



the eye-opener

January 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Daniel T. O'Connor

It's Time to Go Jump in a Lake, Allegorically or Literally

On New Years Day there are a group of people named the Polar Bears who cut the ice away and jump in Lake Michigan. I cheerfully admit I'm one... I'll now point out how each of you are Polar Bears too!

I had a client who lost his job a few years ago and he was as content as a clam burrowed in the most fertile sediment in the world (A clam off Iceland was discovered to be the oldest living creature in the world at 405 years old) I asked my client if he was having a hard time coping with things and he replied, "not at all!" I asked him, "What is your secret?" He responded, "Sometimes life is like a kickball game." "A kickball game....?" I confusingly responded. "Yes" he said, "Do you remember playing kickball in grade school?" "Of course I do and I loved it" I retorted. "Remember when you would foul one off?" my client questioned, "What would happen then?" he said. I responded, "You would get a do over!" "Exactly" spoke my client, "Life is a series of do-overs" I laughed, but the truth is he taught me something.



So I emerged out of the water on a 25 degree day and I felt the crisp cold of the wind on my skin and I was reminded that I'm still alive. I was awakened for the new year. I was simply reminded that no matter what happened in 2008, good or bad, I get a do over for 2009! But we need to take time to stop... focus and reenergize. Get our priorities organized and make our dreams a reality through action. However, I think many of you realized this as you rolled out to bed on January 1st... You realized it because like the bear that awakens from hibernation, you awake every new year with the "Polar Bear Within" whether you jump in the lake or not!

MEETING LOCATION CHANGED

Beginning Friday, February 6, 2009, we will meet at Concordia University for two months while North Shore Country Club performs winter maintenance. We will meet in the Friends of Concordia seminar room. The entrance is just to the north of the field house on the west side of campus. It is in front of the Sports and Fitness Center. Maps of the campus will be available at all of our January meetings. Or, ask for directions at the guard shack when entering campus.

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WHERE CAN I GET MAKE-UP?

Go to www.mtsunriserotary.org or www.rotary.org for worldwide opportunities.



Officers

- Dan O'Connor - Pres.
- Tom Johnson - Pres. Elect
- Gordon Hetzel - VP
- Dick Dieffenbach ✓ - Treasurer
- Mike Reuteman - Asst. Treas.
- Sharon Pechiva- Secretary
- Alicia Nickols - Sgt. Arms
- Brian Monroe* ✓ - Past Pres.

Avenues of Service Chairs

- Club: Jean Hill* ✓
Sherry Farver
- Community: Lynn Streeter ✓
Lee Szymborski* ✓
- International: Andy Moss* ✓
Tom Johnson
- Vocational: Deborah Simpson ✓

Sunshine Ambassador
Holly Bern

Members

- Tom Aranow
- Roanne Barnes* ✓
- Carole Blaney
- Bob Blazich ✓
- Rich Bub* ✓
- Jim Button
- George Coulter
- Tom Czaja
- Barb Doll
- Gustav Dreyer, Jr. ✓
- Karl Ekman
- Bert Eversly
- Pat Feerick
- Chris Frommell
- Roger Gronwick
- Dave Jackson
- Alina Kolluri
- Brian Kendzor
- Michael Kim
- Dick Kinney
- David Kliber
- Chet Lukaszewicz
- Judy Neal
- Jim Ott
- Julia Penn
- Steve Peterman* ✓
- Roger Reinemann* ✓
- Terry Schacht
- Alice Sedgwick* ✓
- Julie Shlensky
- Jim Simpson
- Wally Sommer ✓
- Amy Sterkenburg ✓
- Patti Stevens
- Eric Strande
- Deb Turk ✓
- Tom VanDemortel
- Dorothy Wahner* ✓
- Bill Wandsnider
- Chuck Zamora
- Ken Zganjar* ✓

*Past President
✓ Paul Harris Fellow

GUATEMALA UPDATES

International Service in Guatemala has become a fixture for our club during the past five years. Here is a brief update of our most recent news about Guatemala:

Wirenuts get connected. Three members of our club joined with a Greendale pediatrician and three Guatemalan volunteers to completely rewire the school building which becomes our clinic each January. Wally Sommer, Bob Blazich, and Gordon Hetzel, the Lead Wirenut, traveled to Oliveros, Guatemala in early November and upgraded the electrical service in the school to 100 Amps!! The medical and dental team will finally be able to run the needed compressor without hotwiring directly into the grid.



Back Row: Dr. Tom Kowalski, Bob Blazich, Gordon Hetzel, Wally Sommer **Front Row:** Nestor Rosales, Levi Alberto, Glenda Reina

Oliveros Scholarship Fund. Thanks to donations from Tom Aranow and others, ten middle school students from the Guatemalan village of Oliveros are in school. I know that sounds strange to hear, but most rural Guatemalan students, especially girls, do not attend school past sixth grade due to financial hardship. For \$130 per year, we pay the full cost of tuition, books, uniforms, and transportation for a student. Our hope is to have 15 scholarship students in our program for the coming school year.

Club members heading to Guatemala. When the medical team leaves for Guatemala on January 22, the MT Sunrise Rotary Club will have a record NINE Rotarians and family members on the team. All are traveling to Guatemala on their own dime to be part of the clinic team. MT Sunrise representatives are:

- Alicia Nickols Andy Moss Barb Johnson Bob Blazich
- Brian Monroe Eric Monroe Julia Penn Mike Kim Nancy Neumann

WINE TASTING EVENT
...enjoyed by all



YOUTH EXCHANGE

by Tom Johnson

Our current student, Nicholas (Nico) is now staying with Doug Hansen, of the noon club, and his wife Pam. They have hosted several students over the years. We are still looking for one more family for Nico for the final third of his stay. Let me know if you, or anyone you know, has an interest. Remember, you don't have to be a Rotarian to host.

We are very excited to have submitted an application for outbound student, Sam Hildebrandt, from Homestead. He will begin his year abroad in late summer/early fall of next year. We will be cosponsoring him along with the noon club. We are very pleased to have an outbound student again. Last year we sponsored Heather Hilt who had a fantastic year in India.

BYLAWS

The Club Service Committee is reviewing the Club's bylaws. The bylaws can be viewed on our Website, www.mtsunriserotary.org. Please submit ideas for updates or changes to Jean Hill or Sherry Farver.

DISTRICT DATES OF NOTE

January 2009

Group Study Exchange - Outbound (India)

March 20-21, 2009

Upper Midwest PETS, Radisson Hotel (Appleton, WI)

April 2009

Group Study Exchange - Inbound (India)

April 4, 2009

Spring District Assembly, Slinger Middle School (Slinger, WI)

April 24-26, 2009

2009 District Conference, [The Osthoff Resort](#) (Elkhart Lake, WI)

June 2009

World Affairs Seminar - Carroll University (Waukesha, WI)

June 21-24, 2009

Rotary International Convention (Birmingham, England)

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL UPDATE

Reprinted from www.rotary.org

The current investment climate continues to present challenges to our organization. Since 30 September, Rotary International's General Fund declined another 16.1 percent, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date investment loss of 24 percent, or US\$22 million. The Rotary Foundation's investments (except for the [PolioPlus Fund](#)) also have experienced declines in line with the markets, resulting in losses of \$165 million from July through November.

As we previously reported, nearly all losses to date are unrealized (i.e., due to declines in the market prices of the securities held and would be realized only if the securities are sold). Because Rotarians have continued to pay their dues on time and make generous contributions to the Foundation, we have not had to sell any of our investment securities to meet operating expenses.

You have likely read about the securities fraud committed by Bernard Madoff. Through one of its hedge fund managers, the Foundation had minor exposure (less than 0.1 percent of the Foundation's total investments) to one of Madoff's investment vehicles. We are working with our independent investment consultants to minimize this loss and reduce Rotary's risk in this area.

Investment earnings, and if necessary, operating reserves, are used to fund a portion of RI's operating expenses, and all of the Foundation's operating expenses. While RI's reserves remain above the Board's targeted level, the Foundation's reserves have declined significantly below the level required by the Trustees. Therefore, we (your Board of Directors and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, and your Secretariat staff) have been reducing spending and are taking the following actions:

- Deferring all nonessential activities, including committee meetings
- Canceling all nonessential discretionary spending, including staff and volunteer travel, overtime expenses, temporary help, consultants, and staff development
- Reducing staff and volunteer costs while traveling on Rotary International and Foundation business
- Preparing contingency plans and austerity budgets for 2009-10

As noted in my previous communications, Rotary's senior leaders, the Financial Services staff, Rotary's investment consultants, and I continue to closely monitor the financial markets. We are taking all possible steps to ensure that Rotary remains financially strong in this difficult economic environment.

Sincerely,
Ed Futa
General Secretary

Mequon-Thiensville Sunrise Rotary

c/o Deb Patton
1753 Bobwhite Lane
Grafton, WI 53024

Mark Your Calendars

FOR THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH

out meeting Location will be at
Concordia University due to North
Shore CC Winter Maintenance.

SPEAKERS FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

January 9.....Demond Means
.....MT School Superintendent
Thought of the dayBrian Kendzor

January 16.....Gale Klappa, Chairman
.....WE Energies
Thought of the dayMichael Kim

January 23.....Classification Talks
Thought of the dayDick Kinney

January 30.....Club Assembly
Thought of the dayDave Kliber

February 6John Hammond, GM
.....Milwaukee Bucks
Thought of the dayChet Lukaszewicz

February 13Dave Wolbrink
.....Guatemala Water Project
Thought of the dayBrian Monroe

February 20Pat Cronin
.....Good Samaritan Jobs

SEEKING TALENTED ROTARIANS

Reprinted District 6270 December 2008 Newsletter

The Make Dreams Real District Conference, April 24 - 26 is seeking talented Rotarians who are willing to share their talents to entertain other district Rotarians! People of all ages (students and adults) either as a solo performer or in groups who can sing, or dance, tell jokes, or stories are all welcomed to perform. If you are interested — please contact Barb Tewes or George Galewski in the Waukesha Sunrise Rotary. Contact must be made by February 15.