

DECEMBER 2007

THE SIGN

SOUTHERN INDIANA GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER, ROTARY DISTRICT 6580



Governor's Reflection:

In the July 1946 Rotarian magazine Paul Harris wrote "we must help all nations in distress and raise the standards of living of the lowly. If we steadfastly pursue this course, prosperity such as we have never enjoyed before will be ours, the wheels of industry will be kept turning and all nations will be friends.

What a blessing it would be to live in a friendly world, where all nations are good neighbors."

Quote from *Fear and Hate Must Go*: "At this time of year, many Rotarians think about the message of Peace on Earth and goodwill to all humanity. Lee and I have paused to enjoy the Family of Rotary by enjoying the holiday party fellowship in Columbus, Bloomington, Brown County, Bloomfield and Corydon. Our final "official visit" has now been made to Corydon, Indiana's first state capital. In some ways it is nice to have completed this phase

of my year as District Governor. On the other hand we have enjoyed and appreciated the warm welcome we received and more importantly the opportunity to hear about the good work each club is successfully undertaking. Part of what makes Rotary special is that each club has its own special personality and set of traditions which has been wonderful to experience. And of course, following our club visits we had the good fortune to wander and explore southern Indiana at a beautiful time of the year.

Shortly I will be sending welcome letters to Rotarians who have joined since July 1, 2007. Thank you to the Presidents who have already

shared those names and the names of Rotarians with five years or more perfect attendance. There are more of them than one might think. I look forward to receiving this information from the remaining clubs. Thank you for what each of you is doing to bring in new members. Retention and membership growth go together to maintain a viable, healthy organization.

There is a story that hails from the Ukraine about a family who were so poor they went to bed on Christmas Eve with their tree completely bare. The spiders who lived in the house felt so sorry for the family that overnight they spun intricate and beautiful webs to decorate the tree. As the sun's rays fell on the tree on Christmas morning, the spider's webs miraculously turned to silver and gold and the family's troubles were no more.

Paul Harris's hopes in 1946 for the future can best be achieved through The Rotary Foundation. The Foundation allows all of us to work towards changing the world. We can create our own miracles by remembering to contribute to the Foundation at this time of year whatever our own religious and cultural beliefs. The Foundation creates its own miraculous webs through world peace and understanding every time we embark on a project that alleviates poverty, advances education and improves health. And soon we will have a world completely rid of polio.

As Paul Harris would testify if he were alive today – Miracles can happen!



Judy and Lee Witt

Judy Witt

District Governor
800 East First St.
Bloomington, IN 47401

Del Brinkman

SIGN Editor
3112 Coppertree Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401
del.brinkman@insightbb.com

District Web site:

www.rotary6580.org

Rotary Int'l Web site:

www.rotary.org

Design by:

Tim Street Art + Design
www.timstreet.net

Editor's note:

The SIGN will be published again in January. Please submit news items and/or photos to Editor Del Brinkman at del.brinkman@insightbb.com or to District Governor Judy Witt by January 20 for inclusion in the next issue.

THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Rotary Int. president [page 2]

New grant structure shifts focus [page 3]

Profile of DG-elect Bill Ryal [page 4]

Group Study Exchange team chosen [page 5]

A conversation with Robert Scott [page 6]

Thank you from Judy Witt [page 7]

Message from the Rotary International President

Rotary isn't just about looking after our own

December is family month, a time when we pay special attention to our emphasis on the family of Rotary. When I speak about this, I'm often asked to explain just what the family of Rotary means and why it's included as an emphasis.

When you put the family of Rotary idea next to such enormous needs as nutritious food and clean water, it might seem much less important.

After all, as Rotarians, we're here to help everyone and look out for all those who need us. We don't just look after our own – that's not what Rotary is about.

As Rotarians, we do have a great responsibility to make sure Rotary's good work doesn't end with us. Rotary does so much that is so important in so many ways: providing water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, medical care to the poor and sick, education to the illiterate. It's been doing that for more than 100 years now.

But if we focused all our attention on nothing but that lifesaving and life-altering work, then that work would eventually come to an end. Rotary would die out in a generation if we did not also pay attention to the health of our own orga-

nization – our members, our clubs, and those who will join our clubs in the years to come.

One reason I've always felt so at home in Rotary and with the idea of the family of Rotary could be that I come from a large family myself.

I'm one of 10 children – six girls and four boys. But as big as my family is, it's nothing compared with Rotary. We're not just 1.2 million Rotarians in 32,000 clubs. We're 250,000 Interactors, 170,000 Rotaractors, 150,000 Rotary Community Corps members and, in the last year alone, about 8,000 young people in Rotary Youth Exchange. And, of course, we also include the spouses, widows and widowers, and children of Rotarians. Altogether, the family of Rotary is well over two mil-



Wilfrid J. Wilkinson

lion strong.

Our family is strong because it's close, and because it's always forming new ties. We need to ensure that Rotary keeps growing – in all the branches of our family. We should always be looking for and inviting qualified men and women to join our clubs.

– Wilfrid J. (Wilf) Wilkinson

Bloomfield club stages Holiday Fundraiser

Rotarians surpass goal by \$700

The Rotary Club of Bloomfield recently held a fund drive as part of their holiday Family of Rotary activities. This was one of two fund drives they have each year. For this fundraiser club members donated new or gently used items. The club surpassed their goal by \$700.00. Part of the auction process is to purchase the bidding number of fellow Rotarians not in attendance that evening. Other Rotarians bid up to \$35.00 for those absent. Great fun and fellowship was had by all attending.





Members of the Columbus Sunrise Club pick up a pallet of flour from Marsh.

Columbus Sunrise Club sponsors 'Flour Power'

Last month, members of the Columbus Sunrise Club Community Service team initiated a program to supply flour to Columbus' local food pantry, "Love Chapel." The club members supported the project through donations made during the last two meetings. Donations were placed into a flower pot to support "Flour Power."

The club was able to deliver one ton of flour in five pound bags to the Love Chapel to help with the Christmas baskets they hand out during the holiday season. "Flour Power" was a successful project carried out in a very short amount of time.



The Club was able to deliver one ton of flour to the "Love Chapel," Columbus' local food pantry.

Group delivers 2,000 pounds of flour

Profile of Bill Ryall: District Governor-Elect

Ryall works
as professor
and coach at
IU Southeast

William (Bill) Ryall is a retired Army Colonel with a total of 38 years active and reserve duty. A graduate of the Army War College, Bill held a wide variety of assignments in the US Army in Europe, including Commander, US Army Element, Allied Forces NORTH, Oslo, Norway, and liaison officer to NATO HQ, Brussels. During the Gulf War, he served at the Joint Operations Center, NATO HQ, in support of US and Allied Coalition forces.

On release from active duty, Bill worked as a teacher and administrator for the Department of Defense Overseas Schools in Germany, Norway, England and Belgium. In 1996 he joined Indiana University Southeast as an adjunct professor of Education and HPER and the varsity women's tennis coach, and he continues these assignments today. In 2003-2004 he also served as the Floyd County Director of Emergency Management Agency.

Bill holds BS and MS degrees from Indiana University in History and Education, and did post-graduate work at the University of Oregon, Oxford and Cambridge. He is also a graduate of the National Defense Education Institute in Asian Studies.

Bill joined the Rotary Club of New Albany, Indiana, in 1995 and has served as club President, International Service Chair for club and district, GSE Chair for club and district, GSE team leader to



Bill and Marty Ryall

Austria, and Assistant Governor. Bill is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member and a Benefactor.

Bill is married to Marty Ryall, a French teacher at New Albany High School. They have two grown children and three grandchildren. Marty and both of their children are Paul Harris Fellows.

Profile of ADG Trent McWilliams

McWilliams
in his second
year as ADG

Trent has been a member of the Franklin Rotary Club since the Spring of 1997. He has served as Secretary, Treasurer, President Elect and President. He has been the club's Foundation Chair for 2 years. Trent co-chaired the fund raising effort for the club's Centennial Park project and is active in the Franklin club's community events: road clean-up, Annual Charity Hog Roast, Operation Bundle Up, Coats for Kids with the United Way, and the Inter-church Food Pantry. Trent is currently serving his second and final year as Assistant District Governor.



Trent McWilliams

Economic Redevelopment Commission. Trent has been with Heartland Community Bank since its founding on December 17, 1997. He has been in banking for 34 years and currently is Senior Vice President of Business Development at Heartland Community Bank. He enjoys golf and community activities.

Trent is a Paul Harris Fellow and has also honored his daughter Maggie with a Paul Harris Fellow who was Interact President at Franklins High School her senior year. Trent has been a Sustaining Member since

In the community he serves on Franklin's Rotary's 100th Anniversary.

RIGHT - Team Member Brooke Helvey (Bloomington), Team Member Amber Fischvogt (Columbus Sunrise), Alternate Team Member Becky Rominger (Franklin), Alternate Team member Farra Ferree (Bloomington Sunrise), Team Member Jooi Byrd (Bloomington); Standing - Team Member Refugio (JR) Nolasco (Bloomington)



ABOVE - From left - 2008 GSE Team Leader [alternate] Ken Harker, Rotary Youth Exchange student Bia Carrasco from Brazil (in front of Rotarian Susan Leonard), Alternate Team member Farra Ferree (Bloomington Sunrise), Team Leader Dan DeBard (Terre Haute Downtown), Team Member Jooi Byrd (Bloomington), Team Member Brooke Helvey (Bloomington), Team Member Refugio (JR) Nolasco (Bloomington), Team Member Amber Fischvogt (Columbus Sunrise), Alternate Team Member Becky Rominger (Franklin) being briefed about the next team exercise.

RIGHT - 2008 GSE Team Leader [alternate] Ken Harker, and 2008 GSE Team Leader Dan DeBard being led by Ilya (from Kazakhstan) in a group exercise.



Group Study Exchange Team Chosen



ABOVE - Seated - Team Member Brooke Helvey (Bloomington), Team Member Amber Fischvogt (Columbus Sunrise), Alternate Team Member Becky Rominger (Franklin), Alternate Team member Farra Ferree (Bloomington Sunrise), Team Member Jooi Byrd (Bloomington); Standing - Rotarians Ken Harker, Susan Leonard, Paul Bippen, RYE student Bia Carrasco, Rotarians DG Judy Witt, Greg Moore, Linda and Steve Richards, Team Member Refugio (JR) Nolasco, and Rotarians Dan DeBard, Bettye Dunham, Bill Ryall

A conversation with Robert Scott

Robert S. Scott is the Chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees and chair of the International PolioPlus Committee. This is part three of a series of questions and answers with him about Polio. This is the last part of the series.

When did this trend of clubs and districts eliminating polio committees start becoming noticeable?

The last three or four years. There have been two campaigns that raised a huge amount of money: \$247 million the first campaign, \$135 million the second campaign. Every year, the PolioPlus Fund receives \$1 million to \$2 million, even though there is no official campaign, from generous Rotarians. Many incorrectly believe polio is eradicated, and therefore many clubs and districts no longer have active PolioPlus committees.

Is polio still a main priority for The Rotary Foundation?

When Trustee Chair Bhichai Rattakul announced his goals for this Rotary year, he stated that the number one would be communicating that polio eradication is realistic. Last year, Trustee Chair Luis Giay made polio the number-one emphasis. It should continue to be so, in my opinion, until eradication is certified.

What kinds of questions come to you from Rotarians in the field?

The number-one question is why don't we get enough publicity? The number-two question is when do you think it's going to finish? I don't give a date anymore. Initially, the eradication effort was going very quickly. We started in 1985 with more than 125 countries, and by the year 2000, we were down to only 20 countries. Then the pace slowed, which was unexpected. Rotarians ask me many times, when do you think we will finish? I have no idea. We will finish when that last virus is eradicated. We have not failed. We have cleared out 99 percent of the virus from the world. Three WHO regions have been certified polio-free, and type 2 poliovirus has not been detected any-



Robert Scott

where in the world for about nine years. It is likely eradicated. That is a success in itself. It is not the final goal, but it is very close to it. I'm convinced we can reach that final goal. I mean, I've been at it long enough to be absolutely convinced that we can do this, given enough funding.

And that question about publicity?

Rotary gets a tremendous amount of press worldwide, both in written and TV reports. I go to India, and there's press all over the place. In the United States, Canada, and in Europe and the UK, we don't get that same publicity, because polio isn't around. People have forgotten about it. It isn't the bad-news story the press often like to pick up. My answer to the Rotarians who ask that question is when did you last write to your newspaper about polio and Rotary? That's the number-one thing all Rotarians can do: continually increase the advocacy in press, radio, television.

What do you think is the most important message for Rotarians?

In April, the representatives to the Council on Legislation from around the world voted by a huge majority of 93 percent to continue polio as the only corporate focus of Rotary International. Rotarians of the world still believe in the eradication of polio and have voted strongly in support. Now we must get mobilized, in all parts of the Rotary world, yet again, to finally eradicate this disease, by making sure polio committees are active, and support of PolioPlus Partners is present in every district. Generally encourage the public; get PolioPlus known again, especially among new Rotarians.

What would you tell the naysayers of the world?

I would say they are believing false or perhaps convenient science. We have shown it is possible to eradicate polio. Every country that has large numbers of children who are susceptible to polio due to poor immunization schedules and has had an import of polio from India or Nigeria has always, for a second time, eradicated polio. We know how to eradicate polio. So, if you want to have up to 250,000 children suffer from polio and a life of disability, carry on with a control policy. But if you do not want that to happen, no matter what the cost, eradicate polio.

Part three of
an update
on the
campaign
to eradicate
Polio

If you're interested in the PolioPlus campaign, you can sign up to receive their e-newsletter at www.rotary.org.

To access the full newsletter, visit:
http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/ppp_openprojects.pdf.

A thank you from Judy Witt

As 2007 comes to an end, I'd like to take a minute to thank the many people who have made Rotary in Southern Indiana what it is today. So thank you:

To the many clubs that sponsored the students who attend RYLA!

To the clubs that recommended our future GSE TEAM members!

To the Rotarians who gave of their time to drive students to RYLA, spent the weekend as chaperones and spent the time getting the RYLA program organized – especially chair Pam Blasdel.

To the Rotarians who gave of their time to assist with the selection of our GSE TEAM including Dan DeBard, Ken Harker and Paul Bippen.

To PDG Peggy Peter and husband Merrill who kindly shared their Mitchell home for the quarterly AG meeting.

To the Assistant Governors who are always available to the clubs.

To the Finance Committee members who met for their quarterly meeting this past weekend including DGE/Finance Committee chair Bill Ryall.

To the clubs that are including at least one program about our Rotary Foundation and who have invited or will invite Annual Giving Chair PDG Peggy Peter or Foundation Chair PDG Steve Richards to their club.

To PDGs Peggy and Steve who still have dates available for your club.

To those who planned, presented and attended the Membership/Foundation Seminar especially DGN/Membership Chair Bettye Dunham, PDG Steve Richards, Susan Richards and Darleen Fox and the Bedford Rotary Club.

To every single Rotary Club in the district that has kindly hosted the District Governor and her spouse during her official visit with you!

Rotary is definitely alive and well in Southern Indiana because Rotarians say “YES”!!!

Thank you
for a great
2007!

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 31 – Dues Payments are due to RI

December 31 – Deadline for electing
2008-09 club officers

December 31 _ Deadline for submitting
2008-09 Election Report to RI, DGE, DG and D
Secretary

December 31 – DGN Nominations due to PDG
Steve Richards

January 1 – Clubs that have not paid July
2007 dues are terminated

January 10 – Attendance Report Due

January 31 – Report to AG your World Rotary
Day Community Service Project

February 23 – World Rotary Day – Commu-
nity Service project by all Rotary Clubs

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER AND SHARE WITH CLUB MEMBERS:

March 7-8 – President Elect Training Seminar
(PETS) Required Meeting

April 25 – 27 – Joint Indiana/Ohio District
conference at Belterra Resort & Casino

May 17 – District Assembly in Columbus for
club boards and future leaders

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S GENERALTRAVEL:

January 5 – District Leadership Quarterly
Meeting

January 5 – Past District Governor luncheon
and advisory meeting

January 15 – Corydon – Myanmar Project
presentation

January 17 – Brown County – Rotary in gen-
eral presentation

Jan 25 – 27 – Central States Youth Exchange
Student winter meeting in Schaumburg, IL

DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECTS CALENDAR:

January 13-20 – Rotary International As-
sembly, San Diego, CA

October Attendance Figures

Club	No. of meetings	# of members 7/1/07	# of members EOM	% attendance	YTD attendance
Bedford	4	29	28	68%	68%
Bloomfield	4	42	42	55.95%	55%
Bloomington	5	150	146	-64.84%	65%
Bl. North	4	55	61	56%	57%
Bl. Sunrise	5	42	42	51.43%	55%
Brazil	5	62	61	-75%	73%
Brown County	4	41	40	-79.50%	81%
Clarksville		30			74%
Columbus	5	128	122	-49.56%	49%
Col. Sunrise	4	34	33	-87%	81%
Corydon	5	95	93	-44.50%	48%
Evansville	5	293	275	41.97%	45%
Evansville Morning	4	41	41	63%	62%
Franklin	5	69	65	64%	65%
Greensburg	5	40	37	67%	68%
Greenwood	5	77	76	65.34%	69%
Greenwood/White River	5	32	32	57.10%	62%
Jasper	4	26	24	61%	60%
Jeffersonville	5	78	81	66%	70%
Linton	5	39	38	55%	52%
Madison	4	48	46	74%	69%
Martinsville	5	39	38	85.80%	86%
New Albany	4	69	72	81%	84%
North Vernon	4	14	11	50%	45%
Princeton	4	42	38	48	48%
Rising Sun	5	15	15	61.23%	64%
Salem		32			47%
Seymour	5	33	32	64%	66%
Sullivan	4	15	11	69%	66%
Terre Haute	5	159	161	72.30%	70%
T.H. South	4	35	38	67%	72%
Vincennes	5	60	59	81%	69%
Warrick County	4	23	20	56%	61%
Washington		NR			

November Attendance Figures

Club	No. of meetings	# of members 7/1/07	# of members EOM	% attendance	YTD attendance
Bedford	4	29	28	66%	67%
Bloomfield		42			56%
Bloomington	4	150	147	59.35%	63%
Bl. North	4	55	61	56%	57%
Bl. Sunrise	4	42	42	57.74%	56%
Brazil	4	62	58	67%	72%
Brown County	4	41	40	78.00%	81%
Clarksville		30	35	75%	74%
Columbus	4	128	119	48.77%	49%
Col. Sunrise	4	34	34	84%	81%
Corydon	4	95	90	47.40%	48%
Evansville	4	293	278	47.98%	45%
Evansville Morning	4	41	41	60%	61%
Franklin	4	69	64	59%	64%
Greensburg	4	40	37	67%	68%
Greenwood	4	77	76	69.70%	69%
Greenwood/White River	4	32	32	63.30%	62%
Jasper	4	26	23	75%	64%
Jeffersonville	4	78	82	72%	70%
Linton	4	39	39	46%	50%
Madison	4	48	47	74%	70%
Martinsville	4	39	38	87%	86%
New Albany	5	69	78	82%	83%
North Vernon	4	14	11	50%	46%
Princeton	3	42	38	66%	57%
Rising Sun	4	15	15	63.20%	64%
Salem	4	32	29	60%	62%
Seymour	4	33	32	61%	65%
Sullivan	4	15	11	59%	64%
Terre Haute	4	159	162	71.05%	70%
T.H. South	3	35	38	70%	71%
Vincennes	4	60	60	66%	68%
Warrick County	4	23	21	45%	57%
Washington		NR			