membership growth are averaging three per club. That means that by June next year, we should net a growth of about 150 newmembers. That's fantastic!

New members bring in new ideas and energy. They are the future generation of Rotary leaders. We as Rotarians need

to look at the quality of our speakers, expand the classification list of qualified professions, and recruit a wide range of members with different age, gender, religion, ethnicity, and those who are physically challenged.

We need to wear our pins with pride, showcase our success stories, be creative and look outside of Rotary and take advantage of Public Relations Programs such as Humanities in Motion. We can spread the word with co-workers, community colleagues, family and

friends, as well as at fundraising events of all the good works that Rotarians do at both the local and international level. So many people are still not sure what Rotary is really about. Oftentimes, all that's needed is a personal invitation to visit your club with a free breakfast, lunch or dinner so they can see the fellowship that your members enjoy and hear more about your community projects, educational exchanges, and international projects including the eradication of Polio. Members are experienced, dedicated workers who respond to those in need both locally and internationally.

Rotary International President John Kenny says that "When Paul Harris began the first Rotary club 104 years ago, he did

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not initially think of service. Instead, he had in mind a place where people of good character, intelligence, and morals could enjoy each other's fellowship and friendship. The service came later as a natural outgrowth of the gathering of such people".



**Farmington Rotary President Pam West,DG
Sylvia Plourde,Hannah Deon,Hanna's mom
Chris Deon**

From my club visits, I can honestly say that one has fun in our clubs and we excel in the area of fellowship. I am so very proud to be a Rotarian in this district and to serve such wonderful clubs.

Sylvia Plourde, DG
2009-2010

EARLY ACT PROGRAM in Farmington

Hanna Deon a 12 year old student from Mt. Blue Middle School and daughter of Leo and Chris Deon of Industry recently addressed DG Sylvia Plourde and the Farmington Rotary board. Hanna discussed her very succesful project to send school supplies to Yap the country she was born in.

Her and her friend Amanda Moody raised over \$1000.00 in cash donations and another \$400.00 in school supplies to send to Yap. She contacted Yap School supervisor Mr. Arnold Yokbay who supplied them a list of items they could use and they got right to work. After they collected the supplies they then shipped them to the tiny island in the Pacific which was just shy of a week of being a 3 month journey.

The school was very appreciative of their efforts and plan to send pics very soon to Hanna to share with everybody.

Hanna who is the granddaughter of long time Farmington Rotarian Carolyn Eaton is looking foward to continue her project this school year. Farmington Rotary is so impressed with young students like Hanna they are starting Early Act Programs at the elemenatary and middle schools this year to go along with their well established Interact program at Mt. Blue High School and thier Rotaract program at the University of Maine Farmington.

Thank you Hanna for all you diid for the students of Yap. Your service project helped build goodwill and freindships one student at a time! Way to go!

Upcoming Events

September 11-13, 2009: Youth Exchange Orientation (Maine) - Camp Tracy, Oakland, Maine

September 18-20, 2009: Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) - The Forks, Maine

September 23,2009: Youth Exchange Information Seminar (Maine)-KV Federal Credit Union, Augusta, Maine

October 3, 2009: Governor's Council Meeting, Farmington, Maine

October 17, 2009: Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) - Lewiston, Maine

March 2010: President Elect Training Seminar (PETS), St. George, Quebec, Maine

May 21-23, 2010: Rotary International District 7790 District Conference, Lewiston, Maine

June 20-23, 2010: Rotary International Convention in Montreal

October 16, 2010: Rotary Leadership INstitute (RLI)-Lewiston, Maine

Rotary Day at the United Nations



www.eventbrite.com/event/383749806
Cost is US\$37.50, which includes a box lunch.

Accommodation is expensive in NYC. There are more economical hotels across the river about 30 minute bus ride away. Many stay at the Quality Inn, Lyndhurst, NJ and save over \$100. per night.

Greetings Rotarians and Friends:

Once again this year, I invite you to join me in New York City at the Rotary-United Nations Day on Saturday, November 7, 2009. In addition, Canadian Rotarians can participate in the special Canada session, hosted by the Canadian UN Ambassador on Friday afternoon, November 6th.

The Saturday meeting is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at UN Headquarters and will include presentations and panel discussions addressing Millennium Goals, and key humanitarian issues such as water, health, literacy, and hunger.

United Nations leaders, representatives from key nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and Rotary International leaders will all address the group. There will also be a separate youth program for Rotaractors and high-school age students. NOTE: UN building tours are not available on Saturday, so those interested in this should do so on Friday morning.

Advance registration is necessary by October 23rd for security reasons, however since we had to turn away folks last year, I suggest you do this asap. To register for the Canada day, please email me your complete name/address at: rotary@teamvincent.com

Saturday meeting registration can be done on line at:

Join me at the United Nations, meet our Canadian UN Ambassador and celebrate Rotary's role in the development of the UN back in 1945. It will be an exciting experience. Rotarians, family members and friends are all welcome.

For more information, he can be reached at rotary@teamvincent.com or 519 537-3753

Hoping you are having a wonderful summer.

Doug V.

PDG Douglas W Vincent, RC Woodstock-Oxford
Rotary United Nations Representative, Z22
RI Service Above Self Award recipient '09
COL Representative 08-10, District 7080
RI Peace Community Project, Co-Chair
Humanitarian Missions Chair, D7080
CRCID Representative, D7080
<http://www.dougvincent.com>

Box 1583, 684288 Hwy 2 W,
Woodstock, ON Canada N4S 0A7
Phone (519) 537-3753, Fax 519 537-8925

Letter from Youth Exchange Student Patricia Roy on Exchange to Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexique from Quebec, Canada

Hello Frédérique,

Here are some news from my area. I got here in one piece last Thursday at the airport in Tuxtla. Everything went well expect for a problem with my luggage in Mexico city. I only got to calm down when I saw my 2 suitcases on the conveyor at the airport. My first weekend was a bit overwhelming because I was introduced to everyone in the neighbourhood and I just couldn't remember everyone's name nor answer their questions. Anyhow, my Spanish is so far back in my mind at this point that I still answer in some kind of Spanglish that is not understandable. I can say that I really like it as for now. I get a little homesick sometimes when I think about Quebec and my love ones but I guess it is normal. My host family is really nice. Tony helps me a lot. I met Romeo senior last night when he came back from his trip. I trusted him right away. I don't think I will face too many problems with the family except maybe with Romeo junior. He laughs at me all the time and sometimes I think he's really mean. I can take a few laughs but enough is enough. However, I believe that when I will be able to express myself better, things will be fine. At school, everything is for the best. The other students are charming and from the very first moments, they included me in their group. Anyway, there

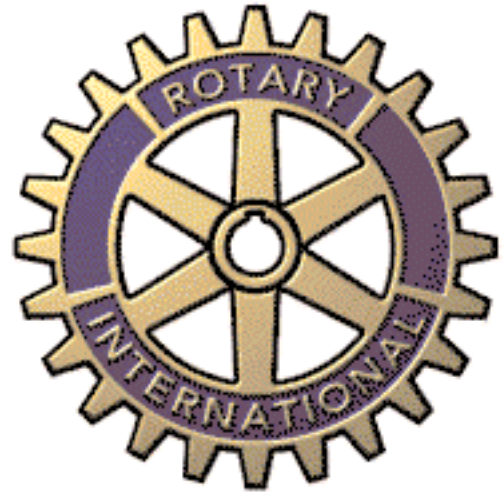


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are only 17 of us in the class so it is easy to make friends. Friday night, I was already invited to my first Mexican party. The most difficult so far is that I'm totally dependent when it comes to moving around in the city. In Quebec city, I'm used to taking the bus by myself and I was not afraid of walking around in the city but here, I can't walk alone in the streets. I always have to ask Romeo or Tony to take me where I want to go. When I find myself alone, I don't know what to do, I go around in circles. I have met the other exchange student from Brasil who goes to the same school. He is one year younger than me so we are not in the same class. He looks a bit shy - the opposite of the Mexicans I've met. That's it for now.

Patricia.



Rotary Membership

Peter Garret

One of the things you will find in your copy of "The Rotarian" every August is a section called Rotary Basics. This year it can be found on the un-numbered pages following page 55. It's terrific. You could have fun with it as a Rotary quiz for existing members. Or you could use it as an introduction for prospective new members. It's online as www.rotary.org/rotarybasics. You can also order copies for new members from RI (document 595-EN (509)).

Our Membership Seminar for the Maine side of District 7790 is to be held September 19, at the Alford Youth Center on North Street in Waterville, 9:30 to 3:30. There will be no cost for attendance. Lunch will be provided. Please send along as many of your club's Membership Team as can come. We will cover issues of Membership Retention, Membership Development and Club Extension and all subjects related to each in an energizing format. Arrange to carpool with neighboring clubs if possible so that you can get the most out of the seminar in directed conversations before and after the Seminar! See you there.

Peter Garrett, PhD, Hydrogeologist, Waterville Rotary Club
Rotary District 7790 Maine Membership Chair
202 Eames Road, Winslow, ME 04901
207-873-6443 (res), 592-0004 (m), 872-0613 (w), 872-0626 (f)
peter.garrett@eggi.com

Humanitarian Grants Update

Greetings from Evanston! On behalf of all the Humanitarian Grants Program staff, I would like to wish you a Happy New Rotary Year. As we embark on another busy year, I wanted to provide you with some updates related to Humanitarian Grants. Please note that these updates only pertain to grant activity in the 2009-10 Rotary year and apply to both Future Vision pilot and non-pilot districts.

Humanitarian Grants Budget Reductions

As you are likely aware, at their April 2009 meeting the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation made some important budget decisions, many of which directly impact Humanitarian Grants. The Matching Grant budget was significantly reduced; Volunteer Service Grants were phased out as of 1 July 2009; and Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants will only be approved to support water and sanitation projects as part of the RI/USAID International H2O Alliance.

Matching Grants Update

The reduced amount of World Fund available for Matching Grants in 2009-10 has resulted in the following program changes:

Competitive Matching Grants in October 2009 only. The Trustees determined that they would consider Matching Grant requests of US\$25,001-US\$150,000 only once in 2009-10, at their October 2009 meeting. Matching Grant applications requesting World Fund awards of over US\$25,000 must be received at the Foundation by 1 August 2009.

US\$0 World Fund awards. Matching Grant applications requesting a US\$0 match from the Foundation can be submitted at any time from 1 July 2009 through 31 March 2010. In order to use this option, at least part of the funding for the Matching Grant must be District Designated Funds (DDF), and the minimum project funding total is US\$10,000.

Please note also that if matching funds are requested from TRF, the minimum request is US\$5,000. The financing of a MG application can be updated at any time prior to approval to request a US\$0 match from the TRF World Fund. Sponsors of pending applications will be notified of this option when the MG budget has been fully committed and updates about the budget will be posted to the Rotary website.

Clubs and districts are encouraged to submit applications early in the new Rotary year if they hope to obtain a World Fund match. If projects are still in the planning stage at this time, it is best to prepare your application without a TRF World Fund match and fund the project with a combination of DDF and cash as explained above.

Humanitarian Grants Staff Reorganization

In response to the reduced program budget, the Humanitarian Grants operational budget has also been reduced and staff members have been reorganized to provide optimal service to Rotarians.

Application Processing

High volumes of application are expected in the first and second quarters of the Rotary year. We appreciate your patience in receiving communications from Humanitarian Grants staff during this high volume time. In an effort to help facilitate the processing of applications there are two ways applications can be submitted: 1) via e-mail to contact.center@rotary.org or 2) by fax to the new Humanitarian Grants fax line 1-847-556-2151.

Please only send the application via one of these methods to avoid duplicate processing. You will receive an acknowledgement of your application within 1-2 weeks of receipt. All applications are processed based on the date they are received and only applications that are complete and meet all requirements for funding will be forwarded for approval based on the date they are complete.

World Reporting

World Reporting is an initiative created in April 2006 to help ensure that Rotary clubs and districts maintain a high standard of reporting compliance. A World Reporting analysis is compiled twice a year tracking each district's reporting percentage for Humanitarian Grant projects. Any district with an overall reporting compliance below 70 percent for two consecutive grant reporting analyses may be suspended from participating in Humanitarian Programs. The twice yearly analyses are compiled approximately two weeks before the October and April Trustee meetings. The April 2009 World Report analysis identified 174 districts that were 100% compliant with reporting. The Trustees commend these districts for their achievement and hope that they will serve as role models for other districts by maintaining this high level of stewardship. The analysis also identified eight districts that were less than 70% compliant with reporting for two or more consecu-

tive analyses and had more than one non-compliant grant in each analysis. In accordance with Foundation policy, the Trustees suspended these districts from participation in the Humanitarian Grants Program, effective 15 May 2009. These districts will be lifted from suspension when they reach 90% reporting compliance and have successfully reported on all district-sponsored grants. To date, four of the suspended districts have already been lifted from suspension.

Additionally, please note that the Humanitarian Grants Program sends quarterly reminders to project sponsors with copies to district governors, district Rotary Foundation committee chairs and district grants subcommittee chairs when grants are more than 15, 18, 21, 24 or 30 months overdue on grant reporting. These letters are sent on a quarterly basis in September, December, February and June of each Rotary year. When grant sponsors are more than 21 months overdue on reporting they are listed on the RI website for failure to report on grant funding. If a club has not reported on a grant for more than 30 months, it may be recommended to the RI Board for termination for being in financial arrears with Rotary International. We appreciate your efforts to keep clubs in your district up to date on reporting to avoid these consequences.

District Simplified Grant Mailing

Next month, districts will receive via e-mail the annual District Simplified Grant mailing, which contains important information about District Simplified Grants and your district's spending limit for 2010-11. This information will only be sent to districts that are not participating in the Future Vision pilot. The mailing will also include an updated Humanitarian Grants staff sheet and a File Activity Report of the district's grant activity. Please make sure to read the contents of this mailing carefully.

I hope these updates have been helpful. For further information about Humanitarian Grants you can send e-mails to contact.center@rotary.org. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Humanitarian Grants Program and for the incredible support you provide to Rotarians and clubs in your district.

Best regards,
James Robinson
Division Manager
Humanitarian Grants Program



Sylvia Plourde, District Governor
215 Montello Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

