May 2012

Upcoming Dates...

♦ May 17th—GSE reception in Hailey
♦ May 18th—District Leadership Council meeting—Sun Valley
♦ May 18-19—District Conference—Sun Valley
♦ May 18—Ambassadorial Scholar Applications Due
♦ June 1st—Ambassadorial Scholar Interviews—Twin Falls
♦ August 2—5 RYLA Camp, Twin Falls
♦ August 3rd—District Leadership Council
♦ September 15th—Foundation Summit—Pocatello
♦ September 29th—Foundation Summit—Boise

May 2012 Highlights of the 103rd RI Convention May 2012 — Bangkok, Thailand

With more than 30,000 attendees, the 2012 will go down in history as one of the largest RI Conventions since the RI Centennial in 2005. From the moment we stepped off the plane in Bangkok, we were greeted with smiling faces...enjoyed beautiful places

Met new friends...

And enjoyed time with friends from home!

We roamed through the House of Friendship & attended sessions where we learned about great project ideas and programs.

Experienced the most amazing foods, some of which I couldn’t pronounce or didn't want to know what it was!

And did so much walking, I needed a foot massage!
May 2012

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

To the Following Rotary Clubs

92 Years!
Buhl
5/1/1920

92 Years!
Rexburg
5/1/1920

89 Years!
Jerome
5/23/1923

86 Years!
Montpelier
5/31/1926

58 Years
Rigby
5/6/1954

27 Years
E. Idaho Falls
5/16/1985

15 Years
Eagle-Garden City
5/16/1997

Don’t forget to bring new or gently used books of all types for the book drive at District Conference. Just deposit in the barrel at the registration Desk.

1st Heart & Soul Event A Success!

On April 28th, the Rigby Rotary Club held a new fund (and fun) raising event, the Heart & Soul, which offered a 5k (3.1 mile) and 10k (6.2 mile) race.

The event raised more than $9,000 and was enjoyed by close to 300 runners, ranging in age from 4 to 81! Incoming Idaho Falls Rotary Club President, Don Carey, ran the event and was very complimentary. Organizers served 300 bagels, 200 bowls of frozen yogurt, 250 apples and 300 bottles of Poweraid.

Group Study Exchange Team News!

We were so pleased to welcome the inbound team from District 4920 in Argentina, on April 23rd. They have been very busy since their arrival and will be at District Conference. What a great opportunity to meet our guests. You can see what they have been up to on their blog at http://gseargentina2012.com

Sabrina, Silvio, Nerina, Team Leader Alfredo, Maria, and Patricio.

The District 5400 GSE Team left May 5th for Argentina, where they will be spending the next month. Team Leader, Rich Kirkham (Pocatello Rotary Club) and the team of five amazing young women will experience vocational and cultural activities. Their first week has been filled with amazing experiences and making new friends. You can also follow them on their travel adventure in Argentina at http://gseargentina2012.com

Team Leader Rich, Jessica, Brooke, Krista, Liz and Caitlin.

They will still be in Argentina and not attending conference, but you will have the opportunity to hear them after they return as they are looking for clubs to speak to regarding their experiences.
DID YOU KNOW...

♦ The three newest countries in the Rotary family include Nauru, So. Sudan and Bhutan.

♦ Nauru is one of the smallest nations on earth at just about 21 sq. kilometers in area. With about 10,000 residents, Nauru is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, north of the Solomon Islands.

♦ South Sudan (formally known as the Republic of So. Sudan) is not only is one of the newest Rotary countries, but is a relatively new country, having become an independent state on July 9, 2011.

♦ Bhutan is a landlocked state is South Asia near the eastern end of the Himalayas and is bordered by both India and China.

♦ There are 19 RI Directors and women have a growing presence with a single female director in the current year, three in 2012/13 and four in 2013/14.

♦ Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn, the second daughter of the King of Thailand, represented him at the Opening Plenary Session of the 2012 RI Convention.

♦ Princess Chulabhorn is very educated with a Bachelor of Arts in History, Masters of Arts in Oriental Epigraphy as well as a Master of Arts in Pali & Sanskrit (languages) and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Development.

♦ The Princesses’ great uncle brought Rotary to Thailand in 1930 and served at the first President of the Bangkok Rotary Club.

DISTRICT 5400 YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM SELECTED FOR RECERTIFICATION

The Board of Directors of Rotary International has established policies to assist clubs and districts to effectively and responsibly operate Youth Exchange activities. Youth Exchange certification supports student safety by establishing minimum requirements for participating Rotary International districts. Certified districts are reviewed on a staggered basis to ensure that districts continue to meet certification requirements. Recertification protects the high-standards of the Rotary Youth Exchange program and provides an opportunity for districts to update RI on any changes to local policies and procedures and share success stories and best practices. Specific districts are selected on the basis of multidistrict arrangements, date current certification status was achieved, geographic and cultural variety, availability of translation services, and other considerations.

District 5400 has a very large and dedicated Youth Exchange Committee. They work incredibly hard to ensure that the outbound and inbound students are appropriately placed, safe and yet have the experience of their lifetimes. We have 18 outbound students going out this summer and currently 16 just finishing their year. The YE Committee Chair, Dave Shaw and his team will be working to ensure that this program, one of the most visible in our district, continues to operate smoothly and safely.

TEN ROTARIANS HONORED AT THE WHITE HOUSE AS CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

Ten U.S. Rotarians were honored on April 20th by the White House as Champions of Change for their volunteer work locally and internationally. Seven men and three women received the award. RI President Kalyan Banerjee, addressing the session, said the 10 honorees clearly demonstrate a problem-solving spirit.

“Each of them identified a problem—whether it was water-borne disease or poverty or hunger or polio—and they did something about it. But they did it in a way that works,” said Banerjee. “They worked closely with the community to ensure that the solutions they proposed were better than what was there before in all ways—solutions that were workable, preferable, and—and this is a key point—sustainable.”

At the first ever Rotary Day at the White House, more than 160 Rotarians will attend a morning round of community leaders briefing series. White House administration experts will speak on topics including maternal and child health, disease prevention, economic development, youth and education, water and sanitation, and peace-building. USAID, the government’s primary foreign assistance agency, said a new campaign to improve maternal and child health will follow the Rotary model of eradicating polio. For more information visit the Rotary website and look under the news highlights.
Tidbits, Updates and Other Stuff You Should Know!

District Dues to Increase 7/1/2012

It has been four years since the last increase, however, it was voted by the 2012 President’s elect to increase the District dues by $3.00 per year; $1.50 per six month billing cycle. An increase in July 2007 raised dues from $14.50 to $17.50. Dues were again raised July 2008 another $1 to the current rate of $18.50

In part, the success of the District Raffle has helped delay an increase of dues until now. Thank you for your efforts at making the raffle a big success.

Reminder...auction items and door prizes!

Each club is asked to donate at least one item of approximate value of $100 or greater for the silent auction at District Conference. Also, 2-3 items valued in the $25 range are being requested as door prizes. Of course, additional items are always appreciated but whatever the club can swing would be most appreciated! Thanking you in advance for your contributions!

Is Your Club Looking For a Good Speaker?

If you’d like to know more about internet sales tax proposals, or any other tax topic, here’s your chance. The Idaho State Tax Commission is looking for opportunities to speak to groups on tax subjects of interest to them. So, if you’ve ever wondered how the Tax Commission operates, or your membership would like specifics on income, sales, property, or other taxes, please contact Liz Rodosovich, Public Information Officer at the Tax Commission, to set up a presentation. You can reach her at (208) 334-7505 or liz.rodosovich@tax.idaho.gov

Conference TO DO List

Not too late to register—did you do this?

Hotel reservation done?

Collect new & used books for project!

Sign up for Friday pm Intensive sessions.

Select Saturday pm optional activity including cooking demo, wine tasting, hiking or biking.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

District 5400 now has a Public Relations committee!!

Visit our BRIGHT, LIVELY, HELPFUL, members at District Conference in the Silent AUCTION AREA outside of our main meeting space!

We are NOW HERE TO HELP YOU PROMOTE ROTARY to OTHERS!!

We can provide

Website Assistance!

ClubRunner Help!!

Electronic Newsletter Ideas!!!

Hands-on Promotional Material!!

Brochures and literature!!

Ourselves!!

Creative ideas!!
Rotary Announces New Project Partner

It is a pleasure to announce ShelterBox, a grassroots disaster relief organization, is Rotary’s first project partner. One of Rotary’s four partner categories, project partner status is available to organizations started or managed by Rotarians and that offer service opportunities to Rotarians.

ShelterBox provides emergency shelter and lifesaving supplies to families affected by disasters at the time when they need it most. Founded in 2000 by Rotarian Tom Henderson, ShelterBox has assisted well over one million people by responding to almost 200 natural or manmade disasters in over 75 different countries. By working together, we can provide relief and temporary shelter to victims of natural disasters.

Additionally, ShelterBox holds significant stocks of emergency shelter and humanitarian aid supplies in numerous pre-position locations around the world. If a disaster occurs in your district resulting in an urgent need for emergency shelter - please do not hesitate to contact ShelterBox at rotaryrequest@shelterbox.org. ShelterBox can rapidly deploy response teams and humanitarian aid anywhere worldwide to provide shelter, warmth and dignity to families left homeless by natural or man-made disasters (subject to need).

For more information about the program or how your club can be involved, visit the ShelterBox website at http://www.shelterbox.org

Rotary Fellowships Offer Added Benefit of Being a Rotarian!

In a prior issue of the DG Newsletter, an article featured the various Rotary Fellowship groups that you can consider joining to enhance your Rotary experience and friendships. There are so many to choose from; Physicians, Convention Goer, Quilters, Singles, Wine Tasting, Yachting Fellowships. Rotarians of like vocation and interest plan activities beyond the club and geographic borders. At the House of Friendship during the Bangkok Convention, I had the great opportunity to see first hand the various Fellowships and learn more about them. Here are a couple of photos depicting just two of the many options open to you through Rotary Fellowships.

The Rotary Fellowship of Flying Rotarians was always a busy and energetic booth!

The Rotarian Lawyers Fellowship proved to be just a bit less busy or energetic!