

Rotary International District 5630

The District Newsletter

www.rotary5630.org


2012-2013 District 5630 Executive Committee

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February: World Understanding Month

The Rotary Theme for the Month of February is "World Understanding." Here is an excerpt from The ABC's of Rotary that is a resource available to us via our District 5630 web site www.rotary5630.org. This booklet originated as articles written by RI President Cliff Dochterman (1992-1993) for the weekly bulletin of his Rotary Club. This is a wonderful resource for new and "seasoned" Rotarians!

"The month of February is very special in the Rotary calendar since it is designated World Understanding Month. The month also includes the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary held on February 23, 1905, now designated World Understanding and Peace Day... World Understanding Month is a chance for every club to pause, plan and promote the Fourth Avenue of Service-Rotary's continued quest for goodwill, peace and understanding among people of the world."

Many of our clubs and their representatives are already participating in activities that promote world understanding through humanitarian service in support of a variety of international projects. During the month of February, our district will participate in a National Immunization Day through travel to India for the administration of the polio vaccine. We look forward to hearing a report from these ambassadors at our district conference in April.

Please consider what your club can do to promote more World Understanding in our Rotary World.

- Would your club support the hosting of a Group Study Exchange in April and May?
- Does your club participate in the Youth Exchange Program?
- Do you seek out and support international projects through our district's matching grant program?



District Governor Dian Edwards

Have you accessed the bank of inspiration video programs available to you through links on our district web site? Doing Good in the World would be a great program for one of your February meetings!

This is the month to expand your club's "World Understanding" as a way to embrace the broad mission of Rotary with "Peace Through Service."

In Service of Rotary,

Dian

Dian Edwards



Reminder: The suggested dead-line for the local **Four-Way Test Essay Contests** is February 15. The deadline for sending local entries in for District Competition is **April 7**.

Send entries to Irving Jennings, 509 N. Walnut, Arnold, NE 69120.

DGE Announces New Theme, Leadership Opportunities

By Duane Tappe
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Fellow Rotarians need to know that your District 5630 Governor Elect is quite engaged in Rotary.

If you haven't heard by now, the new theme for Rotary International is "Engage Rotary, Change Lives" It was revealed by President of Rotary International, Ron Burton at the recent RI Assembly in San Diego.

There was a lot of discussion about the theme by some Governors Elect from foreign countries as to how they can interpret this into their languages. Actually, there are a number of ways to interpret this theme in English.

The International Assembly is a very interesting week as one

learns about the diversity and dynamics of our great organization.

Many of you will have an opportunity to rub shoulders with Rotarians outside your Club at some upcoming events. On Saturday February 9, the District Leadership Team will meet in North Platte at the Mid Plains Community College campus.

On March 1 to March 3, Club Presidents Elect and Club President Elect Nominees will meet along with District leaders at PETS in Denver, Colorado. The keynote speakers will all be talking about **leadership** in one form or another. This should give the officers a boost as they head into their various leadership positions. On Saturday, March 23, Club and District leaders will have another opportunity for fellowship and learning at our District Assembly in Kearney.

Finally, we all have an opportunity for fun and fellowship when we attend our District Conference in O'Neill on April 25 to 27th. Please plan to "Rumble" on over as I am confident that District Governor Dian Edwards and her crew will have a great Rotary experience for us.

If you really want to *do* Rotary, you should plan to attend an International conference in Portugal, Australia, or Brazil planned for these next three years. Another leadership opportunity might be for you to check out the possibility of attending a Zone meeting.

Just remember, as much as we enjoy our local club experiences, we are a part of an International Organization that has much to offer local Rotarians.

Foundation Chair Warns: Time Is Short

By Frank Sibert
District Foundation Chair
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Time is running out.

The Rotary year will be over before we know it. Now is the time to make your gift to the Foundation. My thanks to those who have already done so.

To those who have not thought about how you can help the needy of the world, we here in Nebraska are very fortunate. I don't know any Rotarian who goes to bed hungry. I do know that there are many in the world that do.

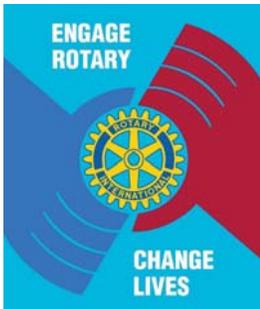
You can help.

Your gift to the Foundation will help. We in Rotary need to put

our shoulders to the wheel and push. If your gift helps one child survive then your help is worthwhile.

We all need to think about those who are less fortunate. A hand up will make your day.

Go Rotary!



Imperial Rotarian Shares Notes on President's Dinner

By Cheryl Bryan
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According to the program provided at the Rotary International President's dinner on January 4, Sakuji Tanaka and his wife Kyoko, who live

in Yashio, Japan, have been married for 50 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren. What is not printed in the program is this personal tidbit about Tanaka, revealed during the dinner: He once won a karaoke contest by singing 54 songs without a break.

Several Rotarians from District 5630 were privileged to attend the President's Dinner, held at the Sheridan Denver West Hotel in Lakewood, Colorado. The highlight of the evening was Tanaka's keynote speech.

The theme he has chosen for 2012-13 reflects both his Japanese culture, which traditionally emphasizes society above the individual, and his observations of the work involved in Japan's recovery from the March 2011 tsunami. In his words, "Peace through Service means that you choose to put others' needs ahead of your own desires. You say, 'Your problems are my problems.'"

In Tanaka's opinion, the central idea of Rotary is to break down barriers between people. Rotary also allows us to aim higher in our lives. It allows us to help others do more, be more – "more effectively than we could ever do alone."

Tanaka credits his successful career to one teacher, who arranged for him and other classmates to work in a glass

factory in Tokyo. That gave Tanaka an opportunity to go to night school – which he could not have done in his childhood home of Niigata. Tanaka's teacher could have said about his students: "Shikata ga nai" – "It is out of my hands." Instead, he said, "Watashi shidai" – "It is up to me."

According to Tanaka, a theme repeated by all Rotarians should be, "It is up to me" to set Rotary goals, to achieve them, and to put Service above Self.

During Tanaka's presidency, Rotary International is holding three Rotary Global Peace Forums – in Berlin, Germany (November 2012); Honolulu, Hawaii (January 2013); and Hiroshima, Japan (May 2013). His choice of these venues reflects the impact that World War II had on Tanaka. They are the sites of the worst devastations of the War.

During the question and answer period, Tanaka addressed the murders of polio workers in Pakistan. "It is an obstacle," said Tanaka. "But it must not make us lose our focus. I believe that Rotary will earn a Nobel Peace Prize when polio is eradicated."

We are grateful to Mr. Tanaka for his dedication to the work and ideals of Rotary and for his fervent belief that peace is possible through our service to others.



Top: DG Dian Edwards chats with RI President Sakuji Tanaka at the Rotary International President's Dinner in Denver January 4.

Bottom: Attending the RI President's Dinner are (front, l-r) Laura and Tom Gaschler of Imperial, Mindy Bazata of Kearney, (back, l-r) Bill and Cheryl Bryan of Imperial, and PDG Ron Bazata.

Polio Eradication: So Near, and Yet So Far

Submitted by Delane Wycoff
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The figures are in for 2012. Worldwide polio cases numbered 222 for the entire year. This is the lowest global total in history! Despite outbreaks in 2010, total global cases have continued to decline with each successive year being less than half of the previous year.

Outbreaks in 2012 were fewer than ever with only six cases in non-endemic countries (outside Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria). India has been polio-free for two years...something considered impossible only a few years ago.

Risk of a new outbreak in Egypt appears to be a serious possibility with the discovery that sewage samples collected from two locations in Cairo have shown the presence of poliovirus. The virus appears to have spread from Pakistan.

Although no new polio cases have yet been reported, the presence of live virus indicates some people in Cairo are carrying and shedding the virus, thus raising the risk of new infections among non-vaccinated people. Continued vaccination and careful hygiene are the best defense, but it remains to be seen if such measures will be

sufficient to avoid new polio cases.

This is only the second time poliovirus from Pakistan has infected any country other than neighboring Afghanistan; the first was China, where a virus from Pakistan sparked an outbreak in 2011. This new importation puts even more pressure on Pakistan to wipe out the virus within its borders.

Meanwhile, there have been additional murders of vaccination workers in Pakistan. In one incident, a police officer protecting vaccinators was gunned down. Although these despicable killings have interrupted vaccination campaigns and terrorized vaccination workers, there remains a core of very dedicated and determined people who are carrying on with vaccinations in spite of the recent threats and violence.

This courageous government-sponsored action is being carried forward because of the sobering realization that failure in the remaining polio hot spots in Pakistan could lead to new outbreaks and set the global eradication efforts back by years.

In Nigeria and bordering countries, immunization efforts have been delayed due to lack of vaccine and pockets of violence, but local officials are committed to moving forward with vaccinations

to combat the disease in the northern regions of the country. Cases in Nigeria rose last year, with more than 100 new infections.



An infant in Karachi, Pakistan receives polio drops in a recent vaccination campaign.

Obstacles include ignorant and suspicious parents who fear a secret “Western plot” to sterilize their children. Vaccinators sometimes openly vaccinate their own children first to convince reluctant parents of the safety.

Many clubs in District 5630 have Polio Plus fundraising events “in the works” for the months ahead. Is your club among these? If not, please discuss this with your club.

We are looking for each club to raise enough money for Polio Plus to exceed \$50 per member in the 2012-2013 year (ending June 30, 2013). Many clubs have already exceeded \$100 per member. We are hoping three or more clubs that may exceed \$200 per member by June 30.

Funding is critical and we are grateful to every club that is doing its part to help Rotary fund polio eradication, which is the **top priority** of Rotary International.



Stetter Honored at Retirement from Rotary Blood Drive Position

With 56 blood drives behind him and 4,275 units of blood collected, Past District Governor Bob Stetter is leaving his position as Blood Drive Coordinator for the Red Cross blood drives sponsored by the Valentine Rotary Club. The Rotary sponsored drives were started in January 2003 when Stetter was president of the Valentine club. The sponsoring of drives started as a Rotary community service project. The reward for ten years of service, said Stetter, "Just knowing we were doing good and saving lives."

Red Cross Donor Recruitment Representative Amanda Koubek said, "We're really grateful for the work Bob has done for the Red Cross. The selflessness and dedication shown by him and volunteers is immeasurable."

The Red Cross celebrated the tenth anniversary by bringing two decorated cakes and presenting seven Certificates of Achievement to ten-year volunteers.

Stetter said that stepping down from his position gives him more time to attend to his duties as a board member on other blood projects. He serves on the board of the Global Network for Blood Donation, a Rotarian Action Group, and is chair of the Governors' Challenge Blood Drive for Nebraska. The GCBD, under the umbrella of

GNBD, is a tradition that started in Texas Rotary District 5790 in 1998. Since then, the Challenge has spread throughout the central United States encompassing all Districts in Rotary Zones 21b and 27.

Stepping up to serve as the new blood drive coordinator is Rotarian Jeanie Cozad, R.N. She joined the Valentine Rotary Club in August 2011 and has become involved in various Rotary Projects.

Past coordinator Stetter said he encourages Rotary clubs in District 5630 to become more involved in either sponsoring blood drives or taking part in existing blood drives.

Contact PDG Stetter for information regarding how your club can increase its involvement in promoting and increasing blood donations.

PDG William R. "Bob" Stetter
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Above: PDG Bob Stetter, retiring blood drive coordinator; Jeanie Cozad, current blood drive coordinator; and Amanda Koubek, donor recruitment representative; celebrate the tenth anniversary of Rotary-sponsored blood drives in Valentine. Below: A cake dedicated to Stetter's years of service.



*District 5630
is Proud of You,
Bob!*

District 5630 Spreads Dictionaries Across the Region

Minden



Every year the Minden Rotary Club gives a dictionary to every 3rd grader in Kearney County. This year that totaled 96 dictionaries.

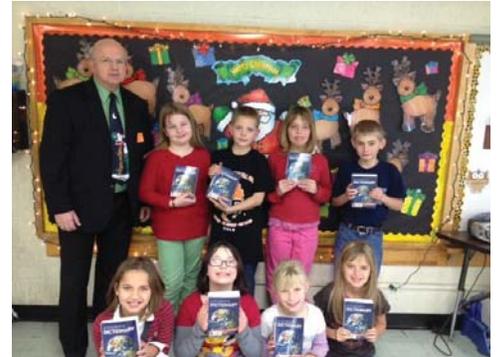
As a fundraiser to help offset the costs for those dictionaries, the club decided on December 8 to host a small pancake feed. It was geared to the many participants of Minden's 5K Christmas City Fun Run. It was estimated that they served 120 people and raised \$601.

Photo, top left: Rotarians Fred Meis & Merlyn Stadler are busy serving pancakes .



Photo, left: Christmas City Fun Run participants at the pancake feed are dressed appropriately for the season.

Kimball/Banner Co.



Kimball Rotarian Roger Wynne distributes third grade dictionaries in Banner County.

“Rotary as a whole has donated 1.3 million books”

Holdrege

By JEAN ISSLER
Hub Regional Correspondent
Courtesy of the Kearney Hub

HOLDREGE – Some might think getting the gift of a dictionary is like getting socks for Christmas. But third-graders who receive the books from the Holdrege Rotary Club write thank you letters and tell the club how they are using the dictionaries.

In mid-December, Holdrege Rotary members delivered 105 dictionaries to third-graders at Franklin, R-7, All Saints Catholic, Loomis and Bertrand elementary schools. However, delivery is not all they do. The teachers turn their classrooms over to the Rotarians for a short lesson.

At the Franklin school, Holdrege Rotary President Kyle Anderson had the children look up the word “service” in their new books and held a discussion about people being of service in their community. Rotary’s motto is “Service Above Self”. Other Rotarians got involved with the students, helping them find the right pages as they looked up a few more words.

At the end of the lesson, Anderson directed the students to write their names in ink in their books, something they don’t often get to do with school books. This lets the children know that the book belongs to them and that they can keep it forever.

Each year several clubs in Rotary District 5630, which includes the western two-thirds of Nebraska, give dictionaries to third-graders. Clubs generally do this in all the schools in their county and some go beyond those borders. This fall, the Valentine clubs included schools on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.

According to The Dictionary Project, a program promoting dictionary gifting, the third grade is a dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn, making it an appropriate time to introduce the kids to the dictionary.

Rotary International and its affiliate youth clubs are just a few of the businesses and organizations The Dictionary Project lists as supporters. The Project assists groups in purchasing dictionaries and keeps records of when and where they are given to schools.

Since 2002, Rotary as a whole has donated 1.3 million books to over 3700 schools nationwide. The donations are done at different times of the school year when it fits in the club schedule.

Locally, the Holdrege club gets a lot of satisfaction from the project, according to Anderson. He said several members go out on the deliveries. “It’s great to talk to kids and see their excitement over getting their first and very own dictionary.”

He said the schools appreciate the project. Some teachers have each student keep their book at school for the entire school year and incorporate them into their lesson plans.

The Holdrege club raises funds for the program by selling sponsorships to businesses. Stickers are put inside the front cover of the books, one for the sponsor and one for Rotary. Anderson said there is never a problem getting enough donations to fund the project.

Soon after the deliveries are made, Anderson said the club receives thank you letters and comments from the children, teachers and sometimes parents. “It lets the club know that the project is worthwhile and is helping someone,” he said. “That’s what Rotary is about.”



Holdrege Rotarian Bob Engler explains to Franklin School students how to use their new dictionaries. Photo courtesy of the Kearney Hub.