

The Piedmont Rotarian

ROTARY DISTRICT 7690 • July 2004 • DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

"Celebrate Rotary"

Don Allred, District Governor, 1426 Lake Drive, Asheboro, NC 27205

DG NEWSLETTER FOR JULY



Don Allred

I bring you greetings from the 95th Rotary International Convention in Osaka, Japan. Our adventure began with a two-hour flight to Chicago, then a five-hour flight to San Francisco, and then an 11-hour flight to Osaka. Pat and I were celebrating our 37th wedding anniversary as we crossed the Pacific and I had a nice present for her but we hit that international dateline and all of a sudden it was tomorrow. I told her I would give it to her next year when we had more time.

Arriving in Osaka, we were met by a nice lady that led us over to a sign that read "Airport Shuttle, Rotarians Only." I indicated that would be fine and she said, "cash or charge?" I said "charge" as I look around to see how much it might be. The sign read 6,000 yen, which sounded like about \$6 to me (\$12 for two) and a reasonable amount to pay for a ride to the hotel.

The Kansai Airport is that one you've read about that was built on an artificial island out in the bay. It turns out it is a long way to downtown Osaka and it also turned out that I had my decimals in the wrong position. The shuttle, a 10 passenger van, was \$120 for two for a one-way ride to the hotel. Poorer, but wiser, we arrived at the Imperial Hotel. Our room was small but nicely appointed. It was 30,000 yen a day, which is \$30, \$300, or \$3000. I'll find out when the credit card bill comes. I was unpacking when I heard Pat hollering in the bathroom. I went in there and she had hit the ejection button on the toilet. Water was flying everywhere. Finding the stop button, we got that cleaned up and decided to open the drapes and take a look at downtown Osaka. We couldn't figure that out. Seems like they are electric and we can't find the button to open them. We've been in the electronics business for 25 years and we can't operate our hotel room.

Day 2 was the day for registration and the opening plenary session. There was a bus that took you from your hotel to the Convention Center and another bus that took you to the Osaka Dome where the sessions were held. There were 45,000 people registering. We stood in one line, received our registration packets, and then were told to go stand in another line, which we did. When we got to the head of that line they gave us a ticket and told us to go stand in another line, which we did. When we got to the head of that line, they exchanged our ticket for three-day rail passes on the subway. I'm still not sure why they couldn't have put that rail pass in our registration packets and let us skip the other two lines, but I'm sure there was a good reason.

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Glenn E. Estess, Sr. **2004-05 Rotary International President**

Glenn E. Estess, Sr. is the Retired Chief Executive Officer of Glenn Estess Associates, Inc. Born in Pike County, Mississippi, he earned a degree in Chemistry and Physics from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is one of five brothers who were Rotarians. Four were Presidents of their respective clubs in four different cities in three states.

Glenn is past chairman of trustees of the Baptist Health Systems, an eleven hospital system headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama with approximately 10,000 employees. He served as director of the Better Business Bureau of Central Alabama and as a trustee for the Workmen's Compensation Trust and Business Council of Alabama. Earlier in Florida he was chairman of the YMCA, the American Chemical Society and the Arthritis Foundation. He was also a member of the Board of Regents of the National Association of Personnel Consultants in the United States.

A Rotarian since 1960, Glenn was a member first in club #41 at Jacksonville, Florida and then Wayne, New Jersey. Glenn was an advisor at the 1997 RI Convention Committee, PolioPlus National Coordinator in 1987-88. During his tenure as Trustee, Glenn served as Chairman of the Foundation Finance Committee and Vice Chairman of its Program Committee. He was International Assembly Chairman and Moderator in 1999.

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Upcoming District Governor Visits

7/20
Guilford
7/27
Madison/Mayodan
8/2
Crescent
8/3
Yanceyville
S.G. New Generation
Greensboro/Airport
8/4
East Greensboro
8/5
Graham
Gate City
8/9
Siler City & San-Lee
8/10
Sanford
8/11
Randolph
8/12
Jonesboro & Liberty
8/16
Reidsville
Alamance Breakfast
8/17
Mount Airy
Oak Hollow
8/18
Greensboro
Surry Sunrise
8/19
Walnut Cove
Stoneville
King
8/20
Southern Pines
8/23
Furnitureland
Burlington
8/24
Pinehurst
8/25
Sandhills
8/26
Carthage
Troy
8/27
Reynolda
8/31
Mocksville
Yadkinville

Group Study Exchange

In a fractured world, what can we do, individually, to create a measure of understanding with people who believe differently, speak another language, live under dissimilar conditions and participate in unfamiliar rituals?

The Rotary International Foundation has an answer through the Group Study Exchange (GSE) Program. It provides a positive and productive way of creating the potential for peace and understanding.

District 7690 will send a five-member GSE team to Germany's District 1810 from May 3, 2005 to June 3, 2005 to experience another culture and to observe their vocation as practiced abroad.

We need applications from Rotarians to serve as Team Leaders, and we need young professional candidates to be Team Members.

Qualifications for Team Members include:

- 1. Persons between the ages of 25-40*
- 2. People committed to remaining in the work force well after the exchange*
- 3. Individuals who are personable, articulate, flexible, cooperative in their work, enthusiastic and energetic about their vocations*
- 4. Folks who are residents or employed in the sending Rotary district and must be citizens of the country in which they reside*

Deadline for applications: September 1, 2004

*Send applications for **Outbound Team** to: Jaci Betts, 842 East Pritchard Street, Asheboro, NC 27203 (B)336-633-27203 (H)336-629-5606 (F)336-625-1154 jaci.betts@rcmb310.net or jacib@asheboro.com*

*For information about the **Inbound Team**, scheduled to be in our district from April 3, 2005 to May 3, 2005, please contact: Kathryn "Cookie" Billings, 309 Winrow Drive, Jamestown, NC 27282 (B)336-454-1138 (H)336-454-6285 (F)336-886-3504 townj@nr.infi.net or kbillings@triad.rr.com*

Help bring our world together by contacting young professionals to participate in this life-changing experience!

(continued from page 1....GLENN E. ESTESS, SR.

He formerly was a member for four years and Chairman for one year of RI Audit & Operations Review Committee. This is RI's only committee having a one year term. This Committee serves in an Advisory role to the Board of Directors. Glenn was also the Chair of the 2002-2003 Membership Development and Retention Committee.

Glenn is a Rotary Foundation Major Donor, a Paul Harris Fellow, and a Benefactor. He is the recipient of the Citation for Meritorious Service, the Service Above Self Award, and The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award.

Glenn and Mary have three children and eight grandchildren. Sixteen members of his family are Paul Harris Fellows.

He will serve as President of Rotary International for its Centennial year of 2004-2005.

Rotary District 7690 Office
114 Willoughby Park Dr.,
High Point, NC 27265
www.Rotary7690.org
www.Rotary.org

Artwork: Shelley Graphics 2004



the Piedmont Rotarian

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Since the plenary session didn't start till the middle of the afternoon and since we had run this gauntlet to get a rail pass we decided to use it. We took a subway to another part of town where after a mile or so walk we arrived at a medieval castle whose main building was built in 1933 to look like the building that was there before when it was medieval. Arriving back at the Osaka Dome we discovered that all 45,000 registrants had shown up for the opening session. It got very warm in there so Pat went looking for water, which they were out of.

The opening entertainment was a dance that we were told was 600 years in the making and which I thought was going to take 600 years to finish. It was pretty though and very meaningful surely to those who knew what the meaning was. The entertainment was followed by opening speeches and a business session in which we adopted the program we were currently enjoying. Presentation of the flags followed. I always find this stirring to watch the flags from all over the world being carried in and presented. One flag was from Antarctica. I did not know Antarctica had a flag and I definitely didn't know there was a Rotary club there. The final flag is always the Rotary flag, the flag that unites us all. The session ended with a full orchestra playing nice music.

One of the great things about a Rotary convention is the people you meet as you are standing in one line or another. While we were waiting for a bus that was going to take us to another bus I started talking to a Rotarian from Montana. He told me the story of an exchange student from his district that went to India for a year of study and forgot to take her visa with her, and understandable oversight, but regretful in that she couldn't get into the country without it. He looked up the district governor for where she was, got him out of bed at three in the morning, he took care of it and she had a happy stay in India. "If someone asks me 'Do I know someone in wherever,' I say yes" he said. With 31,602 Rotary clubs in 166 countries, we have Rotary friends all over the planet. That night Pat and I had dinner at a restaurant in our hotel called "The Flying Tomato Cafe," which is Japanese for "really expensive hamburger." It was \$18, but that included fries.

No matter what time we go to bed we are waking up at 4 in the morning which is 3 pm Carolina time-yesterday, tomorrow or the day after. Who knows? We are having trouble with our circadian rhythms. Japan is called the Land of The Rising Sun with good reason. It begins to get light around 4 am. The problem with that is around 4 in the afternoon, you are tired, sleepy and ready for bed. At home we usually finish supper before falling asleep.

The next morning the Southland Breakfast is scheduled for 7 am which is the middle of the day for us. If you ever go to an International Convention, be sure and go to the Southland Breakfast. It's the one place you will run into all the people you know from home and meet new folks from the southeastern United States. The highlight of the breakfast was Karl-Wilhelm Stenhammar of Sweden, the RI president for 05-06. He talked about how we Americans are used to first and middle names, but not hyphenated names. His American friends think that Karl is his first name and Wilhelm is his middle name. When he tries to explain that he has no middle name, that Karl-Wilhelm is his first name and that it is hyphenated, they just give up and call him Dash. He was a delightful speaker. His year as president of Rotary International should be very entertaining.

A plenary session in the morning and workshops in the afternoon filled the day. That night we decided to do a traditional Japanese dinner. We asked the hotel where an authentic Japanese restaurant, which was sort of a dumb question, as we were in Japan at the time. They made a recommendation and off we went. The wait staff spoke no English and the menu was in Japanese. They had pictures, however, and I pointed at something that looked like a shrimp. They brought out three little clumps of something and chopsticks. It was a good thing I couldn't work the chopsticks because those clumps turned out to be the condiments. I thought they were the appetizers. Then they brought out a soup, but no spoons. You are supposed to drink it. Somewhere along the line they brought out the shrimp, including head, eyes, tentacles, tail, all of it. On the way back to the hotel we spotted a KFC. Day four is focused on The Rotary Foundation. Past RI President and Foundation Chair Jim Lacy gave the keynote address. He is a stirring speaker. We have asked him to speak at our Foundation Banquet November 11 and he has accepted. Be sure and turn out for that one. On the way back to the hotel we buy that KFC bucket we had spotted the night before and took it back to our room. We opened it up and there were two legs, two thighs and two wings. The main part of the chicken must have been at another KFC. I didn't know we had ordered chicken peripherals, but we must have.

By day five we had gotten transportation down to a fine art. You take the brown subway to the third stop, transfer to the light green subway, go to the fifth stop and there you are at the Osaka Dome. At this morning session we elected Phil Morris and 528 other District Governor Nominees to the ranks of District Governor Elects. None of the names were called out. It was done en masse by acclamation. I guess if there had been a rousing chorus of nays, a vote would have taken, but that didn't happen.

Brazilian dancers were the entertainment that morning. Remember when thongs were something you wore on your feet. These young ladies were wearing thongs, but they were not on their feet. There was a mad dash to the stage to take pictures, I, of course, was in no hurry and got some fine photos of the backs of District Governor Elects' heads. The closing ceremonies were entertaining, inspiring and emotional. While thousands of Rotarians sang Auld Lang Syne, hundreds of cherry blossoms were blown into the air and floated back to earth like shimmering bits of cherry blossoms floating back to earth.

On day six we left. I turned 58 in Japan, turned 57 again over the Pacific Ocean and turned 58 again in Hawaii. Pat said she would give me my birthday present next year when we had less time. The trip was a real adventure and we loved it. If you like to travel, a Rotary convention is a great place to go. Next year's International Convention will be celebrating Rotary's 100th birthday in Chicago. Plan to make the pilgrimage. We have reserved a block of rooms near the convention site and some are still available. Call the district office or visit our website for details. It will be an experience to remember.

GOLF
TOURNAMENT
The district-wide golf tournament will be played at Tot Hill Golf Course beginning with a lunch at noon and a 1:00 pm shotgun start. The tournament was originally scheduled to be played at Pinewood Country Club in Asheboro but the course will be under construction at that time. The tournament will be September 9.

District Governor Nominee

Mitzi Ellis of the Crescent Rotary Club in Greensboro has officially been elected as the District Governor of Rotary District 7690 for 2006-2007. Mitzi served as an assistant governor for two years, and she has been a member of the Crescent Rotary Club for 12 years. She has also served on various district committees.

NOTICE TO ALL CLUBS

Clubs are encouraged to send articles to the district office for publication in the newsletter. Please send only articles of interest to the district. Clubs can submit a picture of a project with a short article, upcoming fund raisers and other items of interest. In order for the article to appear in the upcoming newsletter, the information must be received by the district office no later than the 18th of the month prior to the next month's newsletter. You may call Margaret Padgett at 336-885-7690 for further information.

2004-2005 District Directory

The District Directory is now available on the District's website: www.rotary7690.org

It is password protected. The password is the current RI theme for 2004-2005 in lower case with no spaces. Updates and changes to the directory will be done regularly. If you have a change, please send it to Margaret Padgett by fax at 336-841-7690 or e-mail at Margaret@Rotary7690.org

2005 RI CONVENTION IN CHICAGO

The registration form is now available at the RI web site www.rotary.org and can be downloaded. Anyone still wishing a room with the district's block at the Chicago Sheraton should call Margaret Padgett at 336-885-7690 or Sandra Allen at 336-498-3559 as soon as possible.

JULY IS LITERACY MONTH

Two hundred years ago you were considered literate if you could write your name. Technology and the many demands that it has placed on our society has led us to encompass so much more for literacy than ever before. According to the National Adult Literacy Society (NALS), "Literacy is using printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one's goals, and to develop one's knowledge and potential. Given this definition it is easy to see why so many people place greater emphasis on making sure that people stay in school or go back to school rather than becoming a part of an already overwhelming problem. There are many different levels where we can effectively work with people in the community to combat the problems that face those who have literacy difficulties. You might consider working with any of the following populations:

Adult Learners - Many libraries and community agencies offer tutors for adult learners. Many of these adults want to be able to learn functional literacy skills such as being able to read their bible, read labels in the grocery store, or something as simple as reading with their children.

English as Second Language - We have an ever increasing population of non-English speaking families moving into North Carolina. This has created an even greater need for groups to work with those who are learning English as their second language.

Children - The greatest way to effectively break the cycle that becomes evident in adults with literacy problems is to make sure they are not raising children with literacy problems. To this end, there are many opportunities that Rotary can adopt in working with children. It could be as simple as providing books to all new babies born at a doctor's office or the hospital.

These are various websites that can offer some suggestions for service in all areas of Rotary. I encourage you to visit them and also to list any projects that your club may be doing on the District website so that others may partner with or model your commitment to literacy.

District 7690 - <http://www.rotary7690.org/7690-District-Programs-Menu.shtm>

Rotary International - http://www.rotary.org/programs/service_opportunities/participate/literacy.html

American Library Association - <http://www.ala.org/ala/pla/plaissues/earlylit/partnerships/partnerships.htm>

The World Library Partnership - <http://worldlibraries.org/bookcertificates/>
and <http://worldlibraries.org/itw/southafrica/saprogram.shtml>

NEA - <http://www.nea.org/nr/nr030204.html>

National and State Literacy Contacts - <http://novel.nifl.gov/NSDirectory/northcarolina.htm#SLRC>

America Reads - <http://www.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/community.html>

Community Project in Harnett County - <http://www.harnett.k12.nc.us/hcra/Projects.html>

Little Brown Bag Books - <http://www.brownbagbooks.com/participate/literacy.html>

No Child Left Behind - <http://www.nfwr.org/programs/NCLB/22.htm>

-Jo Williamson, District Chair Literacy



Attendance for May, 2004

CLUBS	MEMBERS AS OF 6/30/03	CURRENT MEMBERS	MONTHLY% ATTENDANCE	MONTHLY MEETINGS
Alamance	50	44	63%	4
*Alamance Bkft	27	26	78%	4
Archdale/Trinity	25	29	85%	4
*Asheboro	117	117	73%	4
Burlington	37	30	68%	4
Carthage	22	20	73%	4
*Clemmons	121	127	68%	4
*Crescent	129	121	70%	4
East Greensboro	15	12	83%	4
Eden	57	47	53%	3
Elkin-Jonesville	44	44	75%	4
*Furnitureland	58	61	72%	4
*Gate City	52	54	96%	4
Graham	43	37	80%	4
*Greensboro	337	324	52%	4
Gboro Arpt	35	37	76%	3
*Guilford	56	58	100%	4
High Point	194	182	57%	4
Jamestown	33	30	82%	4
*Jonesboro	63	65	74%	3
*Kernersville	52	46	79%	4
King	25	25	73%	5
Lexington	55	48	48%	4
*Liberty	21	21	59%	4
Madison/Mayodan	43	44	82%	4
*Mocksville	66	62	66%	4
*Mount Airy	106	114	81%	4
Oak Hollow	20	21	37%	3
*Pinehurst	24	30	83%	4
*Randolph	73	77	76%	4
Reidsville	87	84	56%	4
Reynolda	124	119	68%	3
Sandhills	46	47	77%	4
Sanford	83	80	60%	4
San-Lee	28	28	85%	4
Siler City	70	71	76%	4
S.G. New Gen.	25	26	72%	4
Southern Pines	77	81	74%	4
*Stoneville	17	14	76%	4
Stratford	144	146	63%	4
*Summit	131	136	67%	4
Surry Sunrise	53	43	67%	4
*Thomasville	84	81	76%	4
*Triad	48	45	64%	4
*Troy	29	31	73%	4
Walnut Cove	16	35	80%	3
Willow Creek	21	18	86%	4
Winston-Salem	256	258	49%	4
*Yadkinville	21	19	58%	4
Yanceyville	19	24	75%	4
DISTRICT	3374	3337	70%	

*100% Paul Harris Fellow Club

Special Upcoming Events www.rotary7690.org/7690web/7690_Calendar.htm