

The Piedmont Rotarian

□ ROTARY DISTRICT 7690 • September 2004 • DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

"Celebrate Rotary"

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

DG NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER



Don Allred

This is New Generations Month and we are focusing on young people. For many years Rotary was known as the club for old men and their fathers. The problem is that old men and their fathers are not reproducing replacements for themselves. We need young people in Rotary. How can we get them?

Young people today are very busy. Careers are very demanding. They do not want to join an organization

that just meets and eats. They would, however, be interested in joining an organization that is involved in the community, an organization that is making the community a better place to raise a family, an organization that is making the community a better place to conduct business. The world is a dangerous place. Since 9/11 we live in a different situation. Young people would be interested in joining an organization whose goal is the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace.

So how can we attract young people to Rotary. Make our clubs fun, make our clubs involved in the community, and make our clubs committed to world peace. None of that, of course, will make a difference unless we do one thing - ask. Stop right now and think-"when was the last time I invited someone to Rotary?" Been awhile, has it? Call somebody right now and invite him or her. The future of Rotary is up to us-right now!

Once we get them, how do we keep them? Rotary International reports that we are losing 37% of our new members in their first year as a Rotarian. We obviously have a retention problem. Are we inducting the wrong members? Are we providing an effective new member orientation program? Are we providing our new members with a mentor? Are we getting our members involved? These, and other questions, will be explored in detail at our Membership Seminar to be held September 30 at Pinewood Country Club in Asheboro.

Past District Governor Jack Green, our District Membership chair, has scheduled a program of thought provoking activities that will focus our attention on Rotary membership. He has even asked the 7690 Players to reprise the skit we did at PETS for the incoming club presidents. Entitled "Rotary Club Meeting Gone Wrong," an excerpt follows:

"Oh by the way. I need to give you the results of our raffle last week. As you know we raffled off a pull-behind drop spreader with the proceeds going to fund a Paul Harris Fellow. Well, our board had it's annual biannual meeting and decided if we sent that money up to Ill-i-noise, they would just use it to dose some child against some disease that hasn't been seen in this country for 40 years. So we decided to use those funds to hire a band for our social next month. We will be

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YOUTH

People often refer to our young people as the future of our country or our community, or simply as our future. Clearly the future of Rotary is in its future membership, and that membership will surely come from the youth of the present day. Thus comes the incentive to do what we can to foster the development of our youth, and to encourage them along the lines of Rotary's ideal of Service Above Self.

When Donna and I visited Australia for the International Convention in 2003, we were impressed with the youth activities of Rotary in Australia, to the point where some consider the Youth the "Fifth Avenue of Service." We did not notice anything particularly unique being done, but rather just the priority assigned. Club after club pointed to a robust program of youth leadership development, youth exchange, Interact and Rotaract club sponsorship and support, and other club, community and vocational service activities locally focused and with the youth of the community clearly in mind.

As with all our work, the opportunities are there for the taking. Perhaps the most immediate activity a club can undertake is in the area of Interact club sponsorship and support. We all have a high school with which we can identify. Some of us have two or three. The Rotary web site has materials and information from A to Z on how to do it. Many high schools now emphasize (some require) service as part of the curriculum. Perhaps as important as anything, it's fun. Rotaract is similar, at either the college or community level, although I personally think the college-based clubs are more practical.

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SEPTEMBER IS NEW GENERATIONS MONTH!

UPCOMING GOVERNOR'S VISITS

- 9/1/2004 Archdale-Trinity
9/1/2004 Clemmons
9/2/2004 Stratford
9/7/2004 Eden
9/8/2004 Thomasville
9/8/2004 Elkin-Jonesville
9/10/2004 Summit
9/14/2004 Alamance
9/15/2004 Kernersville
9/16/2004 High Point
9/16/2004 Willow Creek
9/21/2004 Lexington
9/28/2004 Triad
9/28/2004 Jamestown
10/5/2004 Winston-Salem
10/8/2004 Asheboro

MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR

September 30, 2004
Pinewood Country Club
Asheboro

12 noon - 5:00 pm
(Registration materials
will be mailed to
all club presidents)

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

Artwork: Shelley Graphics 2004

Earlier today a member of my staff made me a present of a book she found among her grandmother's collection. She said she thought I might like to have it because I am a Rotarian. Let me share why. The book is entitled *The Romance of Business* by Elbert Hubbard. It was published in 1916, and is beautifully illuminated by the Roycroft Artists of New York, founders of the Arts and Crafts movement so popular in the early 20th century. Among Mr. Hubbard's thirty essays contained in this slim volume is one entitled "The Rotarians." The essay is fascinating because it demonstrates the reputation Rotary had achieved in the world by its eleventh year as "the club" to which one aspired to belong. I thought you might like to see it took, so here is "The Rotarians."

The first great discovery was that wood will float on water. When a monkey sat astride of a log, and saw that the log would support his weight, then was born the Interstate Commerce Commission. But things did not really begin to progress until a very wise monkey managed to saw off two sections of a log, inserted an axle and discovered the principle of the wheel. This monkey was the first Rotarian. The wheel has no counterpart in Nature. It is man's invention, and through it and by it we get transmission of energy, rapid transit, and all that makes for economy and efficiency. Without the wheel there would be no wealth; for, unaided save by his hands and feet, man is just barely able to get food - and as for shelter, a cave or a hollow log has to suffice. The wheel is a fulcrum in motion. It multiplies power by ten and transmits it.

Just how far back in history it dates we do not know exactly. Probably not a great many centuries, for the North American Indian knew nothing of it. He pulled things by a dead lift. The stone boat was his automobile. Certainly he never exceeded the speed limit. The Rotary Clubs are wheels within a wheel. Their guiding principles are the rules that really make the world go round. One man and no more in each line of business - "That's all," as Mr. Wilson says. The Rotarians root one another's game. Also, they root everybody's game who is of the right sort. The Rotarians are not knockers; they boost - or they lie low. The object of the Rotary Clubs is social, educational and economic benefit. No little shrimp of a man is eligible - you have to be an individual of worth, adding to the wealth and happiness of the world, or you wander forever in darkness without the pale. Still, there are many good men who are not Rotarians, simply because the rules of the club limit membership to one man in each particular line of human endeavor.

Nevertheless, I am an honorary member of four Rotary Clubs. When I spoke before the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City I was voted in as a farmer. I was admitted into the Los Angeles Club as a publisher. At Duluth I was a bookbinder. When I was banqueted by the Rotary Club of Kansas a motion was made to put my name on the roster as an honorary member. But already they had a farmer, a stockraiser, a banker, a printer, a bookbinder, a hotelkeeper. What to do? All at once a bright blue thought came to one of the members. "Put him down as a 'Boss Grafter!'" "Great Idea," came the response. The motion was duly voted on and the ayes had it.

However as every good Rotarian is in duty bound to root my game, I am shedding no tears. - Author, Elbert Hubbard, 1916

(I'm not certain what a boss grafter is, but I think it may have something to do with the art of book illumination.) Submitted by Kem Ellis, Secretary High Point Rotary Club

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meeting over at the Hogslide Restaurant for dinner. There we will be entertained by the Rotree Quartet who will be singing their latest hit: "Take Your Tongue Out of My Mouth Cause I'm Kissing You Goodbye." Don't miss it. OK, Miss Hovitch is up here now and let's get her pinned. Shoot! I forgot the Rotary pin, but I do have a thumb-tack."

See any problems with this new member installation? We'll be doing the entire skit at the Membership Seminar and will be discussing the problems identified. So put September 30 on your calendar and join us at Pinewood. **Invite a young person to Rotary - right now!**

(continued from page 1...YOUTH - Tomorrow's Rotary

Youth Exchange is next. Unlike Ambassadorial Scholarships or GSE, youth exchange is open to the sons and daughters of Rotarians as well as non-Rotarians. The best plan I have seen is for a young person to plan a youth exchange experience immediately following graduation from high school, and prior to starting college or other post high school endeavor. This avoids a break in the "high school career" and affords the participant a real opportunity for growth prior to starting a new life phase. Full year or just the summer - it's a great way to support our youth, and to promote the fourth Object of Rotary - international understanding and world peace.

Important and valuable as outbound students are, hosting inbound students from other countries to our communities is just as important, and valuable. Right now is the time to identify those families in our Rotary clubs that would be willing to add an exchange student to their household for a portion of the school year. Many people consider this opportunity skeptically, but I have never heard of or met a Rotarian whose youth exchange hosting experience was not a positive one. Another opportunity for service.

Beyond these programs, there are several events designed specifically to serve our youth. Rotary Youth Leadership each July is one of the best. Be sure your club seeks nominees for this prestigious event and sponsors an attendee. A similar opportunity is the annual Drug Abuse Prevention Speech contest. Each club should sponsor a club contest in time for the winner to participate in the district contest scheduled for February 26, 2004. A multi-district contest follows that in March.

One last idea. Consult the school calendar for those teacher work days when students are out of school. Is there a Rotary club meeting in your community that day? Why not Celebrate Rotary with a Rotary Youth Day. Invite the youth of your community as guests, and show them that Rotary Is What Rotary Does.

-PDG Robert Newton, Chmn. Youth Activities

Rotary Football Fellowship

Make plans to attend the Rotary Football Fellowship on November 13 at Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem for the Wake Forest vs UNC football game. Tentative time for the tailgate party is 1:30 and the tentative kickoff time is 3:30. Club presidents will receive direct information about tickets and registration from Wake Forest University.

Congratulations Crescent Rotary Club

The Crescent Rotary Club has recently been certified by Rotary International as the world's first Triple Crown Rotary Club. A Triple Crown Rotary Club must be a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club, a 100% Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member Club and a 100% Benefactor Club. This is an outstanding accomplishment. Congratulations to all the members of the Crescent Rotary Club.

CLUB NEWS

Golf Tournament

The Rotary Club of Willow Creek and the Rotary Club of the Triad are co-sponsoring a golf tournament. The tournament will be held on Thursday, October 7 at Meadowlands Golf Course in Wallburg. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Cooperative Ministries of Davidson County, Crimestoppers of High Point, and the Rotary Foundation. The cost of a team to play is \$200. For more information, please call Char Bivins of the Rotary Club of Willow Creek at 336-869-9116.

Two Clubs Change Meeting Location

Rotary Club of Oak Hollow is now meeting at 7:45am on Friday mornings at Ashford Suites on Highway 68 in High Point.

Rotary Club of Greensboro is now meeting at the Coliseum Special Events Center, Meeting Room #3 in Greensboro on Wednesdays at 12:30pm.

2005 RI Convention - Chicago

Rooms are still available with the district's room block at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers. Please contact Sandra Allen at 336-498-3559 if you would like to reserve a room.

Attendance for July, 2004

CLUBS	MEMBERS AS OF 6/30/04	CURRENT MEMBERS	MONTHLY% ATTENDANCE	MONTHLY MEETINGS
Alamance	44	45	58%	3
*Alamance Bkft	26	26	78%	3
Archdale/Trinity	29	32	78%	4
*Asheboro	116	114	76%	4
Burlington	27	27	58%	3
Carthage	19	21	66%	5
*Clemmons	126	126	67%	4
*Crescent	118	122	68%	3
East Greensboro	12	12	56%	3
Eden	43	45	74%	4
Elkin-Jonesville	42	42	75%	4
*Furnitureland	56	57	79%	3
*Gate City	54	57	89%	4
Graham	37	37	78%	5
*Greensboro	321	323	54%	4
Gboro Arpt	37	36	78%	3
*Guilford	56	56	75%	4
High Point	180	180	68%	4
Jamestown	29	29	79%	4
*Jonesboro	66	64	82%	5
*Kernersville	46	46	85%	4
King	21	22	80%	5
Lexington	46	45	71%	3
*Liberty	20	20	63%	4
Madison/Mayodan	43	43	77%	3
*Mocksville	61	61	68%	4
*Mount Airy	114	114	62%	4
Oak Hollow	12	12	92%	1
*Pinehurst	30	30	82%	3
*Randolph	77	68	75%	3
Reidsville	80	77	70%	3
Reynolda	117	115	67%	4
Sandhills	44	44	81%	4
Sanford	77	76	45%	3
San-Lee	26	26	100%	3
Siler City	69	68	77%	3
S.G. New Gen.	23	23	70%	5
Southern Pines	76	76	79%	5
*Stoneville	14	14	80%	4
Stratford	145	145	63%	5
*Summit	134	134	66%	4
Surry Sunrise	39	50	72%	4
*Thomasville	80	80	81%	3
*Triad	43	43	57%	3
*Troy	30	30	63%	4
Walnut Cove	41	32	76%	5
Willow Creek	17	17	85%	5
Winston-Salem	255	255	44%	4
*Yadkinville	17	17	84%	4
Yanceyville	24	23	80%	3
DISTRICT	3259	3257	73%	

*100% Paul Harris Fellow Club

Special Upcoming Events www.rotary7690.org/Reports/7690.Calendar.shtml