



the eye-opener

February 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Daniel T. O'Connor

Hurry Up and Wait

"Hurry up and wait" is the term I found best that summarizes the issues we are facing as a nation and a world. I'm sick of hearing these are unprecedented times.... Are they really? I'd argue these aren't as unprecedented times as people are saying... I'd argue these are scarier times than people are not saying. But we have forgotten about the famous quote, "We have nothing to Fear, But Fear Itself."

The Chinese have an expression that has existed longer than our country, "May you never know prosperity." The quote shows the pain of not having what you want when you want it after you have had it your way for a while.

I was out to breakfast with a client when I saw the following sign:



I know change is hard, but I know we will change and adapt and the first step is to "Simplify." I look at our group of Rotary members and I see people who are dealing with scarier things than I can imagine and dealing with them like unspoken heroes. I think of Dave and Carol Jackson, Barb Doll, and Alice Sedgwick. When faced with challenges, the first step is to simplify and focus on what matters. As president of this organization I want you to know this club will be there for you and your family forever. When you think of Rotary, service above self for the community is what is most spoken, what isn't spoken is the support of our members by our members.

We are people who will adapt "when someone moves our cheese"... We are Rotarians and as the younger generation says, "That's how we roll!"

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. Download a map on our website www.mtsunriserotary.org. 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 - Presa. Elect
Gordon Hetzel - VP
Dick Dieffenbach ✓ - Treasurer
Mike Reuteman - Asst. Treas.
Sharon Pechiva- Secretary
Alicia Nickols - Sgt. Arms
Brian Monroe* ✓ - Past Presa.

Avenues of Service Chairs

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

Members

Tom Aranow
Roanne Barnes* ✓
Holly Bern
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* ✓
Rene Settle-Robinson
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

RECORDS IN GUATEMALA

Guatemala Medical Relief Project (GMRP) has once again completed a very successful mission to the remote southern Guatemala village of Oliveros. While the final figures have yet to be tallied, it's certain that this year's team set at least two records for patients seen and for MT Sunrise participation.

The official number of patients registered by GMRP this year was 1089. **1089!!** To put that into perspective, we have seen 800-850 patients each of the previous three years after registering 675 in our first year, 2005. As our mission's reputation has grown, so has our reach. We had patients coming from as far as 30 miles away, as the crow flies, which means many of our patients traveled for hours to reach us.

The second record this year was the participation of MT Sunrise members and spouses in GMRP. Of the 37 volunteers who traveled to Oliveros this year, eight of the members were part of the MT Sunrise family:

Andy Moss	Vision Head	Nancy Neumann	Dental Assistant
Alicia Nickols	Vision	Brian Monroe	Dental Assistant
Julia Penn	Psychiatrist/Pharmacist	Mike Kim	Dentist
Bob Blazich	Team Leader, "El Jefe"	Barb Johnson	Interpreter

One of the keys to GMRP's success this year was the availability of adequate electrical power. Again, MT Sunrise can take credit. With funding from our club and a Lobsterfest patron, Gordon Hetzel and two MT Sunrise members, Wally Sommer and Bob Blazich, traveled to Oliveros in November, 2008, and completely rewired the school building which houses the GMRP clinic.

Bottom line? MT Sunrise Rotary makes a difference. The good people of Oliveros, Guatemala, may have never heard of us, but they know us well. And their remote village is a better place because of MT Sunrise Rotary.



Fireside Chat ... thanks for hosting Dan!



VALENTINES BAKE SALE

with Steffen Middle School
is coming up fast!

by Carole Blaney

This is a great example of a cooperative partnership of Rotary, Steffen Middle School, and Harris Bank - and a lot of fun! Funds raised from the sale are donated to the Steffen School Mentoring Program guiding students into community service projects and to the Scholarship program of the Guatemala project. The Bake Sale will be held at the Thiensville Branch of Harris Bank on Friday February 13th from 10 am to 6 pm and on Saturday the 14th from 9 am to Noon.

There are several ways you can help to make the Bake Sale a success: show off what a great cook you are and donate some baked goods (why not?!); help out at the bake sale for a 2-hour shift at the bank; stop by and buy some goodies for the office, for home, or for a friend (or simply to enjoy yourself!); and/or make a cash donation to these great causes!



Please email me at cblaney@wi.rr.com and let me know if you will donate a baked item, help at the bank for a 2-hour shift (please include what times you will be available), or would prefer to just make a cash donation.

Thank you so much for your help! And a special thanks to those of you who have already stepped forward to say you will help!

CLUB SERVICE UPDATE

Club Service is working on improving the Club's procedures to educate prospective members about our club and helping new members become involved. To that end, we are developing a mentoring program which will complement the Yellow Ribbon Program to acclimate newly inducted members. Additionally, we are updating our prospective member packet and communication process. We hope these efforts will continue to serve our members and further strengthen our fellowship.



The Mequon - Thiensville Sunrise Rotary Club cordially invites you and a guest to attend the
After Holiday Bash and
Celebrate 104 years of Rotary International

Sunday, February 22, 2009

Galioto's Vintage Grill
1221 Wauwatosa Rd
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Social 5:30 - Dinner 6:30

Meal Choices
U.S.D.A. Choice Steer Filet Mignon
Norwegian Salmon Fillet with Dill Sauce

\$30.00 per person
(billed on quarterly charge)

Cash Bar

RSVP with meal selections to deb.turk@hotmail.com
by February 13, 2009

RI 2008-2009 Presidential Membership Conference

by Brian Monroe

How do you start to prepare your body for the extreme high temperatures in Guatemala? Well I was fortunate and started my conditioning by spending a weekend in Phoenix. The warm weather was great, but the warmth from the other 475 Rotarians stayed with me long after I returned to Wisconsin's icy slap.



I had the pleasure of meeting RI President D.K. Lee and many other great Rotarians at one of two Presidential Membership Conferences held in the United States this year. When D.K. Lee was the DG in Korea, he set the record for forming new clubs and strengthening Rotary's base. He has continued carrying that torch as he moved through the ranks of Rotary. D.K. is very soft spoken and his actions speak louder than his words. The first day of his presidency, he presided over the chartering of a Korean ethnic focused club in Chicago. From there he was off to Australia, then to New Land, the Philippines and to a couple countries in

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Mequon-Thiensville Sunrise Rotary

c/o Deb Turk
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.

February 13 & 14Bake Sale
.....Harris Bank, Thiensville

February 22Holiday Party
...5:30 at Galioto's Vintage Grille

SPEAKERS FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

- February 6John Hammond, GM
.....Milwaukee Bucks
Thought of the dayChet Lukaszewicz
- February 13Jill Paradowski
.....Columbia St Marys' NICU
.....Infant Mortality
Thought of the dayBrian Monroe
- February 20Dave Wolbrink
.....Guatemala Water Project
Thought of the dayAndy Moss
- February 27Pat Cronin
.....Good Samaritan Job Search
Thought of the dayAlicia Nickols
- March 6Archbishop Timothy Dolan
Thought of the dayJim Ott
- March 13open
Thought of the daySharon Pechiva

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Africa hosting these Presidential Membership Conferences. Yes all within the first two weeks of his presidency. I would hope that these actions from our president would inspire all of us to get our "Ask in Gear" and invite someone to a Rotary meeting.

An invitation to visit a Rotary meeting starts with each one of us for that is how most of us became members. Ask yourself why you joined. I bet it is different than the reasons that keep you involved and active in Rotary. Worldwide Rotary has more clubs than ever, but clubs are shrinking and our membership has hovered at the 1.2 million mark for years. In essence we are losing the retention battle. Our district is experiencing the same challenges and I am working with other clubs to reverse that trend. A healthy club experiences increased membership with an outcome of being a strong and exciting club. Our club is fortunate, for we are working on creating an enthusiastic mentoring program, conduct vibrant meetings, encourage exceptional fellowship and support meaningful service projects. Paul Harris said that, "we do not have the right to waste people's time". Great news, Rotary is extremely relevant and so is our club. Now we must ensure that our club remains relevant in order to retain and attract new members, especially those from the next generations. I was inspired by D.K. Lee's actions I hope that you will be inspired too. Make our club better and invite someone to Rotary; that will definitely warm you up and you may even light the fire of Rotary in them. Rotary is relevant and continues to warm the world, for many are still left out in the cold. Let's spread a healthy form of global warming.