

The Piedmont Rotarian

ROTARY DISTRICT 7690 • JUNE 2009 • DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

"Make Dreams Real"

Charles Allen, Governor, PO Box 623, Randleman, NC 27317

What a Great Time to be a Rotarian and to be Your District Governor!



Charles Allen

As your District Governor this year I've learned that Rotary is much more than our clubs meeting weekly morning, noon and night. Rotary is all the service projects done by each club in our cities, communities and around the world.

Rotary is each fundraising project that allows clubs to collect funds to be used to improve the lives of many locally and internationally. Rotary is the collaboration of clubs to "Stop Hunger Now" projects that provides food to the less fortunate around the world. Rotary is the many clubs that worked together on District Simplified Grants and Matching Grants that provided:

- " Hospital Equipment for hospital in Jamaica
- " Water project in Dominican Republic
- " Birthing Bed of Clinic in Oaxaca, Mexico
- " Education Equipment for Girls School in Madina, Pakistan
- " Children's and Women's Shelter in Naucalpan, Mexico

Rotary is the warm reception and hospitality Sandra & I received at each club visit and event we've been privileged to attend. We are grateful for the opportunity to have served you and we have memories that will last a lifetime. I'm thankful to each of you for your support and encouragement and I know my life is forever changed because of you.

We pledge our support to Mike and Mary Ann Conrad and will do all possible to help them have a successful year. We are committed to each District 7690 Rotarian as you give your "Service Above Service" efforts to others.

Remember, Rotary Teamwork Will "Make Dreams Real".

Yours In Rotary Service,

Charles

MIKE CONRAD District Governor 2009-10

Incoming Governor Michael Conrad and Mary Ann greet Assistant Governor Shannon Harris at the reception in Mike's honor during the 2009 District Conference.



Mike was born and grew up in Thomasville, NC. and graduated from Appalachian State University in 1968 with a degree in Business and Economics. He met his wife, Mary Ann, in 1969 at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro where both were teaching assistants while working toward their master's degree.

After a 31 year career with AT&T and Lucent Technologies, Mike retired in 2000. Following a brief retirement, he began his next career as Executive Director of the Piedmont Triad Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. His goal is to "work himself out of a job" by helping find a cure for diabetes. Before becoming Executive Director, Mike served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the chapter.

Mike owes his introduction to Rotary to Sam Hummel of the Crescent Rotary Club. Sam asked Mike in 1991 to join the newly formed Gate City Rotary Club sponsored by Sam's club. A charter member of the Gate City club, Mike has served in multiple club positions and was President of his club in 2001-2002. His proudest achievement at the club level was helping lead the club to become a 100% Paul Harris Club. He was named as the club's Rotarian of the Year in 2002-2003.

Mike has maintained perfect attendance since he joined Rotary in 1991. Mike and Mary Ann are Paul Harris Fellows and members of the Bequest Society. Mike is a Benefactor, Sustaining Member and member of the Paul Harris Society. At the district level he has served as Chairman of the District Scholarship Committee for two years and two terms as Assistant Governor.

Married in 1971, Mike and Mary Ann reside in Greensboro, NC and are the proud parents of one son, David and daughter-in-law, Megan. Mike and Mary Ann are members of First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC. Mike's interest in gardening led him to become involved in Greensboro Beautiful as a member of their Advisory Board. Mike also enjoys traveling and attempting to stay fit by going to the gym almost every day! Mike has two proudest accomplishments. The first was to complete a one day 100 mile bicycle "Ride to Cure Diabetes" in Whitefish, Montana in 2007. His second proudest achievement was to return to Whitefish in 2008 and complete the 100 mile bike ride again with his son and daughter-in-law!

In
Memoriam

**John W.
Justice, Jr.**

May 14, 2009

**District Governor
1990-1991**

**Former member
of the Rotary
Club of
Siler City**

and

**Becky Griffin
(wife of PDG
Julian Griffin)**

May 28, 2009

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www.Rotary7690.org
www.Rotary.org



Artwork: Shelley Graphics 2009

Piedmont Business Ethics Award

Zebra Environmental & Industrial Services Inc., Pay Tel Communications Inc., and VF Corporation were honored recently as recipients of the annual Piedmont Business Ethics Awards. Awarded by the Greensboro Chapter of the Society of Financial Service Professionals and Rotary District 7690 the tributes were presented during a luncheon at the Greensboro Country Club, where noted public radio broadcaster Bob Edwards was keynote speaker.

Zebra Environmental & Industrial Services Inc. won in the small business category with less than fifty employees and is an environmental and industrial services contractor located in High Point, North Carolina. Pay Tel Communications Inc. won in the medium business category and is the market dominant inmate telephone service in the southeast US, serving over 180 county confinement facilities.

VF Corporation, with over 47,000 associates, won for the large business category and is the world's largest apparel company with a diverse portfolio of jeans wear, outdoor, sports and image attire.

The Piedmont Business Ethics Awards and its counterpart at the national level honor companies that demonstrate a firm commitment to ethical business practices in everyday operations, management philosophies, and responses to crises or challenges. The awards luncheon was also co-sponsored by partners Greensboro College and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Local winners and finalists will be eligible to compete in the American Business Ethics Award competition at the national level. In 2008, Triad winner Atlantic Webworks was chosen as the winner in the Small Business category, defined as companies having 250 employees or less, on the national stage. Other 2008 winners include General Mills, one of the world's leading food companies, and Daisy Brand LP, a mid-sized, family-owned business producing dairy products.

2009 award finalists were also named and include: Deep Roots Market, Disaster One, FedLinx Inc., New Atlantic Contracting Inc. and ServiceMaster Building Care.

THANKS FROM GURU GANDHI

On behalf of Rotary District 3250, I extend my greetings to all of you. The GSE program was really a wonderful experience for me and my team members. The warm southern hospitality rendered by your District was great. Each of the host families welcomed us in their homes and made our stay really comfortable.

As promised by Rotary, this trip enhanced our cultural and vocational knowledge about your country. This was made possible only due to our shared fellowship in your homes, clubs and at the District Conference.

I would like to thank each and every Rotarian of District 7690 for making this Program a Grand Success.

Rtn Guru Gandhi, Team Leader
GSE Team, Dist 3250 (India)

June is "Rotary Fellowships Month"

Rotary Global Networking Groups allow individual Rotarians from around the world to join together to focus on common interest.

You can

- *Share fellowship and friendship with thousands of Rotarians
- *Meet other Rotarians with a similar hobby or vocational background
- *Collaborate with Rotarians from around the world who are dedicated to a particular area of service

There are two types of Global Networking Groups: Rotary Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups.

Rotary Fellowships

Rotary Fellowships offer Rotarians the opportunity to make friends with others in Rotary who share a common vocation, hobby, or recreational interest. Read more about Rotary Fellowships in the [Rotary Fellowships Handbook \(PDF\)](#). [View complete list of Rotary Fellowships](#).

Rotarian Action Groups

Rotarian Action Groups conduct international service projects that further the Object of Rotary. If you're interested in supporting a particular type of service activity, there may be a Rotarian Action Group for you. Learn more about Rotary's service opportunities. [View a complete list of Rotarian Action Groups](#).

How to join

- *Visit the Global Networking Groups database.
- *Get in touch with the group you're interested in.
- *Consult the Global Networking Groups Directory for additional information.

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 6/30/09 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.

The number that your club reports as the membership number to the district is the number used to calculate your club's district dues.

FOR ALL INCOMING CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES

Is your club ready to start the new Rotary year?

Please visit the district's website www.rotary7690.org and click on the pocketknife in the upper right-hand corner. It is very important that your club's information and membership data be correct.

Check the following:

1. Club information - meeting place, time, etc
2. Delete anyone who is no longer a member.
3. Add new members.
4. Check addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses for all members (or ask each club member to check his or her data).
5. Are all officers for the 2009-2010 Rotary year listed as an officer?
6. If your club has a post office box, please use that address for the club secretary and club treasurer.

Greensboro Resident on Incredible Fundraising Initiative

This coming August, Greensboro resident Susan Midgett will don her wetsuit and cap for a plunge into the San Francisco Bay. Her immediate purpose: completion of the 17th Annual Escape from Alcatraz Sharkfest Swim. Sharkfest is a 1 ½ mile open-water swim originating at a drop point just off the shore of Alcatraz Island and terminating at the mainland aquatic park.

Swimming in 60 degree waters with notorious currents and fog alongside sharks and other suspicious saltwater creatures? Is she crazy? Well, maybe. But it's for an excellent cause. Susan is not training and swimming solely for the thrill of personal accomplishment. She is trying to "make a difference" and is garnering contributions thru a fundraiser she has developed and named S.O.S. for Haiti ("S.O.S." stands for "Susan's Open-water Swim") to benefit Father Marc Boisvert's Pwoje Espwa (Project Hope), better known as Espwa. Sadly, in Haiti, food is so scarce that many parents choose to abandon their children or deliver them into slavery in hopes that somehow they will find enough to eat. Espwa provides housing, food, education, and rudimentary medical care for over 600 of these homeless children, giving them an exit out of this abyss.

Susan was inspired to take action in Haiti and came up with the idea for S.O.S. for Haiti by her husband, Rob Midgett, President of Gate City Rotary (Greensboro, NC). Gate City has long supported Espwa through its own fundraising efforts and "hands on" work from club members, and Susan and Rob have been supportive on a personal level for many years.

It is Susan's hope that through her Alcatraz swim, she will raise \$100,000 for construction of a greatly improved medical & dental clinic they desperately need at Espwa. The building that is currently in use is very small, and was actually previously used as a chicken coop! In the new clinic, Espwa residents, as well as people from surrounding villages, will be able to receive treatment for all manner of diseases, infections, and wounds, along with education on wellness and prevention. In addition, the clinic will allow space for an overnight infirmary for sick children, a pharmacy, a lab, an xray room, and a treatment area for minor surgery. This new clinic will also provide space for something Espwa has never had before but really needs: a dental clinic.

Susan becomes emotional when she talks about the Haitian children's health. Intestinal parasites, diarrhea, and dysentery are common in a country where a staple food is cookies fashioned from vegetable shortening and dirt and baked in the sun. She isn't sure what she will find when she visits Haiti in March, but she knows reaching the goal of \$100,000 for the new clinic would go a long way to alleviating these conditions.

Susan's grassroots efforts has produced a few close friends who are helping to promote the cause throughout the community. Rotarians are a big part of those efforts, as Susan is speaking before many local Rotary clubs. Susan and her team of volunteers are planning events and seeking sponsors to help make the dream of this clinic a reality. "It's a huge goal, one that keeps me up at night," says Susan. "A matching donor would be an answer to prayers."

It's a grueling pace, but when the training gets tough, she remembers how tough life is in Haiti especially for the Restaveks, the children sold or given into slavery. "I'm always amazed," she says, "that when I focus on their plight, my fatigue evaporates. There is no comparison between my discomfort in training and what those children endure every day."

Meanwhile, her husband Rob has helped to coordinate a joint-club District Simplified Grant for 2009-2010 with Summit Rotary Club President-Elect Claudia Cannady. Through S.O.S. for Haiti, the DSG will provide much needed medical equipment for the Espwa clinic.

To learn more about Project Hope, Espwa, and the Restavek children go to www.freethekids.org. You can also read more about the S.O.S. for Haiti project on Susan's blog page @ www.sosforhaiti.blogspot.com

Seeking Group Study Exchange Candidates for Upcoming Exchange with Australia

This past month saw the completion of another successful Group Study Exchange (GSE). Earlier this year we sent a very talented and enthusiastic team of young professionals to represent District 7690 for a month in India under the capable leadership of Joe Kelly, Past President of the Summit Rotary Club. Joe and his team are available to come to your club to share with you stories of their experiences with the Rotarians of District 3250 and Indian culture. This is one way your club can participate in the power of GSE.

Although we have just said goodbye to our guests from India we already need to seek out quality candidates for our next exchange. We will exchange with District 9640 of Australia's Gold Coast. District 9640 has invited our team to be with them from around March 18th to April 19th of 2010.

We are looking for 4 young working professionals ages 25 to 40 who live and/or work in our District. They cannot be Rotarians as this is a gift we give to our community through the Rotary Foundation and participants can't be Rotarians or family members of Rotarians.

If you are not familiar with Group Study Exchange (GSE) please go to <http://www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/Fellowship/GroupStudyExchange/Pages/ridefault.aspx>. There you will learn more about GSE as well as find a brochure on the program and a team member and team leader application.

As a brief overview, GSE is a vocational and cultural exchange offered to non-Rotarians. For 4 to 5 weeks team members will experience the host country's culture and institutions in a very intimate way. They will live with 5 to 7 different Rotarian families as they travel throughout the host District. Furthermore they will present to many Rotary Clubs throughout the host country's District what their vocation and life is like in our District.

This foundation-sponsored program is built around the ideal of promoting peace and world understanding through person-to-person exchange, which gives rise to the opportunity of friendship.

Also one Rotarian from our district will serve as team leader and accompany the team on their exchange. We typically have less difficulty finding a number of very qualified Rotarians for this position, but if you are interested I would be delighted to talk with you about the opportunity.

The more difficult task, however, is finding quality non-Rotarian team member candidates who have the opportunity to take a month away from their employment. They are indeed out there; we just have to make some focused effort to find them. Take some time now to forward the GSE brochure and team member application to individuals who you think might make good candidates as well as business owners who may employ them.

For more information please contact me, Tim Albertson GSE Co-Chair at jtalbertson@earthlink.net or at work at 510-5428 or cell at 314-7682.

Attendance for April 2009

CLUBS	MEMBERS AS OF 6/30/08	CURRENT MEMBERS	MONTHLY MEETINGS	MONTHLY % ATTEND NO.	CLUB ID
*Alamance	42	52	4	60	6090
*Alamance Bkft	28	26	3	64	23238
*Archdale/Trinity	24	26	5	82	29135
*Asheboro	104	103	3	54	6052
*Burlington	20	20	3	85	6092
*Carthage	17	20	4	73	6053
*Clemmons	133	118	4	70	29530
**Crescent	106	107	4	71	6056
*East Greensboro	14	17	5	59	55569
*Eden	30	26	3	70	6058
*Furnitureland	58	62	4	57	6059
**Gate City	62	65	5	95	27995
*Graham	36	36	5	67	6107
*Greensboro	315	311	5	63	6060
*Gboro Arpt	42	43	4	52	31667
*Guilford	58	59	4	73	22059
*High Point	157	151	5	75	6062
*Jamestown	22	24	4	82	6063
**Jonesboro	49	47	5	72	22882
**Kernersville	72	76	5	84	25027
*King	22	21	5	76	51294
*Lexington	38	27	4	62	6065
*Liberty	21	22	4	58	6066
*Madison/Mayodan	37	32	4	66	6067
Midstate(Asheboro)	(missing)	19	4	85	81879
*Mocksville	49	55	4	71	6069
*Mount Airy	104	101	4	69	6070
*Pinehurst	39	39	4	71	6072
*Randolph	83	83	5	81	6074
*Reidsville	64	61	3	67	6075
*Reynolda	107	108	3	56	21534
**San Lee Sunrise	34	30	3	89	30735
**Sandhills	36	41	5	76	25530
**Sanford	38	36	4	66	6078
*Siler City	56	56	3	69	6079
*Southern Guilford	11	10	4	70	61795
*Southern Pines	78	87	4	71	6080
*Stoneville	16	17	5	70	6081
*Stratford	113	104	4	34	6082
*Summit	111	107	2	70	6083
*Surry Sunrise	35	38	5	68	57326
*Thomasville	77	74	5	91	6084
*Triad	37	35	3	68	6071
*Troy	30	29	4	50	6085
*Walnut Cove	21	17	5	71	6087
*Western Forsyth	(missing)	26	4	85	79812
**Willow Creek	15	20	3	92	60367
*Winston-Salem	253	254	4	45	6088
*Yadkin Valley	41	35	5	62	30000
*Yadkinville	20	23	4	67	51333
*Yanceyville	16	12	4	71	6134
DISTRICT	2991	3008		70%	