

# The Piedmont Rotarian

ROTARY DISTRICT 7690 • June 2006 • DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

*"Service Above Self"*

Phil Morris, District Governor, 2207 Porsha Lane, High Point, NC 27265

## THE ROTARY MOVEMENT



**Phil Morris**

We live rich lives because we are a part of an organization that values and embraces diversity. The traits that distinguish one Rotarian from another professionally, culturally, politically and spiritually are the basis of the strength we find in Rotary. They form the foundation and promise of world understanding and peace if we will only celebrate our diversity. Neither Karen, nor I are a significant force in the quest for world peace and understanding. But Karen and I, and you and your clubs, and people like you and clubs like yours - across North Carolina, across the United States, and around the world are providing a significant and positive impact on our communities locally, and internationally.

I have been intensely involved in Rotary service for the past three or four years. Like those who served as governor before me, for more than three years Rotary has dominated my thoughts and activities. I am deeply satisfied when I read your reports, letters and e-mail, and when I talk with you that your commitment to the Object of Rotary is just as deeply expressed in your own way. We have made admirable use of our time and we have done our best. Each club should be proud of what it has accomplished this year. As has been done each year, our resolve is to build upon the successes of this year.

This has been a phenomenal year for our clubs. Twenty clubs successfully followed the Governor's Gold Club map. Fifty percent of our clubs applied for the 2005-2006 Rotary International Presidential Citation. On the Foundation side of the equation, six clubs joined the 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club team, and we suspect the final tally for this year is not in. Two more clubs are about to join that number. District membership has grown by a couple dozen Rotarians. Although end-of-the-year roster purges will erode that number, we still project growth.

Each year brings its blessings and new challenges. This year the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina caused an outpouring of concern across our district that resulted in a (cont. pg. 2)

Karen and I live rich lives because we are involved in, and committed to the Rotary movement. It is a perfect fit to our idealistic hope that people of all cultures will some day, treat one another with understanding, respect, and love, that all of our global and local neighbors will live in a healthy environment and enjoy a reasonable living standard.

## MITZI ELLIS DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2006-2007



Mitzi is proud to claim Dunbar, West Virginia as her home town. She graduated from West Virginia University in 1975 with a degree in Sociology. She met her husband, Steve while attending WVU and they have been married over 30 years.

Mitzi and Steve moved to Greensboro in 1978 where they have their own commercial real estate firm called "The Ellis Group." They have two wonderful daughters. Brooke will be a junior in high school this fall and Alex will be attending UNC-Chapel Hill as a freshman.

Frank Biggerstaff sponsored Mitzi when she joined Crecent Rotary Club in 1991. In 1996 she became the first female Rotary President in the Triad area. She has served the club in many capacities including Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair, Fellowship Chair, and Fundraising Chair. Mitzi was given the Joe Gawthrop Club Service Award in 2002.

On the District level, Mitzi has served a two-year term as Assistant Governor for the eight Rotary clubs in Greensboro. She also chaired the centennial project for the Greensboro clubs which involved raising more than \$80,000 to build a playground at the new baseball stadium in downtown Greensboro. She also coordinated the district centennial luncheon on February 23, 2005 with over 900 Rotarians and guests in attendance.

Mitzi, Steve and their daughter, Alex are all Paul Harris Fellows. Mitzi is a Benefactor and a member of the Paul Harris Society. Her hobbies include a passion for tennis, reading, and a love for everything wild and wonderful (just like West Virginia)!

## Attention All Club Secretaries

You will receive a semi-annual report in late June from Rotary International. This report must be completed and returned with a check from your club for the semi-annual dues to Rotary International. Please make sure that the number of members that you report to RI as of 6/30/06 is the same membership number you report to the district for your June attendance report. It is important that the membership number at RI agrees with the district's membership number.

Rotary District 7690 Office  
114 Willoughby Park Dr.,  
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[www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)

Artwork: Shelley Graphics 2006

(cont. from page 1)....contribution of over \$35,000 through our District program and involvement in relief efforts in cash and/or in materials at the club level that might be estimated to double or triple that amount!

If you measure success by observing our Group Study Exchange program we were certainly blessed with success this year. The selection of Taichung Taiwan as a GSE partner, and the implementation of the program – the selection of two extraordinary teams, the development of a strong agenda, and the enthusiasm of wonderful host families – was hard and rewarding work that was accomplished quietly and very professionally. Our exchange this year enriches our community and will continue to do so for years to come. Because of the generosity of District 3460 Rotarians we will be sending an Ambassadorial Scholar to Taiwan in 2007-2008. *In another part of this newsletter you will want to read about the Rotary Friendship Exchange opportunity with District 3460 that we are anticipating.*

What a District Conference we had. You came “Back to the Beach” ready to party! Apparently you were looking for good fellowship and you found it! You told me that we set the bar. I hope we did, and I hope that this year’s event will pale in comparison to next year’s event. That’s how Rotary grows. It’s supposed to happen.

Karen and I are proud to be a part of this wonderful Rotary movement. We continue to be excited by our Rotary challenges, our Rotary opportunities, and the Rotary promise. You are on the list of those to whom we are deeply indebted and we offer our gratitude. Our lives are rich because of the friendships we have made and we continue to make and nurture with each of you. I am especially blessed with a wonderful Rotary family in the Furnitureland Rotary Club and I am honored by their encouragement and support.

But the Rotary adventure does not stop here. As each of us continues our own Rotary adventure we must continue to share our experience with others. We must share our rich stories with others. The Rotary opportunity is something we must not hoard for ourselves. Her majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, said, “I admire the Rotary promise to solve problems that destroy lives and trample dreams and human potential.”

We have so many reasons to be proud to be Rotarians! Good Bye Polio! Thank You Rotary! For Karen and me, Rotary is an intensely personal journey. Friends: thank you for giving us the opportunity to share with you a commitment to the practice of SERVICE Above Self.

## Rotary District 7690 Nominates 2008-2009 Governor

The Rotary District 7690 Nominating Committee, chaired by Past District Governor Henry Brown, has nominated **Charles Allen** of the Randolph Rotary Club to serve as District Governor of Rotary District 7690 in 2008-2009. The committee would like to thank all of the candidates, Charles Allen of the Randolph Rotary Club, Michael Conrad of the Gate City Rotary Club and Wes Patterson of the Thomasville Rotary Club for their dedication to District 7690 and their willingness to serve.

*The Rotary District 7690 Manual of Procedure and Policy states that:*

*Following the announcement no later than June 1 by the District Governor of the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to the clubs, any club in District 7690 may propose by way of resolution naming the candidate (whose name shall have been previously submitted to the Nominating Committee prior to the May 1st deadline) and certifying that the candidate meets the qualifications established by RI. If challenge candidates are received, the procedures for a mail ballot are determined by the Nominating Committee and ballots are mailed to the clubs. Any challenge must be received by July 1 and should be sent to the office of the District Governor. If no challenges are received by July 1, the candidate of the Nominating Committee shall be declared the DGN. If a mail ballot is necessary, the DG announces the results of the mail ballot by August 1, and the winner shall be declared the DGN.*



....30 seconds after the announcement.  
Charles Allen and Sandy

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2006-2007 GOLD CLUB WINNERS!

**Alamance Breakfast**  
**Clemmons**  
**Crescent**  
**Furnitureland**  
**Gate City**  
**Graham**  
**Greensboro Airport**  
**Guilford**  
**High Point**  
**Jonesboro**  
**Kernersville**  
**Madison/Mayodan**  
**Oak Hollow**  
**Pinehurst**  
**Randolph**  
**Siler City**  
**Summit**  
**Thomasville**  
**Willow Creek**  
**Yadkinville**

## CLUB BULLETIN WINNERS FOR 2006-2007

**Oak Hollow-Small, weekly**  
**Yadkinville-Small, monthly**  
**Furnitureland-Medium, weekly**  
**Gate City- Medium, weekly**  
**Asheboro-Large, weekly**  
**Greensboro-Large, monthly**

## OTHER AWARDS FOR 2006-07

**Joe Ross Attendance Award:**  
**Gate City Rotary**

**Arnold Schiffman Membership**  
**Development & Retention Award:**  
**Clemmons**

**Special Recognition for**  
**Contributions to Rotaract:**  
**Char Blivens, Willow Creek**

**Citation for Meritorious Service**  
**John Womack**

**GSE**  
**Outbound**  
**Team**  
**Selected**

The GSE Outbound  
 team that will travel  
 to Scotland has  
 been selected:

**Thorns Craven**  
 Team leader from  
**Reynolda Club**  
**Adrienne Byrd**  
 Team member  
 sponsored by  
**Guilford**

**Melissa Burroughs**  
 Team member  
 sponsored by  
**Greensboro**  
**Bill Stone**

Team member  
 sponsored by  
**Jonesboro**

**Jason Pierce**  
 Team member  
 sponsored by  
**Crescent**



## JOHN WOMACK RECEIVES THE ROTARY FOUNDATION MERITORIOUS SERVICE CITATION

Rotary International says this about The Rotary Foundation Meritorious Service Citation:

“The vitality and success of the Rotary Foundation are dependent upon the work of individual Rotarians, thousands of whom each year make extraordinary contributions of time and effort.”

To recognize this significant service the Trustees annually award The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service to not more than one Rotarian in each district. Because the Foundation has other means of recognizing significant financial support, those providing only monetary gifts are not eligible for this award. This award may be received only once and less than 200 Rotarians are honored each year.”

**John Womack** (Furnitureland) is the eleventh Rotarian in District 7690 to receive this award. John has been very involved in Foundation activities ever since he visited Australia in 1971-1972 as a member of that year’s Group Study Exchange team. He is passionate about the Group Study Exchange experience, but his area of expertise and his real passion is for the scholarship program. John begins recruiting students when they are in high school. He remains in touch with “his students” until they reach an appropriate stage in their academic careers and then he steers them towards the scholarship program. At a Zone Scholar Orientation two years ago, approximately one-third of the two dozen scholars thanked John by name for his role in introducing them to the program; he received a standing ovation from all the scholars in the room at the end of the program. He joins Bud Toler 1979, Marshal Simon 1984, Buck Campbell 1991, Douglas Young 1992, Ralph Bowden 1993, Felton Capel 1994, Dick Meisky 1996, Everett Padgett 1997, Arnold King 1998, Stuart Fountain 2005.

# GSE 2006: Building A Bridge to Taiwan

By Owen George, GSE Team Leader

When I first learned that the 2005 – 2006 GSE would be with Taiwan my heart started to pound. I had lived and worked in the island nation of 23 million for a couple of years during the early 1990's – and had discovered a warm and friendly land of exotic Asian culture combined with one of the most dynamic economies in the world. I had learned to speak the language fairly well, and felt close ties to culture.

Through the support and trust of my club, an outstanding GSE selection committee, and District Governor Phil Morris, I was granted the honor of leading the team. This was the beginning of a Rotary adventure that continues to unfold to this day.

Our GSE trip to Taichung, Taiwan was an enormous success. Our dynamic team – Linda, Heather, Gayle, and Christine – (Phil calls them our Dream Team) conducted themselves with professionalism, joy, and passion that endeared them to our hosts throughout the intense 30 day journey.

In Taiwan Rotary is strong. Our host district 3460 has 80 clubs - with a combined membership of around 3,500 members. During our GSE trip I think we met most of them!

Together we hiked mountains, toured great industrial empires, shared dreams with municipal leaders - and sang Karaoke at high volume on many a bouncing bus! We spent hours exploring the mysteries of politics, culture, and art with our new found friends – only to be dashed away in a fleet of luxury sedans, off with yet another Rotary club - new friends, new host families.



GSE is an intense and demanding experience that sometimes required us to dig deep inside to bridge the gap between our comfort zone and the intensity of immersion into a mysterious and foreign culture. As we neared the end of our trip, we had grown as individuals and as a team – and wished to stay just a little longer, to spend just a little more time with special new friends, to savor another tasty Taiwanese dish.

Now, we have returned to our jobs, families, and all of the activities that make up our busy lives. Yet, the experience of GSE in Taiwan lives on in our hearts.

Emails and phone calls are exchanged between our team and the incoming GSE team members now returned to Taiwan. There are exciting opportunities ahead for further exchange, such as the Ambassadorial scholarship generously endowed to our district by our hosts at 3460 – and a Rotary Friendship exchange in the works for later this year.

On behalf of the GSE team to Taiwan, I would like to thank all of the Rotarians in 7690 for providing us the opportunity to help build a bridge – and truly experience the Rotary message of Service Over Self.

\*If your Rotary club is interested in scheduling a program with a member of the GSE team to Taiwan, contact Owen at [bridge@communityweb.net](mailto:bridge@communityweb.net) or call 336-625-4384.

## FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE

Are you interested in a trip to Taiwan? As I was preparing this final message for The Piedmont Rotarian I learned that our GSE partner District 3460 has expressed an interest in implementing a Friendship Exchange program with our district in the very near future.

What is Friendship Exchange? Rotary Friendship Exchange is Rotary's international exchange program for Rotarians and their families. Friendship Exchange provides participants the opportunity to experience other cultures by staying in the homes of Rotarians in other countries. The program aims to advance international understanding and peace through personal contact across borders while developing interclub relationships for fellowship and

service projects. A Friendship Exchange is similar to a Group Study Exchange in many ways. The differences are that it can be more flexibly structured and can be tailored to fit the needs of the participants, and that it is self-funded.

### There are three types of Friendship Exchanges:

- **Visitor Program:** Individual Rotarians, who may be accompanied by family members, spend a few days in the home of a Rotarian in another country.
- **Team Program:** Rotarian couples, typically four to six, visit several communities in a host district for up to one month.
- **Uni-vocational:** Host and guest Rotarians of the same occupation

observe how their job is done in other countries.

There is a good chance that my counterpart in District 3460, Governor Tiger Ku, Stuart Fountain's counterpart, District Foundation Chairman John CK Wu, and another Rotarian (Bill) and their spouses will be spending a few weeks in our district. Will you open your homes to them? Do you want to send a team to visit Taichung? Our GSE team recommends their hospitality! When I have completed this article for TPR I will draft a letter to our friends in Taiwan to explore this possibility further. Let me know if you want to participate in the process.

# Attendance for April 2006

CLUBS	MEMBERS AS OF 6/30/05	CURRENT MEMBERS	MONTHLY MEETINGS	MONTHLY % ATTEND	CLUB ID NUMBER
*Alamance	49	57	4	62	6090
*Alamance Bkft	26	31	3	84	23238
Archdale/Trinity	32	31	4	47	29135
*Asheboro	109	118	5	67	6052
Burlington	24	27	4	70	6092
Carthage	16	17	4	78	6053
*Clemmons	126	137	6	76	29530
*Crescent	122	121	4	72	6056
East Greensboro	22	18	4	47	55569
*Eden	47	42	4	71	6058
*Furnitureland	54	57	3	78	6059
*Gate City	59	60	4	90	27995
*Graham	37	39	4	58	6107
*Greensboro	323	313	4	52	6060
*Gboro Arpt	35	39	4	80	31667
*Guilford	50	56	4	96	22059
*High Point	174	173	4	68	6062
Jamestown	34	26	4	72	6063
*Jonesboro	61	68	4	59	22882
*Kernersville	59	66	4	78	25027
King	22	22	4	82	51294
Lexington	44	44	4	66	6065
*Liberty	18	19	4	70	6066
Madison/Mayodan	52	54	6	70	6067
*Mocksville	63	63	4	72	6069
*Mount Airy	101	104	4	87	6070
Oak Hollow	16	18	3	54	51358
*Pinehurst	29	34	4	62	6072
*Randolph	79	78	4	60	6074
Reidsville	71	74	4	71	6075
Reynolda	110	111	3	69	21534
Sandhills	43	33	4	84	25530
*Sanford	75	70	4	51	6078
San-Lee	26	28	5	100	30735
*Siler City	68	68	4	71	6079
Southern Guilford	14	12	4	75	61795
*Southern Pines	68	69	4	79	6080
*Stoneville	14	14	4	81	6081
Stratford	146	132	3	63	6082
*Summit	130	133	4	71	6083
Surry Sunrise	45	41	4	59	57326
*Thomasville	75	77	4	92	6084
*Triad	39	42	3	75	6071
*Troy	34	33	4	62	6085
Walnut Cove	30	27	4	59	6087
*Willow Creek	18	20	2	81	60367
Winston-Salem	253	247	3	51	6088
Yadkin Valley	40	41	4	64	30000
*Yadkinville	17	19	4	64	51333
Yanceyville	24	23	4	61	6134
<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>3223</b>	<b>3245</b>		<b>73%</b>	

\*100% Paul Harris Fellow Club

**District 7690 Calendar**

[Click Here](#)



*the Piedmont Rotarian*



*District Conference 2006  
Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort at Grand Dunes  
April 20 - 23, 2006*



In no particular order ... Furnitureland Rotarians and very significant others gather. Joann, Emmy and Jim with authentic American cuisine. Taichung quartet entertains. McCoy and Perkins contemplate Rotary matters. Pat Allred greets Mary Margaret Fleming. Michael thinks he is exempt from getting his photo published! Someone tell Gov Phil that cheesecake and chopsticks doesn't work well. Dueling Pianos is joined by Madison-Mayodan's Dixie Penn. Abby and Patrick from Crescent...Chuck and Charlie from Clemmons. Carol Summerlin and Mary Margaret "YMCAing". Group shoulder massage. Everett & Margaret may be enjoying themselves!



Sometimes you wonder which gender is responsible for Clemmons Rotary Club's reputation as a party club!



Taichung Quartet returns for a chorus of 'Country Roads.' Lexington's drive for 100% PHF club status will provide Foundation Chair Stuart with a crow dinner. Area 5 club presidents celebrate the 'gold.'



Don Allred fortifies himself for an M&M presentation. Chuck Houska in a bathrobe. And finally Phil & Karen celebrate a successful conference thanks to you... and you... and you... and you... and...

*District Conference 2006  
Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort at Grand Dunes  
April 20 - 23, 2006*

*Park it on your calendar:  
District Conference 2007  
The Homestead  
April 13 - 15, 2007  
You haven't seen anything yet!  
Even more fun promised!  
-Mitzi*