Governor’s comments...  

Making a difference

By DG Gary Welch/Ankeny

I have completed my official club visits and it has been one of the most rewarding and exciting experiences since I joined Rotary. As I travel from Keokuk to Carroll, from Corning to Clinton, from Leon to Marshalltown, and all clubs in between, I have been impressed and humbled to meet many Rotarians, tour their communities and see many of their Rotary projects. It is apparent that whether the club is 100 years old or two years old, the impact on their communities is amazing.

Most people have seen the movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” starring Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, where the angel makes a point of teaching him that even though it may not seem like much at the time, we all influence and impact others in ways we do not know or understand. It can be as simple as a kind word, a helping hand; or as big as a new library, band shell, life-saving medical equipment or clean water.

The movie pointed out Mr. Bailey’s impact on his family, friends, business and community in ways he did not realize. They would all be the poorer without him. It is the same with all the Rotarians in Rotary clubs. There is no question in my mind that without Rotarians our communities and world would be the poorer for it. As I looked at all the projects from playground equipment, food baskets, Interact programs, day cares, etc., it is clear that we have a profound impact on our own community and that we are important. So many of you give to the Foundation and PolioPlus, which saves lives of people who you will never meet and gives millions of children an opportunity to avoid becoming “Sand Crawlers.”

As I have traveled to Haiti, Nigeria, and Mexico, I have seen how Rotary has impacted peoples’ lives in ways that does not seem real until you witness it. Because of you, and Rotarians like you, I have had the
Sneak preview of District Conference: ‘As much fun as a barrel of monkeys!’

By DG Gary Welch/Ankeny

The District Conference will be held April 28-30, 2011, in Ankeny, and the committee is working hard to bring you an exciting, interesting and fun event. We will celebrate our accomplishments, learn something new, meet old friends, make new friends and have fun.

We will have a golf outing on Thursday at a totally new, professionally redesigned golf course and clubhouse with prizes and food.

We will have an internationally known speaker from Rotary International, Jennifer Jones. She is a Past District Governor and a media personality. She is the North American Coordinator for the Rotary International Public Image Resource Group. She has served as an international volunteer in the Amazon, Peru, Haiti, Venezuela and Tanzania. Jennifer is a Paul Harris Fellow, a Major Donor and Level Three Charter member of the Bequest Society. I have heard her speak several times and she is a dynamic speaker.

Simon Estes will sing and talk about a mosquito net program to prevent malaria in Africa. For those who may not know Simon Estes, he is an international opera singer and was born in the small town of Centerville, Iowa. His father, the son of a slave, was a coal miner, and grew up in a house without a heating system or indoor plumbing.

Estes won a scholarship to New York’s Julliard School of Music and went on for further study in Europe. He has won numerous awards such as the silver medal at Moscow’s Tchaikovsky Competition. He has performed at the White House for President Lyndon Johnson and before many heads of state throughout the world. He has sung at New York’s Metropolitan Opera and he has taught at the Julliard School. He teaches at Iowa State University and Wartburg College and recently discontinued teaching at Boston University. He could easily have rested on his laurels but has chosen to devote the rest of his life to helping others. As I become friends with the man who is Simon, it is his dedication to others that stands out. You will find his singing wonderful experience.

We will have Doug Oberman, who is a polio survivor and still sleeps in a respirator every night. Despite being unable to use his arms and left leg, he refereed sports, earned a degree in economics and a law degree from the University of Missouri. He was a member of a law firm in Waterloo and has since retired due to health concerns.

Most of the time he is in a wheelchair, his diaphragm is paralyzed and he does what is called esophageal breathing, meaning he gulps in air when he is not in the iron lung. He joined Rotary in 1984 and is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Waterloo. He has spoken about the need to eradicate polio and has raised significant money toward polio eradication. He spoke at the 2002 Rotary International convention in Barcelona and wrote an article in the December 2010 Rotarian on page 40 called the “Iron Butterfly”.

Many people often do not get a polio vaccination for either personal reason or do not believe it will happen to them. However, we cannot forget it is only a plane ride away and can come back if we are not diligent. We cannot afford to become complacent.

We will have Keegan Kautzky, an Ambassadorial Scholar, talk about his experiences. Keegan Kautzky – a native of Perry, and an Iowa State University alum – is the Director of National Program Development & Outreach at the World Food Prize Foundation, heading the national expansion of the Foundation’s youth and educational programs. A 2005 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to South Africa, Keegan completed his master of arts degree in International Development Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. As an Ambassadorial Scholar, he organized the first annual Rotary AIDS Hike with five other students and walked 1,250 miles – from Johannesburg to Cape Town – in 20 days to raise awareness of the AIDS orphan crisis and generate over $10,000 to support Rotary’s orphan and vulnerable child programs in southern Africa. Remaining in South Africa to complete a second masters degree, in public health, and work at the Rural Public Health & Health Transitions Research Unit. Keegan has worked in Washington, D.C., Malawi, India and South Africa, consulting for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the World Agro Forestry Centre. Refugees International, the National Council on Agricultural Education, and the National FFA Organization. Keegan is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Greater Des Moines for Emerging Leaders.

Also, we will have the Flying Silos on Friday evening for entertainment and the Ankeny Community Choir on Saturday evening. There will be a silent and live auction held to benefit Youth Exchange and other projects. We will do a lot of “Monkeying around,” have games with many more surprises to come. See you there!
Challenge: Introduce one person to Rotary!

GOVERNOR/continued from p. 1

privilege to provide polio drops to babies in Nigeria, feed starving families in Haiti, and develop water projects in Mexico.

This is the reason that increasing membership is so important. It is not about Rotary or lunch, but it is what we do that makes a difference by giving to others. There has been extensive research that giving to others increases our own happiness and well being.

Most people in your community want to make things better for their children and grandchildren and are often just waiting to be asked to join Rotary. If each member of your club makes a personal commitment to find just one person in your community who wants to make a difference, then you not only increase your membership, but will have more ideas, resources and hands to improve your community. It becomes a matter of choice and what you believe is possible.

Rotary International has defined what makes for an effective Rotary club. Effective Rotary clubs:

1. Sustain or increase their membership base.
2. Implement successful service projects in their community and communities in other countries.
3. Support The Rotary Foundation, both financially and through program participation.
4. Develop leaders capable of serving in Rotary beyond the club level.

I continue to challenge you to introduce one person to Rotary over this next year to continue to Make a Difference. We can let things happen or we can prevent things from happening. For less than it costs for a cup of coffee, we can give someone a chance to survive by giving to the Foundation and Polio Plus. For us it may be inconvenient but for others it is survival.

Thank you for all that you do!

What will you choose?

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First multi-district training seminar March 4-5 in Dubuque

By Michael Schmitz/Iowa City
District 6000 Training Co-Chair

The 2011 Presidential Elect Training Seminar (P.E.T.S.) will take place at the Grand River Center in Dubuque on March 4-5, 2011. This is not only required training for current Presidents-Elect, but the very best way that fellow district Rotarians and other Rotary leaders can help each participant become prepared to be club president.

2011 marks the first year District 6000 will have joined the North Central PETS organization for a multi-district training event with participants from Districts 5950 (Minnesota), 5960 (Minnesota/Wisconsin), 5970 (Northern Iowa), and our own 6000 (southern Iowa). Combining the resources of these four districts will drive a higher quality training event.

The Grand Harbor Resort is connected via skywalk to the conference center, and accommodations will be available to participants at a discounted rate of $99/night before Feb. 2. The training will include scheduled sessions Friday morning through late evening and Saturday morning through early afternoon. Families are welcome!

Participants will have a full schedule during the training event, but may choose to utilize the remainder of the weekend to enjoy the amenities of Dubuque. Local attractions include the Grand Harbor indoor waterpark, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, downtown Dubuque, the Diamond Jo Casino for the adults, and much more!

Presidents-Elect will be e-mailed in January with information about registering online for the training and with information for booking your hotel stay. No action is required at this time.
Stenhammar: Polio on its last legs

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott
Excerpted from Eldridge North Scott Press

Polio, a disease that crippled 9,193 Iowans and claimed the lives of 388 in this state in the 1950s is on its last legs, a past president of Rotary International told Quad City Rotarians Dec. 13.

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, of Göteborg, Sweden, served as worldwide president of Rotary in 2005-06. He was in the Quad Cities as one of several prominent Swedes invited to help Augustana College celebrate its 150th anniversary.

In a meeting attended by 240 at the i-wireless Center in Moline, Stenhammar said the case count is significantly lower this year in the four remaining countries where the wild polio virus is endemic. In India, there have been just 40 new cases of polio compared with 659 last year; in Nigeria, 13 compared with 386; and Afghanistan, 22 compared with 31. There is difficulty in Pakistan this year due to flooding, but the overall trend points toward global eradication – a goal of Rotary International since 1987.

Rotary is ahead of schedule in its $200 million challenge to match $355 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, but that is the tip of the iceberg, said Stenhammar. When eradication is achieved, hopefully by the end of 2012, Rotary will have raised $900 million of the $5 billion cost.

"Polio has been and will be Rotary's top priority until it is solved. This is our program. We started it and we are in the driver's seat," said Stenhammar, as he acknowledged worldwide support and partnerships.

"Governments are (the campaign's) biggest supporters and we need them badly," the past president said. The U.S. government leads the way with $100 million a year.

As chair of The Rotary Foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary International, Stenhammar meets regularly to monitor progress with the Polio Advisory Group that includes representatives of the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control and Unicef.

Enormous progress has been achieved since the campaign began. There were 1,000 new cases a day then, 350,000 a year compared with a few hundred now.

But the urgency of eradication is underscored by this truth: Until the polio virus is eradicated everywhere, it can return anywhere. It is only an airplane flight away. "We need to put a lid on those countries. Until we do, there will be outbreaks."

One such outbreak occurred this year in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan where there were 458 cases. "Rotary gave $500,000 to the WHO and wiped it out right away," he said.

Rotary's commitment to eradication of the disease that once saw swimming pools closed, neighborhoods quarantined and patients warehoused in iron lungs goes beyond money, Stenhammar said.

Rotarians have traveled to the remotest parts of the world to administer polio vaccines and monitor the program's effectiveness. This often involves knowing the local customs. In Nigeria, for example, the snag is communication. "They still use megaphones, so PolioPlus Partners equipped Nigeria with 3,000 megaphones."

In places where it is hard to round up children to receive the vaccines, those who do attend get a whistle. Children have few toys, and when friends see the whistle, they, too, show up so they can get a whistle. "You just have to play the game the way it is played," said Stenhammar.

Past Rotary International President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar of Sweden with some of the Iowa Rotarians who attended the Dec. 13 meeting at the i wireless Center (l-r): Doug Peterson (Iowa Quad Cities), DG Gary and Colleen Welch (Ankeny), Don Goering (Ames), Stenhammar, Charlie Jones (North Scott), Bill Burress (Davenport), Chuck Briegel (North Scott), Brock Earnhardt (Davenport), John Pheiffer, Kim Wilkins and Ken Tank (North Scott).
By PDG Gary Pacha/Iowa City
District Nominations Committee chair

In November, the District 6000 Nominating Committee interviewed candidates for District Governor Nominee in 2013-14. The committee selected Rita Perea of the Rotary Club of Greater Des Moines.

Rita has been a member of Rotary since 2001, and has a great deal of experience since joining. She has been on a Friendship Exchange to the United Kingdom in 2008 and was Team Leader for our Group Study Exchange to Australia in the Spring of 2010. She has been involved with many district committees, including training, District Conference planning, membership, and technology just to mention a few.

Professionally, Rita has for eight years been CEO and president of Rita Perea Leadership and Management Consulting Group. She also has 20 years of experience in education, including superintendent of schools and School Improvement Legislation Consultant.

Rita is married to Dr. Ernest Perea, M.D., Diplomate of the American Academy of Family Practice Physicians.

We look forward to the leadership of Rita and Ernie as they lead District 6000 in 2013 – 2014.

By PDG Ev Laning/Indianola
D-6000, Peace Scholars chair

Jamie Marie Nagel has been awarded the scholarship and officially admitted to the The Rotary Foundation’s Peace Fellow Program. She must complete the degree program to earn the Peace Fellow designation.

Jamie is a 27-year-old Iowa native who learned of the Peace Fellow program through an uncle who is a member of the Rotary Club of Nevada, Iowa. Kathy Skinner from that club will serve as her Rotary sponsor counselor.

As stated in the District 6000 interview committee’s summary of their findings: “Jamie is a young professional with an MSW degree, working in the areas of economic and social justice. She is currently serving with the State of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service with primary oversight of AmeriCorps programs, addressing basic human needs and public safety. Her immediate post-college experience was with AmeriCorps National Service as teacher’s aide and tutor in California, followed by work as a legal assistant in Iowa.”

While in college she elected to several study abroad opportunities, focusing on Central America, to understand more fully the challenges faced by her adopted siblings from Guatemala. “Having siblings who looked different than most of the population in my small hometown gave me a personal understanding of the negative aspects of racism. It also increased my empathy for, and interest in, the growing population of Latino immigrants who were arriving in my hometown to work in the local agricultural industry,” she said.

It gives me great satisfaction that The Rotary Foundation agreed with our committee’s judgment that Jamie is a truly qualified Peace Fellow candidate.

By PDG Bill Tubbs/Iowa City
District Vocational Service chair

The award recognizes individuals who have been a Rotarian a minimum of three years and exemplify high standards of ethics and integrity in their vocation, business and personal lives. Special consideration will be given to members who have made sacrifices and/or undertaken risks to uphold Rotary’s core value of integrity.

Nomination forms were sent to clubs last fall and are on the District website under Vocational Service.
By Michael Schmitz/Iowa City

District Co-Trainer

The District 6000 Training Committee hosted Fall Training Seminars in October and September. Over 200 participants from across the district attended training events in Atlantic, Ankeny, Pella, Mt. Pleasant and West Liberty. The training sessions are ideal for club officers and relevant to all Rotarians. Breakout sessions included Foundation, Public Image, Membership and Youth Exchange.

District Governor Gary Welch commented, “I am constantly impressed with the quality of Rotarians who attend the District Fall Seminars. It is their dedication that continues to make a difference as they learn ways to become more effective. I have seen them take what they have learned back to the clubs to become Bigger, Better, and Bolder. This demonstrates the value of the Fall Training Seminars and the need to attend.”

Trainers for the events included DG Gary Welch (Ankeny), DGE Don Patterson, DGN Terry Geiger (Decatur County), DGND Rita Perea (Greater Des Moines, Governor 13-14), AG Gary Anderson (Knoxville), Tom Brooke (West Liberty), AG Tim Ennis (Corning), PDG Susan Herrick (Boone), PDG Corliss Klaassen (Chariton), Gerald Klongan (Ames), Vernetta Knapp (Iowa City AM), Chris Knapp (Iowa City AM), Bill Koellner (West Liberty), Tom Licea (Iowa Quad Cities), PDG Diana Reed (Northwest Des Moines), Mike Ruby (Muscatine), Mike Schmitz (Iowa City), and PDG Bill Tubbs (North Scott).

Youth Exchange was included in this year’s seminar to bring more attention to our district’s Youth Exchange program. District 6000 was involved in the first U.S. exchange group in 1962 and the program continues to thrive.

Fall Training Seminar is one of the critical events where the district prepares for the future. Current club officers gain knowledge, new members are welcomed to attend by established Rotarians, and collaboration amongst clubs is nurtured.

More than 200 attend training meetings
The movement of Rotary that began on Feb. 23, 1905, in Chicago came to Iowa on May 1, 1911, with the chartering of the Rotary Club of Des Moines, which was Rotary’s 27th club. Below are reflections of “Rotary Through the Decades” by Des Moines Rotarian and Past District Governor Jim Vickery. The club is planning a centennial celebration the first week of May.

By PDG Jim Vickery/Des Moines

1911 – 99 Years Ago! No bulletins have been located in our history during this first year of the club. “After Twenty-one Years” May 1, 1911 to June 1, 1932 was our club’s first printed history. If you would like to read it and other club history materials, please contact Kathy Mountain. Better yet, if you care about our club’s history (and a lot about our City of Des Moines, too) why not call and join Rotary’s History Committee as we prepare for our 90th Anniversary year starting in May 2001, Llew Slade has already agreed to be our club’s Honorary Centennial Chair – he was born the day of our club’s first meeting on May 1, 1911.

1920 – 90 Years Ago! Thursday, Nov. 4 is “POST ELECTION PROGRAM on Business Outlook for the Coming Year.” (The election of Warren Harding as president of the U.S. was not mentioned.) It was reported last week, Oct. 28 was the joint meeting of the Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary clubs. There were 307 present – 130 from Kiwanis, 63 members of Lions and 114 Rotarians. James Weaver of Kiwanis spoke at some length. In his enumeration of the seven wonders of the ancient world, all of them material in nature, as compared with the seven wonders of the modern world, were of especial interest. The seven modern wonders Weaver said were the wireless telegraph, the telephone, the aeroplane, radium, antitoxin, the solar spectrum and the x-ray. (Who among our present members wants to list the seven modern wonders in 2000? Send your list to “Rotary Week.”)

If you do not wear a Rotary button, you ought to. You will find it pays in dollars and cents. Especially in traveling it often has a very real value. There are now 60,000 Rotarians in the U.S. and as a rule they are well to do and the livest wires and leading men of their respective communities. It doesn’t cost much to let the public know you are a Rotarian. The Plumb Jewelry Store carries these emblems in stock – better drop in and look them over.

1930 – 80 Years Ago! A ROSE AT FIFTY – “Will you please tell the club I appreciated the roses just a little more than usual because as it happens, today is my 50th birthday – (Rabbi) Gene Mannheimer, Nov. 3, 1930? Last week (Nov. 6) Harry Ginsberg furnished the cigars, the occasion of a son born on Tuesday, Nov. 4. The Nov. 6 meeting was an unusual Artmistle Day Program by the Abigail Adams Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Mrs. Harry Blackburn will give a short talk in her recent observations in Belgium. Mrs. Tom Throckmorton will give a selection of songs (And then we added, “This program will be worth your while, of course!”). On Nov. 20 a Community Service Program will be presented by the Junior Social Service League of Des Moines. This is the group which is sponsoring the Crippled Children’s Hospital, in which the Rotary club is interested.

1940 – 70 Years Ago! From the Nov. 21 issue, “The Rotary Club of Des Moines does not make a ‘fetish’ of attendance. At the same time, it is appreciated that consistent attendance is essential for the best interest of individual members as well as for the activities of the club. For October, the average attendance was 74.17 percent. The average for the 132nd District (84 clubs) was 86.08 percent. [In 2000, our club’s average attendance is 71.61 percent and District 6000 (61 clubs) is 74.20 percent]. Our group’s “batting” averages from July 1 to Nov. 7, 1940: 100 percent - 17 members; 94 percent (1 absence) 13 members; 89 to 80 percent (2-4 absences), 82 members; 74 to 53 percent (5-9 absences), 37 members; and 48 percent or less, 28 members. Since the above summary includes the summer months, it is anticipated the averages will be much higher when the next report is compiled…Attendance Committee.”

1950 – 60 Years Ago! The Nov. 16 review of the Nov. 9 meeting included – “It was a full meeting – Dr. Robert Stickler, 33, was introduced and presented by Dr. Lester Powell and he should make a good member in spite of the fact he was born in Red Oak. The meeting reviewer added – “A new precedent seems to have been started in the introduction of new members. They leave them seated until they climax it with an introduction. I like the old way better when we could see them as they were being appraised,” by Julian “Steve” Brody. In observance of National Education Week Nov. 5 to 11, the speaker will be our own Newell D. McCombs, superintendent of the Des Moines Public Schools on the subject “Dollars Are More Than Digits,” or more to the point, “Boys and Girls Are Not Greenbacks.”

1960 – 50 Years Ago! Nov. 10 – “Annual Farm Day Meeting” – Homer and Vera Bradshaw – “for those of you who were absent – too bad! A word report can’t do justice to the wonderful colored pictures of mountain scenery and hunting and fishing at its best. On Nov. 17 a panel of four high school students reported on attending the second National Youth Conference on the Atom in Chicago – including John Shelley of Roosevelt (son of WHO newscaster Jack Shelley). (Jack, later a journalism professor, who died Sept. 14, 2010 at age 98, continued to give the Noon Day News to fellow members of the Ames Noon Rotary Club each Monday.)

1970 – 40 Years Ago! Rural-Urban Day on Nov. 19 featured Gerald Thornton, V.P. general counsel and secretary, Meredith Corporation. His subject was the Regional Airport and proved to be of great interest. Bill Peverill’s picture and biography appeared in the Nov. 19 issue – he was listed as a new member – elected Sept. 24, 1970. He is president of Computer Papers, Inc. The Rotary Foundation Committee is happy to announce that from the Nov. 12 tumblers we received $46.70 for the Rotary Foundation! (The year 2000 receipts are quite a “change,” taking in about $250 each week.)

1980 – 30 Years Ago! The personable 52-year old Johnny Orr, Iowa State’s 14th men’s basketball coach, spoke Nov. 6. Phil Hill reviewed the previous meeting stating Jim Vickery, vice president, presided in President Ralph Schlenker’s absence. Since it was “Trick or Treat” night, Jim resurrected from his youth – “Soaps or Eats” – symbolized on this occasion by a bar of soap from the Hotel Ft. Des Moines and a candy bar from your Rotary Club. Tumbler receipts were supposed to go up. Bruce Boyle, publisher of “Successful Farming” @ Meredith was guest speaker for Rural-Urban Day – he was introduced by Rural-Urban Day Chairman George A. “Mike” LaMair. (Bruce later joined our club in 1989.)

1990 – 20 Years Ago! WOW 40 years a member – Dr. Bob Stickler – joined the club Nov. 9, 1950 (an even greater WOW – WOW – now 50 years on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2000!) Belated congrats to Mark Douglas – 10 years joined Oct. 18, 1990. Our own member General Bud Lawson spoke on Nov. 8 reviewing the proud history of Iowans in the service from the Civil War forward, noting 13,000 Iowans were killed in the Civil War. 117 thousand Iowans served in World War I. Mall of America was the Nov. 15 program.
Quad Cities club celebrates 25 years of service

By J.D. Walls/Iowa Quad Cities
Club President

The Rotary Club of the Iowa Quad Cities celebrated 25 years of service to the Quad City community with a dinner/program at the Davenport Country Club on Thursday evening, Oct. 28. In addition to current members and their guests, the club honored some of its founding members. Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba also attended to help the club commemorate the occasion.

The Rotary Club of the Iowa Quad Cities was chartered in October of 1985 by members of the Davenport and Bettendorf Rotary Clubs. Since then, the club has raised and returned hundreds of thousands of dollars to area charities, and its members have donated countless volunteer hours, all to help build a stronger Quad-City community.

The event was hosted by current club President J.D. Walls. “I am proud to be one of 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide who have committed themselves to ‘service above self” Walls said. “And to be a small part of this club that has done so much to help people right here where we live.”

Founding member Harold Bischman gave a presentation of just how the club got started. Other presentations included a review of the club’s accomplishments by immediate past president Dave Borcherding and, for spouses and guests, a review of a typical Iowa Rotary meeting given by President-Elect Doug Peterson. Charter and current member John Gere entertained the crowd with a couple of original piano compositions and sergeant-at-arms Rex Ridenour provided the comic relief with a unique look at what some of the club’s members may have been doing 25 years ago.

Unable to attend, Rotary’s District 6000 Governor Gary Welch wrote a letter to the club. “You have influenced and impacted many lives because of your commitment to your community,” he said. “Your willingness to give of yourself and to develop the relationships that mean so much to those with physical and emotional needs, helps make things better for your community and for all humanity.”

Projects that have received significant support from the Iowa Quad City Rotary in recent years include Veterans for Veterans Housing, Challenger Little League, Honor Flight, Humility of Mary Shelter, and area food pantries. In addition to funding, the club provides volunteers to area events and projects including marshalling at the John Deere Classic, minding the Salvation Army kettles at Christmas, and delivering food baskets to area families in need on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Acknowledging the club’s many accomplishments over the past 25 years, all in attendance agreed that there are still significant needs in the community that must be addressed and they vowed that, after the festivities, of course, they would get back to work doing just that.

Help your local newspaper tell Rotary’s stories

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott
D-6000 Public Relations chair

For the fourth consecutive year, Districts 6000 and 5970 in Iowa are partnering with a Rotary International Public Image Grant to tell the public what Rotary is and does. Our 2010-11 project is over $25,000 and will place a “starter” ad in 100 newspapers in communities where there are Rotary clubs.

The ads will be ordered through the Iowa Newspaper Association’s advertising agency, CNA. To qualify for the paid ad, newspapers must agree to publish a page or more about Rotary in the issue of their choice in January, February or March. They will be provided a media kit of news releases, but the best content is local clubs working with their local newspapers to include pictures and articles about the projects they are doing locally and internationally.

Past grants have paid for promotions through the Iowa Rotary tabloid (2007-08), a partnership with the Iowa commercial broadcasters (2008-09), and Mediacom and Iowa Public TV (2009-10).
Polio Challenge: How are we doing?!

By PDG Susan Herrick/Boone
District 6000 PolioPlus chair

The PolioPlus Challenge for the eradication of polio continues to be the No. 1 priority of Rotary International. And there is much to celebrate and much that remains to be done.

The Polio Global Eradication Initiative that unites us with the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, and UNICEF’s Nov. 29, 2010, report tells us that we are doing very well!

The 2010 Year-to-Date total cases of polio are 799, well below the 1,422 that was reported year-to-date in 2009. Of those 799 cases, only 189 are in the four endemic countries – Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria and India. The remaining cases (610) have been in areas where we can quickly send emergency response teams into to assist with the outbreak, while respirators have been provided to local hospitals in an effort to save lives.

The outbreak of polio in Tajikistan earlier this year reported 458 cases of the Wild Polio Virus 1, but since the massive immunizations done in that country in response to the outbreak, there have been no new cases for several months. The same is true for the Horn of Africa where there was an outbreak last year, but in 2010 there has only been one case of polio in Uganda.

There is currently major concern in the Republic of the Congo where there continues to be an acute outbreak of wild poliovirus. As of Nov. 22, 409 flaccid paralysis cases have been reported, and 169 deaths. The vast majority of cases have occurred in the port city of Pointe Noire, with most cases occurring in young adults, particularly in 15- to 25-year-old males. National Immunization Days have targeted 1.1 million and the remaining 3 million are targeted in November and December. This immediate response continues to be necessary until we erase this disease completely!

So, what is District 6000’s contribution to this initiative? We continue to send Rotarians to endemic countries where immunizations are ongoing. This November, DGE Don Patterson, DGN Terry Geiger, and WCS Matching Grants chair Brock Earnhardt traveled to Nigeria (pp. 14-15).

And those of us who didn’t get the opportunity to participate in National Immunization Days this year have continued to support the PolioPlus Challenge with our financial giving. Total giving to date to the PolioPlus Challenge is $292,849, consisting of $67,599 in District Designated Funds and $225,250 in contributions from clubs and individual Rotarians.

In figuring Rotary International’s suggested giving to the Challenge, District 6000, consisting of 4,056 Rotarians, should be averaging $31/Rotarian/year for 2009, 2010, and 2011. The Challenge comes to an end on June 30, 2012. We are currently 77.47 percent of the way to completing our goal. RI is currently at $156 million, or 76.5 percent of the total Challenge. When we met with RI President Ray Klinginsmith in October, his hope was to put the challenge behind us by the end of his Presidential year.

We can do this! If each of us takes the Gates Challenge seriously, we can meet the goal this year and surpass it by June 30, 2011. Remember, that there are many countries where $31/year is well beyond their capability. We know it is well within our reach in a country where we will never have to worry about the wild polio virus, where we don’t have to worry about the purity of the water we drink, where we don’t have to worry about feeding our children.

Please join me in guaranteeing that the rest of the families on earth don’t have to have these concerns either!

A committee of the 13 clubs promoting the Iowa Energy game includes (l-r): Bob Montgomery (Des Moines AM); Ed Arnold (Northwest Des Moines); Tom Downs (East Polk); Sharon Dowd Jasa (Boone); Kent Horstman (SE Polk athletic director); and Pat Kelly (Iowa Energy VP of Marketing). Not pictured: Tim Hawkins (Ankeny); PDG Susan Herrick (Boone); Cheryl Wolfe (Dallas Center); Jan Rowley (Des Moines); Drew Engebrecth (Greater Des Moines); Deb Virkus (Indianola); Dave Campbell (Johnston); Kevin Smith (Northwest); Leslie Malcom (Northwest); PDG Diana Reed (Northwest); Ethan Huisman (Waukee); Jamie Bunn (West Des Moines); Adam Doll (Adel); and Chris Makis (Iowa Energy General Manager).

Putting ‘energy’ toward goal

By Ed Arnold/Northwest Des Moines

As part of Rotary’s global campaign against polio, the Rotary Clubs of the greater Des Moines area have partnered with the Iowa Energy Basketball organization for the past two years to sponsor an evening of good fellowship, good basketball, and easy way for Rotarians and the community to participate in the unique opportunity to eradicate Polio from our Planet in our lifetime.

A committee comprised of members from each of the area clubs has been working since August in partnership with Iowa Energy Basketball to: (1) raise funds for Polio Plus/Polio Eradication through Iowa Energy ticket sales, donations and selling of 50/50 raffle tickets at an Iowa Energy game on Saturday night, Jan. 22, 2011; (2) fill the seats at that same Iowa Energy Game; (3) provide a vehicle for promoting community service for both the Iowa Energy and Rotary; (4) provide information about the Iowa Energy, PolioPlus and Rotary; (5) establish a basis for repeating this fundraiser in future years, initially to support PolioPlus, then to support other worthy local projects; and (6) finally, give others in the community the opportunity to participate financially in the eradication of polio in our lifetime.

The first year of the combined Rotary/Iowa Energy effort raised more than $4,000 for Polio Plus. The second year resulted in $8,000 and this year’s goal is to raise $15,000. Funds raised by this collaborative effort in three years will have provided approximately 50,000 children with the vaccine needed to prevent polio.

The Iowa Energy rebates to PolioPlus a portion of each ticket sold to the Jan. 22, 2011 game. In addition, Rotarians will solicit donations for the direct benefit of PolioPlus, before, during, and after the game. A $3 donation will keep five children from contracting polio. Our new website address is www.PolioPlusIowaEnergy.com.
By Douglas Flournoy/Fairfield
District Simplified Grants chair

This has been a most interesting and unusual year for District Simplified Grants. Interesting and educational in that members of committee were faced with some new challenges in evaluating a few of the applications, and unusual in the low number of applications received.

Because we had few applications, the grant dollars requested by D-6000 clubs were less than that available for awards. Since we had a surplus of funds, the committee was able to relax its rules and fund projects that may not have been supported in another year. As always, many good projects were submitted by clubs from around the district; this year all eligible projects were fully funded.

Boone: Crawford Hall Family Shelter, Family Room and Kitchen, $5,000. The Rotary Club of Boone will support the Crawford Hall Family Shelter intervention facility for homeless women and children. They will furnish, paint, and supply the family room and provide for appliances and furnishings for the kitchen area.

Lenox: Trees/Landscaping for the New Lenox Community Building, $2,890. The Rotary Club of Lenox will provide and plant new trees for the new Lenox Community Building.

Johnston: Strong Bonds Program, materials for Iowa National Guard soldiers, airmen and their families, $3,000. The Rotary Club of Johnston will partner with the Iowa National Guard Officer’s Auxiliary, INGOAux, to support the Family Services Branch in providing the highest quality programming to the families of deployed Iowa National Guard members.

Muscatine: Rotary Literacy Month Celebration, $1,700. The Rotary Club of Muscatine will celebrate Rotary Literacy Month by inviting the director of Musser Library to give a program. All Muscatine Community School librarians and the Muscatine Community College librarian will be invited as guests. At the conclusion of the program each librarian will be given a certificate indicating books will be purchased for their library.

Knoxville: Auld Park Youth Playground Equipment Project, $1,500. The Rotary Club of Knoxville will purchase and install playground equipment for Auld Park, the primary city park, for younger children.

Iowa City Downtown: Birthday Bags, $1,500. The Rotary Club of Iowa City Downtown will provide all the basic ingredients for a child’s birthday party in a bag. The birthday bags will be prepared for a variety of ages and distributed through the Iowa City Crisis Center to families with underprivileged children. First Books will provide an age appropriate hardcover book and Iowa Children’s Museum will provide free passes to all birthday guests. Bags are assembled during a club meeting.

Pella: Playground Barrier Planting, $363.50. The Rotary Club of Pella will purchase and plant a row of bushes 96 feet long to act as a barrier between a playground and busy street in Pella, thus providing for a safer environment for park users.

North Scott: Operation Warm to local elementary schools, $3,130. The Rotary Club of North Scott will order and distribute 300 winter coats, purchased from Operation Warm, to needy children in the Davenport and North Scott school districts.

Ottumwa: Rotary Picnic Table Project, $3215.33. The Rotary Club of Ottumwa will provide 25 picnic tables to be used in the Sycamore Park shelter and park area. Rotary club members will assemble the tables and each will have a sign attached.

West Liberty: Defibrillator, $1,000. The Rotary Club of West Liberty will purchase and install a defibrillator at the West Liberty Community Center.

Coralville North Corridor: Judy’s Jammies Project (Helen Pajama Party for North Corridor Coralville/Iowa City), $250. The Rotary Club of Coralville North Corridor will provide new pajamas and containers for the Domestic Violence Intervention Project located in Iowa City.

Fairfield: Outdoor basketball court at Fairfield Middle School for 5th grade students, $5,000. The Rotary Club of Fairfield will partner with the fifth-grade parents transition group to raise funds to install an outdoor basketball court with four adjustable height baskets.

Ames Morning: Exploring Math Through Books, $5,000. The Rotary Club of Ames Morning will support the Exploring Math Through Books program, a free early math and literacy project that will reach at least 400 Story County children ages 0-5 and their families. It will support parents as their children’s first teachers and assist them in nurturing early mathematical and literacy skills through the use of quality children’s books and related activities.

If your club has not submitted a DSG application in the last two years, please consider doing so next year. Our district’s strategic plan calls for full participation by clubs in the district over a three-year period. And as always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at (641) 472-0216 or by email at dsflournoy@hotmail.com.

Rotary Club of North Scott president Charlie Jones (l) and members Gene Hoth, Margo McInnis and AG Chuck Briegel show some of the 300 high quality winter coats that will be distributed by school counselors to children in the Davenport and North Scott districts, with financial support of a District Simplified Grant. The coats (girls’ sizes 6-16 and boys’ sizes 6-20) were purchased for $15 plus shipping through Operation Warm (www.operationwarm.org). Operation Warm, Chadds Ford, Pa., provides new, high quality coats to children who cannot afford them. The coats provide more than just warmth. They allow children to attend school, improve their self-esteem, and allow their families to spend money on other critical essentials such as food, rent and fuel.
Join us in New Orleans!

By PDG Corliss Klaassen/Chariton

Have you signed up for the May 22-25 RI Convention in New Orleans? Remember to register by Wednesday, Dec. 15 to take advantage of the special preconvention pricing. If you have questions, e-mail ri.registration@rotary.org or call (847) 866-3495.

Make sure you sign up for the District 6000 Breakfast – New Orleans Buffet Style on Sunday, May 22 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. (see details below). This will be hosted by DGN Terry Geiger and his wife Peggy. If you have any questions, please contact Terry at tlgeiger@grm.net or call him at (641) 442-5559.

Also make sure you sign up for this year’s Host Hospitality Night on Monday, May 23. The charge for this evening of fun, food and fellowship is only $20 per person hosted by the Slidell Rotarians. Normally on Host Hospitality Night you are assigned randomly to different venues, but the Rotarians from Slidell, Louisiana want to host Rotarians from District 6000.

You might remember we collected over $89,000 after Hurricane Katrina struck that area in August 2005. They want to show us how they rebuilt the community with the money we contributed. They are entitled this event “Cajun Night on the Bayou.” Once you have sent in your reservation for the Host Hospitality Night, contact J. Donald O’Bryan at jdonob@bellsouth.net. Don will then try to make sure you are assigned to the “Cajun Night on the Bayou.” You need to sign up early for they are limited to 150 Rotarians and guests.

Don’t put it off for you won’t want to miss an evening at the lovely home of two Rotarians who live at Bayou Liberty which is a fitting place for this gathering. They will have Louisiana food, Cajun music and dancing, fellowship and if the weather is right, a short boat ride on the bayou. If you have any questions please contact me at: corliss@iowatelecom.net, or call: (641) 774-2478.

‘Baby Faces’ finds a home

By Carolyn Jons/Ames Morning

District Literacy Promotion Committee

This is the end of the story (from your last newsletter) of how one Baby Faces book found a home. This Hugs & Kisses book was funded by the Rotary Club of Ames Morning, purchased by Raising Readers in Story County, signed by U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, and given Oct. 6 by Dr. Nau to a delighted Benton Metzger at his 6-month checkup.

At the same time, this is just the beginning of the series of eight Reach Out and Read checkups Benton will have between 6-months and 5 years. At each one he will get a new age-appropriate book and his parents, Corey and Becky Metzger, will be reinforced for being a family that makes reading aloud together a daily habit.

How to make $50 for your club

Would you like to earn your club $50 the easy way? US Rotarians can apply for the Rotary Master Card and if they charge US $75 in the first 90 days they will receive a check payable to their Rotary club for $50, which can be used for any club program. In addition, The Rotary Foundation (TRF) will receive $75 from the Bank of America, which will be used to support Rotary’s $200 Million Challenge to eradicate polio.

Check this out on the Rotary web site. To get more details go to www.rotary.org and in the search box type in “Rotary Credit Card.”

– PDG Corliss Klaassen
It’s all in the ‘Family of Rotary’ at Atlantic

By Dolly Bergmann/Atlantic
Club Public Relations chair

I am sure many Rotary Clubs have had fathers then sons serve as president of the club and maybe a father then daughter. The Rotary Club of Atlantic is no exception.

Burdette Roland and son Warren were presidents in 1935 and 1978, respectively. Darryl Smith served as president in 1983 and his son, Mark, was president in 2002. Ross Camblin was president in 1924. His nephew Wayne was president in 1964 and Wayne’s son, Bob, was president in 1976. This was the first time three generations of a family served the Rotary Club of Atlantic.

But I think Atlantic Rotary is unique because of the Hartkopf family. Don Hartkopf served as president in 1969, then in 1984 his son, John, was president. What makes Atlantic unique is that then in 2006 John’s wife, Linda, was president and in 2008 Christina Hartkopf became president.

Christina, of course, is the granddaughter of Don and the daughter of John and Linda. Christina is also the youngest individual to serve as president of the Atlantic Rotary Club at the young age of 24. With Christina’s service, three generations, four members of the Hartkopf family have served as president of the Atlantic Rotary Club.

It is families like these mentioned that represent what Rotary is all about – Service Above Self.

‘Xperience’ Xicotepec!

By ADG Ted Carpenter/Coralville North Corridor
Xicotepec Project committee member

The Xicotepec Project is looking for team members for the 2011 trips to Xicotepec, Mexico. The trip dates will be March 5-13 and March 12-20, 2011, and each week has room for 50 team members. You are invited to join a project team that will include Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and their family members, and members of the U of I service learning program - students and faculty.

There are no special skills needed to be a member of the Xicotepec Project team. Anyone who can use a paintbrush, read a scale, use a rubber stamp, push a wheelbarrow, or fill a bucket of sand will find themselves very busy for a week in Xicotepec. Make no mistake, this is a work project and it will be a rewarding time for anyone that participates in the Xicotepec Project. Some of the previous teams have participated in a deworming project run by students from the U of I School of Pharmacy in which Rotarians weighed children, stamped hands, checked teeth, gave medicine, and recorded data. Last year Rotarians roofed and painted the Casa de Cultura, a cultural center that is used by many of the people of Xicotepec. Or you might want to come and “prospect” for an international project for your club. District 6000 has participated in many Rotary International projects with the Rotarians of Xicotepec and there are many more projects yet to be done.

Applications will be done online at www.rotary6000.org. All the information a prospective member needs will be available on the application website. Xicotepec related questions may be sent to xicoproj@gmail.com.

Don’t miss out on this chance to Xperience Xico!!!
Volunteers build mud hut in Mwandi, Zambia

By PDG Cal Litwiller/Mt. Pleasant

The sun is hot, and the mud is ready to be placed in the newly formed wall. A handful of mud which is wet termite dirt, “African Concrete,” properly formed into a ball is placed strategically into the cavity created by tree twigs, making the new wall of a mud hut.

Building a mud hut for a grandmother and her seven orphan grandchildren was the primary objective of the four weeks spent by Rotary Volunteers PDG Cal and Rachel Litwiller in the village of Mwandi, Zambia.

The Litwillers and another volunteer from New Zealand were met at the Livingston, Zambia, airport by the project director for United Church of Zambia Mission Partners, Paula Winland, and her husband, Dan Van Zyl. Paula is a member of the Rotary Club of Livingston. The volunteers were whisked off for the 1½-hour drive west of Livingston, along the Zambezi River, to the village of Mwandi.

Mwandi has a population of 7-9,000 residents of which 80-90 percent of the structures they call “home” are mud huts. The village has one tarred road known as Main Street. The remainder of the “streets” are rutted sand. The village is also home to the chief of the area who lives in “The Palace” located on the edge of the village.

Along Main Street are shops of various types, including a very nice “soon to be open” guest house. Off Main Street is an open market with anything you would want, from food, to furniture, to clothing. If you do not find what you are looking for in Mwandi, you can take the daily bus to Livingston where you can purchase anything you may be looking for.

The accommodations at the Mission Partner camp were Safari tents that have a floor, a wooden door and two single beds on wooden frames. Sleeping at night was a challenge the first several days, given the sounds of the village dogs barking for the first several hours, accompanied by a periodic donkey braying with several certain responses, and ending with roosters crowing in the early morning hours. The food prepared by two local ladies who cooked over charcoal was always on time and delicious. We had spaghetti, barbecue chicken, lamb chops, Shepard’s pie, and the local favorite Babooti (mashed potatoes and hamburger, covered with cheese).

The mud hut project involved building a 9-ft. by 12-ft. hut which has a wooden door, two rooms and a smooth mud floor. The project began by placing 2-inch diameter tree posts into the ground about 18 inches apart around the perimeter of the hut. This was followed by tying a series of horizontal twigs on either side of the posts every 8 inches, using nylon string. These horizontal twigs created a cavity that can be filled with the mud balls. The termite hill dirt used for the construction of the mud walls is hauled to the construction site by a local Mwandian using his team of donkeys and a two wheeled cart.

Once the walls are filled with the mud balls, then mud that had more moisture is thrown, yes literally thrown, onto the wall to build the mud out so it covers the horizontal twigs. The throwing of the mud is done to cover the walls both inside and out. The third stage involves using mud that has still more moisture, having the consistency of running through your fingers, placing it in your hand and rubbing it on the wall with an upward motion, using the palm of your hand. By now the wall is nearly level and smooth.

Before the final coating of mud completely dries, water is splashed onto the wall and the mud is smoothed with your hands, so that the wall is as smooth as possible. Again, this is done on each side of the wall. A wooden door, with wooden frame, is installed in the hut along with a small open window in each of the two rooms of the hut.

The final stage is the floor. The floor is covered with more mud and allowed to dry until it is hard. This will last for years if done properly. Construction of the hut was done by the Litwillers, another volunteer from New Zealand, and several local people who are hired by Paula. The project was supervised by Matt, who is a permanent member of the project staff.

The mudding stage of construction is assisted by local ladies who are of the family of the grandmother who will be living in the hut. The roof of the hut is composed of corrugated steel. It may make the hut warmer in the summer, but the hut will last much longer than when the roof is made of thatch, as many of the locals use on their huts.

Work on the hut was interrupted by a 5-day Safari to Botswana and Chobi National Game Reserve, as well as a couple days at a lodge called Elephant Sands in Botswana. The hut was done and ready to be occupied by the time we were ready to leave Mwandi. Our final three days in Zambia were spent in Livingston, touring the town and visiting Victoria Falls, which included high tea at Livingston Island.

Our time in Mwandi was invigorating and rewarding. It is always exciting to be part of something like this, especially when you know you are making a difference in the life of someone who is in need.

You can take the daily bus to Livingston where you can purchase clothing. If you do not find what you are looking for in Mwandi, you can purchase the market with anything you would want, from food, to furniture, to clothing.
A team of 13 Rotarians and one journalist from Zones 28 and 29 have just returned from a goodwill and fact finding mission in Nigeria. The team consisted of four women and 10 men from Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio and Illinois, as well as Ontario, Canada.

They were carrying on a 15-year commitment, which began in 2007, to build relationships with Nigerian Rotarians. The goal is to focus in the areas that Rotary International wants to emphasize to improve the lives of the less fortunate around the world in areas of education, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child care, community development, and peace and conflict resolution.

Our team was lead by PDG Elise Cadigan from District 6420 (Rockford, Ill.) who was also involved in the first two teams that traveled to Nigeria. On the team from District 6000 were DGE Don Patterson from the Rotary Club of Washington, DGN Terry Geiger from the Rotary Club of Decatur County, and World Community Service/Matching Grants Chair Brock Earnhardt from the Rotary Club of Davenport.

The three of us were touched by the friendliness and hospitality shown by our newfound Rotarian friends in Nigeria. Also on the team were four Rotarians from District 5790, the Iowa district north of us, so Iowa was well represented on this mission.

We took part in celebrating the commissioning of new wells in three different communities. We visited sites in and near Abuja, Kaduna, Kano and Jos.

The main concentration for improving lives were in the areas of water, education, and latrines. Some villages have a single well to support populations numbering in many thousands. We saw villages where the women waited in long lines to get their daily supply of water that they had to carry back to their homes, often of great distances. We visited one village that had no well, but the drilling of a new bore hole well was in process when we were there. Currently the villagers walk two to three miles to get water from a stream that is shared with the livestock.

District 6000 Rotarians were present for the commissioning of a latrine and bore hole (well) project, a partnership of the Rotary Clubs of Northwest Des Moines and North Scott with the Rotary Club of Kakuri-Kaduna, Nigeria, (l-r): WCS Matching Grants Chair Brock Earnhardt, DGN Terry Geiger, Nigerian school officials, and DGE Don Patterson.
Nigerian project safari

We also visited a medical clinic in a village near Kaduna where the Rotary Club of Adel partnered with another club in Kaduna to provide equipment for the medical clinic. This equipment had just recently been delivered, some still in boxes.

We also visited a well site in a village near Kano where the well drilling was to begin in the very near future. This was a project led by the Rotary Club of Muscatine and partnered with the Rotary Clubs of Ankeny and Nevada, as well as Rotary Club of Kano. Seeing these projects made us all proud to be from District 6000, as our district Rotarians are really improving lives for the people in these villages.

Some of our other activities included visiting schools where one day we participated in a hands-on project of repairing desks for the children of the school. We delivered school supplies, soccer balls and dictionaries to the schools. We also visited a number of orphanages, hospitals, and medical clinics including maternity clinics that are in need of better and cleaner water and sanitation facilities.

The final day before boarding our flight we were hosted for lunch and fellowship by past RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe and his lovely wife, Ayo, in their home. They were very generous and gracious hosts and it was an honor having the opportunity to interact with both of them.

The three representatives from district 6000 have been asked as part of their commitment to Nigeria to make at least 15 presentations to clubs around the district. All the sights we visited with proposed projects will be offered to clubs as international projects via the Zone 28-29 web site. This information should be available within 30 days. That web site is “www.zones28-29.org.”

Don Patterson, Terry Geiger, and Brock Earnhardt are asking clubs around the district to contact them based on your club’s proximity as to where they live to come to your club and talk about the Nigerian initiative. They look forward to sharing their experiences and letting clubs around the district know how they can help change lives of the people of Nigeria.

Seeing these projects made us all proud to be from District 6000, as our Rotarians are really improving lives for the people in these villages.

Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Malali Kaduna and District 6000 at a sign along a highway outside Kaduna, Nigeria. The sign gives directions to a Rotary matching grant project 10 miles away. The grant involves a partnership of the Malali Kaduna club and the Rotary Club of Adel. It is providing furniture and equipment for a new health clinic whose primary mission is give prenatal and childbirth care for rural people who are distant and geographically isolated. I like this photo for the way it displays the pride that the Nigerian Rotarians take in their community service and the happiness that we all were feeling about this unexpected opportunity to celebrate together. DGE Don Patterson and DGN Terry Geiger are pictured, and next to me is Chief Benson Katchi Nwobum, club president when the matching grant application was filed.

‘Iowa-Africa’ fundraiser

By Brad Miller/East Polk
Club Foundation chair

The Rotary Club of East Polk will host an Iowa-Africa Rotary fundraising event April 28, 2011. The primary goals are to raise funds and awareness for ongoing projects in Africa. The event will be held at Prairie Meadows and will include wine and beer tasting, an auction, and a dynamic special guest.

An area for posters and displays will allow clubs to “tell the story” of their unique projects. Partner clubs would agree to buy a specified number of tickets and could raise funds by supplying items to be auctioned. We would collect a modest commission (12 percent based on early budget projections) to defray food, facility rental, and publicity costs.

Any Iowa Rotary club is eligible to partner as long as they have some project ongoing or planned in Africa. For travel convenience, we have scheduled the event on the evening before the District Conference in nearby Ankeny. It would be a great event for local host homes to take visiting Rotarians to for the evening!

East Polk Rotary Club’s International Committee will provide logistics and will comprise the planning committee. The auction will likely be divided into “live” and “silent” categories with those goods and services likely to yield at least $500 reserved for the “live” portion. Watch the club website for details and contact information: www.eastpolkrotary.org/.

DGE Don Patterson, 2003-04 RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe, WCS Matching Grants Chair Brock Earnhardt, and DGN Terry Geiger at the Majiyagbe home.
The doctor who delivered him was from Missouri, so he was given a Missouri birth certificate.

There was no TV in Unionville, but he went to Des Moines to watch WOI-TV and saw the Yankees beat the Phillies in four games in the World Series in 1950. The Iowa State Fair holds a special place in his memory, too. “I’ve been there many times. It’s one of the best places to see the workings of Iowa – Iowa represents the best of what we have, the heartland of America.”

Because of these strong Iowa ties, the president of our worldwide organization was recently made an honorary Iowan at a reception in Washington, D.C., by U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa).

Klinginsmith’s Rotary experience has shown him the value of Youth Exchange. “There are 7,000-8,000 students a year and it is the greatest program for international understanding and peace that we could have.” Three hundred students attended last winter’s SCRYE meeting. “It was one of the best experiences in the world!”

That’s why he is working hard to bring as many Youth Exchange students as possible to New Orleans. “I’m trying to increase the number of Youth Exchange students from developing countries,” he said. That includes scholarships for youth from places like South Africa, where Klinginsmith spent a year as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar – an experience that changed his life.

New Orleans was picked as the Convention site years before Klinginsmith was nominated to be president, but the location is serendipitous. His 28-day journey across the Atlantic Ocean to South Africa began there. “It was the beginning of a journey that lasted a lifetime,” he said.

At the New Orleans convention, Youth Exchange students will carry the flags in the Opening Ceremony to the music of “We Are the World.” Klinginsmith urges Rotarians to attend. “If you never attend an international convention, you’re missing one of the best parts of being a Rotarian!”

It is at RI conventions, Klinginsmith said, that the internationality of our organization sinks in. “We learn there are people from other countries who are just like us. They may have different colored skin and a different religion, but they want to make the world a better place.”

There are 6 billion people on the planet, he said, and one third live on a subsistence level and one sixth go to bed hungry. “There is no hope of goodwill and peace until people are properly fed, housed and educated,” he said. “A hungry man is an angry man.”

“Are we our brothers keepers?” he asked. “I believe we are. Rotarians are.”

Concluding with the cowboy theme, he said, “If it’s a job, do it; if it’s a horse, ride it; if it hurts, hide it.” There’s a simple solution to just about everything, he observed. “If it’s a community need, fill it; if it’s a global need, go see it!”
Peggy Geiger, Mary Beth Growney-Selene and Colleen Welch.

RI President Ray Klinginsmith acknowledges the crowd after being introduced by Loring Miller, as DG Gary Welch (l) and Rotary Coordinator Mary Beth Growney-Selene applaud.

President Ray receives a cowboy statue, presented by Colleen Welch.

If cowboy wisdom is your guide, the sign says it all!

Loring Miller dons Mardi Gras garb to promote the New Orleans Convention.

Members of the Rotary Club of Decatur County, with Youth Exchange student Isabela Melo from Brazil, celebrate the occasion with RI President Ray.

Greeters Anne and Matt Olson of the Rotary Club of Greater Des Moines.

The Rotary Club of Greater Des Moines, the newest club in District 6000, was honored to be the host club for RI President Ray Klinginsmith’s visit.

Youth Exchange chair Chris Knapp of Iowa City with his wife, Vernette, and D-5970 chair Mike Hamilton, Estherville.
By John Sherlock/Oskaloosa
Club Public Relations chair

The Rotary Club of Oskaloosa launched an “I Can Read Songs” literacy project. The club delivered 60 “I Can Read Songs” DVDs and 11 teaching sets with songs and sing-along charts to the Oskaloosa Public School and the Christian School. Club members were reluctant to leave when they saw how much fun it can be to sing and dance and learn literacy!

The Oskaloosa club has long supported literacy and families in our community, making this project a perfect fit. “I Can Read Songs” teaches children vocabulary and language as they learn to read and write important high-frequency words. At just $3 each, the DVD makes a great gift to families of preschool and kindergarten children. And teachers enjoy the CD with songs and the Sing-Along Charts.

The “I Can Read Songs” literacy project began with Rotary Club of Iowa City, a District Simplified Grant, and a partnership with I CAN READ, Inc. I CAN READ is a non-profit that creates joyful literacy resources for young children. It was founded by reading specialist LaDonna Wicklund who also happens to be a Rotarian.

Oskaloosa is proud to be the seventh club in District 6000 to support literacy through this project. Contact LDWicklund@aol.com, the Rotary Club of Iowa City Literacy Project Chair to join this literacy project.

‘I Can Read Songs’ a hit for Oskaloosa Rotarians

With slides projected on a screen telling about the Rotary Club of Tipton’s service work, auctioneer Jeff Wallick looks for the highest bid at the club’s auction Nov. 5 at the Cedar County Fairgrounds. The community-wide auction is a major fund raiser for the club.

DGND Rita Perea and Rotary Club of Greater Des Moines World Community Service co-chairs Matt Olson and Kristy Bell enjoy a lighter moment at the club’s wine tasting party and fund raiser Nov. 20 at Wine in West Des Moines. The club raised $500 for the Iowa Miles Of Smiles Team to match a contribution from PDG Bill and Linda Tubbs (photo below).

A display of Rotary information welcomed customers at US Bank in Boone prior to the club’s annual Steak Fry, which was held Oct. 17.
By Dolly Bergmann/Atlantic
Club Public Relations chair

The Atlantic Rotary Club held its annual auction Nov. 19. More than 175 people attended and the 2010 auction proceeds were $37,699. The proceeds will again benefit the community in many ways.

In 1983, Darryl Smith, Rotary club president, came up with the idea of an auction but with a little flare, to make it a social event at the country club and serve a great meal and some drinks. It started out pretty small, mostly a glorified garage sale with a meal. Today it has grown to be a very large auction with many unique items. Items bringing a great deal of money are seed corn packages, vacation packages, and unique dinner packages.

Today the auction can generate over $35,000. This money is then returned to the community through the requests of many local nonprofit organizations. Groups receiving the funds in the past include the Nishna Valley YMCA, the Atlantic Community Schools, local pre-schools, the hospital, the community center, library and too many more to mention.

Auctioneer Chuck Reiken (l) and Master of Ceremonies and Rotarian J.C. Van Ginkel helped the Rotary Club of Atlantic raise more than $37,699.

Auction raises $37,699 for Atlantic charities

By Dolly Bergmann/Atlantic
Club Public Relations chair

The Atlantic Rotary Club held its annual auction Nov. 19. More than 175 people attended and the 2010 auction proceeds were $37,699. The proceeds will again benefit the community in many ways.

In 1983, Darryl Smith, Rotary club president, came up with the idea of an auction but with a little flare, to make it a social event at the country club and serve a great meal and some drinks. It started out pretty small, mostly a glorified garage sale with a meal. Today it has grown to be a very large auction with many unique items. Items bringing a great deal of money are seed corn packages, vacation packages, and unique dinner packages.

Today the auction can generate over $35,000. This money is then returned to the community through the requests of many local nonprofit organizations. Groups receiving the funds in the past include the Nishna Valley YMCA, the Atlantic Community Schools, local pre-schools, the hospital, the community center, library and too many more to mention.

Rotarians at the head of the class

Congratulations, members of the Rotary Club of Des Moines:

• Suku Radia was honored by the Salvation Army at their recent annual dinner meeting with the “Doing the Most Good Award” for his extensive community involvement.

• Past President and current Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the state of Iowa and Brigadier General (Retired) Iowa Army National Guard, Dan McGowan, was invited and attended the White House ceremony when Salvatore Giunta was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama. He was also in attendance at the ceremony at the State Capitol when Governor Culver proclaimed Nov. 22 “Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta Day.”
PROMOTING CIVILITY:
Focus on Rotary’s Core Value of Integrity

These remarks by Mary Kramer to the Rotary Club of Des Moines from Jan. 7, 2010, lift up Rotary’s obligation to promote civility in public discourse that is embodied in our Core Value of Integrity. Kramer, of Clive, is a member of the Rotary Club of Des Moines and formerly President of the Iowa Senate and Ambassador to Barbados. She was a speaker at Rotary District Conference in April 2008 in West Des Moines.

By Mary Kramer

Many things have changed in our country. And isn’t that a profound understatement? The change I’d like to talk about today involves the disappearance of our traditional approach to public discourse in America. We used to be able to debate with our adversaries without resorting to the demonization of one another. Debates on important issues were challenging – fun even. Americans who demonize those they disagree with have long been among us. The difference today? That demonization has NOT always been accepted as a routine feature of American life.

My definition of demonization is: viewing those we disagree with as the embodiment of evil. It involves a profound loss of perspective on the humanity of our opponents. They stop being people just like us, who happen to disagree with us on some things; and instead become some kind of insidious demonic force let loose in the world.

In the past, as recently as when I first ran for office in 1990, Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives could disagree without turning each other into mortal enemies.

The conservative/moderate divide in the Republican Party has been present since Dwight Eisenhower. But today, moderate Republicans are rare.

The liberal/moderate divide in the Democrat Party has been present since Franklin Roosevelt. But today, moderate Democrats are rare.

As a matter of fact, I have come to reject the term “moderate” since some people seem to believe it denotes persons who have no beliefs or values and are willing to accept any compromise to avoid conflict. Even the term has been “demonized.”

Complaints about the lack of “good” candidates and cynical wishes for a “none of the above” on the ballot are common. Ballot choices are usually products of our neglect.

Only 1 in 8 Americans vote in primaries, meaning that about 1/6 of registered voters, perhaps 2 percent of all Americans, control each party. These voters form what is referred to as the “base.” The “base” of both parties is made up of the MOST conservative Republicans and the MOST liberal Democrats.

Among these two groups, the pseudo moral/social issues make differences intolerable. The battle lines are drawn and they delineate the MORAL vs. the IMMORAL.

Historically, the glue of both government institutions and non-government organizations, Rotary included, has been collegiality. By definition, collegiality is the willingness to talk, to accept differences and to share friendship, to work toward shared and lofty goals.

But today the members of legislative bodies avoid contact with one another outside the formal “debates.” THEY DO NOT LIKE EACH OTHER.

The strength of Rotary is our capacity to meet together, to respect our Four-Way Test, to have programs that share information about a broad range of issues and viewpoints, to share a meal and to give our service and our money to make a better community. We have been doing that well for over 100 years. Can we continue in the future?

Let me pose two questions:

First. Because someone passionately “believes in” something, does that belief allow them to mandate their views on everyone else? In America today, has a tolerance of differing viewpoints somehow become immoral?

Second. Does the morality debate actually mask the power struggle? The debate about “values,” shared or not, is often about the fear of losing power, or the need to gain power – the power of the majority, the power to control the issues, the power to maintain one’s sense of belonging with those folks who think like we do.

Many factors have contributed to our national slide from civility to demonization. Here are three I believe are having the biggest impact.

Bill Bishop, a veteran journalist from Austin, Texas, has written about this phenomenon in his book “The Big Sort – Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart.”

His hypothesis is this: Individuals, with modern freedom of economic mobility, both real and virtual, are able to choose with whom they will associate. We choose our neighborhoods, our churches, our politics, even our news sources according to what we believe. He refers to this transformation as the Big Sort. The book is a tough read, filled with data and seemingly exhaustive research – but I recommend it. It describes what is happening – why we no longer get along and seem forever estranged from compromise or consensus.

As a result of the big sort, congressional redistricting (both state and federal) has given us more politicians from overwhelmingly BLUE or RED districts. Safe districts so to speak. These folks then feel obligated to represent the extreme views of their

CIVILITY/continued on next page
constituents to assure their re-election. In the past, a good representative ran with a party, but represented all constituents. Now, every issue is a political prism – it is not about what’s best for the district, or the state or the country, it is about being re-elected and/or maintaining the majority status. Constituents are unhappy with their elected representative who tries to work across party lines to find solutions or even common ground.

- The voracious 24-hour news cycle thrives on conflict and spectacle. Incendiary rhetoric sells advertising and carries the day. Even letters to the editor are sometimes rejected as “not controversial enough.” And we, the listeners and watchers, choose to listen to and read those we agree with, thus receiving reinforcement of our beliefs and making us even more entrenched in our positions.

- Some people believe the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision and the ensuing religious mobilization into political combat has contributed mightily to our separation. The response and counter response that has characterized Roe has helped to create the habit of demonization in American public life. But if abortion was the seed, that has characterized Roe has helped to create the habit of demonization in American public life. But if abortion was the seed, the fruit has blossomed with many other issues – everything from gay rights to immigration to energy policy to health care reform. My Irish Grandmother used to tell us, “When there is no solution, seek it lovingly.” Hmm, apparently not too many people today had Irish grandmas like that.

These three factors have surely upped the “demon” factor. Demonization involves a shift from debating issues to attacking persons. It has a deathly logic – if we can just destroy the career or the character of a person who is getting it all wrong, all would be well.

For these reasons, and I’m sure we could name many others, – the national and local debates are no longer about the “big center.” They are for very small wedges of the “base.” There seems to be little interest in compromise, only interest in assuring MY point of view is dominant. The winner.

Should we be concerned with the Balkanization of America? Right now, today, we are so polarized, we can’t get anything done.

Your position or my position on any given issue is important. I admire and respect passion and integrity in beliefs and values. But what happens when we allow our belief to overcome our capability, even our willingness to mix with persons of a differing point of view? Points of view have become today’s race or gender battles. How can we seek common ground? How will we move forward for the common good?

My Dad was fond of saying, “To a man whose only tool is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail.” To persons with a single issue driving their passion – this analogy fits. And on the abortion issue – hammers seem distributed equally and on both sides of the issue.

People of every faith share humanity’s common pool of frailties and strengths. Every human being is worthy of being treated with basic human decency and respect. Every human being is capable of error and sin and that makes each one of us weak and vulnerable.

Solzhenitsyn said, “The line separating good and evil passes … right through every human heart.”

A society is in trouble when people forget this and everyone begins to think “we” are the “good” and “they” are the “demonic.”

Reviewing history and looking around the world today, it becomes abundantly clear that what we have created here in America – our democratic way of life – is a HUGE ACHIEVEMENT in human civilization.

Americans have a great appetite for liberty, a great hunger for principled leaders and a great hunger for civility in discussion. Yet we are victims of continual, often meaningless or divisive communication. There is little listening, only individuals and institutions waiting their turn to speak.

Citizen unhappiness becomes apparent, even nasty, when the people believe no one is listening to their concerns – when their leaders or their elected officials forget who they represent.

I once worked for a very wise leader who said, “The danger of being good is to stop trying to get better.” We must not stop trying to get better.

In Rotary, the recent, rather public disagreement can be viewed as a disaster or an opportunity. Our leaders have listened and proposed changes. By your action here today, you have chosen to make changes that a majority of members believe will make us better.

But changing the processes does not address the underlying issue and the hurtful divide is still present. WE are capable of creating better, more effective processes for resolving issues. Of demanding civil discourse in forums where ALL points of view are respected. WE can expect – even demand civility from one another.

Only then can the issues can be debated, the problems can be defined, solutions sought and a common vision of the desired future shared. Democratic institutions and organizations do not work without involvement – and that involvement cannot be limited to the voting booth or debates among people who think like we do.

After several years of living overseas, I returned with a renewed and deeper appreciation of my Iowa roots and the willingness of my fellow Iowans to participate in “good” causes. An example of this is our participation in the caucus process, which demonstrates our desire to understand issues, to hold candidates to certain standards, and to become more personally involved.

I believe the most important cause right now is an effort to renew citizen engagement. Without such an effort, we will not see improvement in the status quo. In fact it is highly likely we will see continued decline in our ability to solve issues important to the day.

Given our recent learning experiences, perhaps there is no better group than this Rotary club to undertake a series of civil discussions where the important, even troubling issues of the day can be brought forth.

Some years ago I came across these words. I believe them and find them inspiring today.

- Iowa is the place where the dream still lives.
- Iowa is the America we grew up believing in. It is liberty bought by hard work and integrity.
- It is the belief that the future will be even better than today if WE will work to make it that way.
- YES, Iowa is the place where the dream still lives.

So – can we talk? More important, can we listen?
Two-and-a-half-year-old Taylor Crane didn’t want her daddy, CW3 Cory Crain, a CH-47 helicopter pilot from 2-221st General Support Aviation Battalion, Davenport, to depart for Iraq on Nov. 22 – but moments later she was comforted with a huggable teddy bear.

In a project that began in 2001 with the Rotary Club of Johnston, District 6000 clubs raised $17,691 for the teddy bears last year in support of the organizing group, the Iowa National Guard Auxiliary.

In the photo below, Natalie, 7, Austin, 4, and Joslyn, 9, the children of Pfc. Jerry and Samantha Robinson of Davenport, hug their teddy bears.

The teddy bears project is one of many healing and support activities by the Auxiliary to support families of the troops. District Governor Gary Welch says individual Rotarians or clubs can support the Auxiliary by making checks payable to INGOAux, c/o Polk County Bank, P.O. Box 79, Polk City, IA 50226, Att’n: INGOAux Donation.

District 6000 Rotary Volunteers chair Merle Anderson (North Scott) returned Oct. 5 from a three-week assignment in Uganda, Africa, where he helped peasant farmers develop sustainable production and marketing systems. “My assignment went very well,” he wrote. “The Ugandan people are very friendly and I enjoyed working with them.

“Uganda has a growing population, now at 33 million, and in a country about the size and shape of Oregon. Most Ugandans do not get more than a 1-7 education. There is 70 percent unemployment and lots of poverty. HIV-Aids, malaria and high infant mortality are just a few of their problems. The average Ugandan lives to age 48.

“The capital city of Kampala sits on the equator. It has a population of 3 million. They enjoy year around temperatures of daytime highs of 80-85 and overnight lows of 64-68. They have good soil and adequate rainfall. They normally produce two crops per calendar year. The average peasant farmer, living in the bush, has six acres that he owns or rents. Four of those acres produce crops like cassava (tapioca), white maize, sunflowers and soybeans. Uganda also produces fruit and citrus such as banana, oranges, limes, paw paw, pineapple, watermelon, etc. The other two acres are in bush. They also catch tilapia and catfish in their lakes.

“Most Ugandans live in thatch covered huts with no electricity or water. But, many of them may have a cell phone! Few have cars. Most walk or ride a bicycle. Some have motorcycles. About 50 percent are Catholic, 40 percent Protestants, and the other 10 percent are Muslim or other.”

Muscatine High School had the best sportsmanship in softball in a program sponsored by seven Rotary clubs in the Mississippi Athletic Conference. Pictured with the banner that will hang in the school gymnasium are athletic director Tim Goodwin, coach Denny Schuur and assistant coach Lory Aguero. The sportsmanship project, in its 12th year, is a partnership with athletic directors, game officials and the Rotary clubs of Clinton, Iowa Quad Cities, Bettendorf, North Scott, Davenport, Muscatine and Burlington. Information: Bill Tubbs, project coordinator, (563) 285-8111.
Selling Rotary Youth Exchange in Burlington

By William Smith/Burlington Hawk Eye

Oct. 15, 2010: When Amber Hoffman left her high school in Centerville to spend a year in Germany, she didn’t know a lick of German.

After she returned home to Iowa, her parents barely knew her. She was responsible, organized, and best of all, she could speak fluent German.

“You go there to learn a language, but you learn something about yourself,” she said.

Hoffman visited students at Notre Dame and Burlington High Schools Thursday afternoon to explain and promote the Rotary Club’s International Youth Exchange program, which gave her the opportunity to live in Germany as a high school student.

“I get to promote the best year of my life. It opened more doors than anything. I came back and opted out of four semesters of German, which is the equivalent of $8,000,” she said while explaining the program to a group of juniors in the Notre Dame computer lab.

The International Youth Exchange Program is offered through the Burlington Rotary Club, but Rotary club member Susan Moss said it has been at least five years since any local students have taken advantage of it. The deadline to apply for next year’s exchange program (was) Oct. 31, which is why Moss and fellow Rotarian Bob Bartles (were) traveling to local schools to get the word out as quickly as possible.

“We want to get it up and running again,” Bartles said. “It’s a wonderful experience for them.”

Nobody knows that better than Bartles. His son, Andrew, spent a year in Germany as a high school student, has been at least five years since any local students have taken advantage of it. The deadline to apply for next year’s exchange program (was) Oct. 31, which is why Moss and fellow Rotarian Bob Bartles (were) traveling to local schools to get the word out as quickly as possible.

“We want to get it up and running again,” Bartles said. “It’s a wonderful experience for them.”

Collective thanks Northwest club

The Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines was recognized in the “Des Moines Bicycle Collective” newsletter for the $2,500 contributed to the organization from proceeds of Charles Gabus Memorial Bike Ride. “We received a similar check in 2009, which allowed us to underwrite a well-received teen bike camp in July at the John R. Grubb YMCA. Yep, we’ll do it again,” the Collective noted in an article entitled “Generous Rotarians.” – from Dan Boes

Iowa, New Zealand form two-year partnership for Group Study Exchange

In a unique arrangement, District 6000 is partnering with District 5970 of northern Iowa in its 2010-11 and 2011-12 Group Study Exchanges. The current Rotary year (2010-11), District 6000 is sending a team to District 9910 in New Zealand, March 18-April 15, 2011. Team members were selected in August and named in the previous issue of District 6000 News.

District 9910 will send a team to Iowa in 2011-12. A team from District 9910 in New Zealand will be hosted by District 5970 in northern Iowa the spring of 2011 and will involve District 6000 with hosting. In the Rotary year 2011-12, District 6000 will not send a team, but will host a team from District 9910.

Information: DG Gary Welch, (515) 964-7432, or GSE Committee chair Lynn Hicks, (515) 284-8290.
DGN Terry Geiger of the Rotary Club of Decatur County explains what ‘roadside pickup’ is to Isabela Melo, Rotary Youth Exchange student from Brazil. They collected debris for close to an hour on Saturday morning, Oct. 16. Although she did not walk the full two miles adopted by the club, she did fill one of those big orange sacks. Thanks for helping Bela!

DG Gary and Collen Welch merited a tip of the hat from the Rotary Club of Burlington for joining them – and helping – at their big Chicken Barbecue Sept. 16. The event actually began at about 7:00 a.m. with the first crew setting up a 50-foot long grill. Cooking continued through the day with a total of 2,018 chicken dinners being served between 4:00 and 7:00 that evening. “Our net last year was $7,180 and when all is in and done, we expect this years net proceeds to exceed that mark,” writes club president Rick Swanson.

The proceeds for the past several years have been combined with district simplified grants to construct children’s playground facilities in public parks in Burlington.

Members of the Rotary Club of Decatur County gave personalized dictionaries to all of Mrs. Carpenter’s fourth graders in Lamoni Oct. 21. Speaking for the Rotarians, club president Bill Morain described the mission of Rotary International to improve reading skills on a worldwide basis. He also summarized Rotary’s efforts to conquer polio and to enhance international understanding. Assisting President Morain in the back row are Mrs. Carpenter, Superintendent Diane Fine, and Peggy Geiger and Terry Geiger, DGN.

Des Moines AM invites clubs to aid Meals for the Heartland

The Rotary Club of Des Moines AM has chosen as its project for the year, the raising of funds for the shipment of food to South Africa. This project is in conjunction with the efforts of Meals from the Heartland, which is a volunteer organization that packages and ships food to the hungry in the world. The club is interested in expanding the participation to other Rotary clubs in District 6000 to make it a district project. If you would like a program presented to your club on this idea, or if you would like more information, please contact Russell J. Hill, International Service Committee chair at rhillrj@msn.com, or (515)276-2858.

If your club members want to purchase apparel with the Rotary logo along with your club name, then this option might be of interest. Rotary club members could place orders for Rotary apparel through a website/showroom for their club. Each Club would place a link on their website or send an email to members with the link http://www.superiorprintingpromo.com/

Superior Printing and Promotions will coordinate with a member of your club to select the apparel to appear on your club’s showroom. Your club members can then go online to order, choosing color and size. Payment for orders can be made at time of purchase with a credit card. After all orders for your club are completed, the apparel will be sent to you.

Superior Printing and Promotions has acquired the license necessary to merchandise Rotary Products and is presently the only one in Iowa authorized as a product provider. Please contact Dave Carlson, member of the West Des Moines Rotary club at 1-515-225-2200 for information and assistance.

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Record-setting auction for Jefferson Rotary

By Jacque Andrew/Jefferson
Club Public Relations chair

The moral of the story of the 2010 Rotary Club of Jefferson’s Charity Auction is…never underestimate Rotarians! Even in a less than stellar economy, the 12th annual auction (held coincidentally on Nov. 12) broke the club’s record for proceeds! It appears that the auction will, for the first time ever, NET over $27,000!

Secret for the success? The final result of the auction is directly attributable to the generosity of the club’s members and their dedication to seeking and collecting donations from area businesses and individuals plus other business and personal associates.

Club president Dean Dozier had a vision for an auction that would top the charts and he selected “rock star” team captains to aid in the organization of the event. Co-chair Gary Von Ahsen put that vision into real terms and advanced a goal of $25,000, which even in better economic years, would have been a stretch.

A meeting of the Jefferson Rotary board, team captains and others interested in helping was held in June 2010 to prepare for the event nearly five months away.

Team captains, in rotation, chose their teams from among the club’s 55 members. Then, using a list of businesses developed over the eleven previous years and updated annually, the captains chose the contact list for their members.

A letter inviting the businesses and individuals to donate was mailed. With the letter from the co-chairs was a newsletter detailing in story and picture the donations which had been made from the previous year’s auction proceeds. The letter explained that in a short time a member of the club would be visiting with them about their donation for this year.

Boosting the bottom line of the auction itself were more than $5,000 in cash donations. The envelopes with checks started appearing only a few days after the letter went out. Including the name and address of the club treasurer who was designated as the receiver of the cash donations made it easier for donors to get their check in the mail right away. The cash donations are used to buy “enhancements” for auction packages!

The captains met with their team members and presented the contact lists. Armed with donation forms to fill out on each item given and the knowledge of the good that Rotary does, team members hit the streets and made their calls during the summer when members and the people on whom they were calling were busy with activities of the season, vacations, golf, water sports and more. Not an easy time to connect with donors!

Team captains were kept abreast of the donations turned in by their team via spreadsheet e-mailed at least once a week from the auction co-chairs. There were also meetings of the auction team to take care of the myriad of details of the event.

Considered a highlight of the holiday season, the charity auction includes a beef tenderloin steak dinner with complimentary wine (donated by a Rotarian), homemade rolls and cheesecake. More than 170 attended and the tables were set with crisp linens and a unique centerpiece. Chairs were covered and festooned with sashes to create an elegant look. All a far cry from the chicken barbecue which was the club’s primary fundraiser until twelve years ago!

As for the auction … you name it and it’s been on the “block”!

From a year’s worth of homemade cheesecake or pie to ownership of an Okoboji timeshare and vacations in Maui, theater tickets and dinner packages, ski trips, collectable sports memorabilia, Jefferson Rotarians have been resourceful in snagging interesting and profitable auction items.

During the evening there are drawings for a raffle featuring eight envelopes of $250 in cold, hard cash. Rotarians sell $5 tickets for the raffle with each ticket having eight chances to win the $250 envelopes. Winners almost always end up using the cash (burning a hole in their pockets) for more purchases during the evening. This year a raffle for “designer swine” – a Berkshire hog – was added to the fun and boosted the bottom line.

A colorful sale bill which is cleverly written to describe auction items is distributed to attendees before the event, giving them a chance to “plan” their bids and whet their appetites. Providing accountability to local donors, an electronic version of the bill was sent to the Chamber of Commerce’s e-mail list for all to see.

The auction itself is live and conducted by a professional auctioneer with “color commentary” by a glib Rotarian. Interpersed with the live auction items, a warning is announced that bidding on groups of silent auction items will be “closed” shortly and the winners are announced.

The whole affair is a fun evening for all but the real reward comes later. When the bills are paid and the final net is announced, the satisfaction comes as the recipients of the proceeds are selected.

When the auction was conceived, the club vowed to support local, community projects as well as The Rotary Foundation and District 6000 initiatives. Funds from the auction have made it possible for Jefferson youth to participate in national polio immunization days in India; travel to Xicotepec, Mexico, to contribute to the partnership there; travel to the Ukraine with a school research exchange program; participate in the Jefferson-Scranton High School’s Interact Club, and more.

Links have been made with a Rotary club in Kenya to assist with a school and purchase boxes of books for the students there. Thousands of dollars have gone to the school system to support Interact, promote early through high school literacy, and encourage speech, music and vocational pursuits by students as well as support for mentoring and early childhood development projects, and providing scholarships for post-secondary education.

Community projects such as support for a new privately funded county recreation center, development of an area historical museum, support for handicapped services, meals on wheels and the food pantry, refurbishing a fair grounds building, sound system for gymnasium, lighting for sports complex, equipment for the medical center and numerous other projects.

The Jefferson Rotary Club has also provided support for the Xicotepec mission, FAMSCO, Iowa M.O.S.T., Tsunami and Haiti relief, the Special Olympics and the District 6000 annual conference in addition to ongoing contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

This year even more good will be done because the auction. Were it not for the inspired vision of the organizers who launched the event more than twelve years ago and the solid foundation established by previous chairs, this record breaking year would not have been possible. Give Rotarians a goal and they’ll rise to meet it! Never underestimate what a Rotary club can accomplish!
There’s a display at the Chariton Free Public Library about a group that is devoted to helping others, the Rotary Club of Chariton. The display contains a vast array of eye-catching items pertaining to the club’s history along with awards they’ve received over the years.

Rotary Club of Chariton members Maxine Willadson and Jeanne Klaassen put the display together and Chariton Library Director, Kris Murphy, helped set it up. The display will be up through the end of this month. Willadson is the public relations chairperson of the Rotary Club of Chariton and Jeanne is the vice chairperson.

Willadson came up with the idea to do the display. “The Rotary Club had a number of archive items saved and I had some items at home that Max decided to put into a display,” Jeanne Klaassen said.

The Rotary Club of Chariton was chartered on March 12, 1924. Presently there are four officers including president, Ray Meyer, president-elect Betty Hansen, secretary-treasurer Corliss Klaassen, and past president, Adam Bahr. It has five board members including Veronica Fuhs, Kris Patrick, Jeri Reeve, Roger Struve and Max Willadson.

Corliss and Jeanne Klaassen were interviewed about the library display and during the interview they told about some of the goals of Rotary. The primary goal of Rotary is to eradicate polio around the world. Another goal is to establish clean water and proper sanitation and two others are to fight diseases and eradicate hunger around the world.

Literacy is another big goal where Rotary members help people read and write. Rotary members also try to develop peace and understanding among people in different countries.

On the top shelf of the library display are various certificates that the Rotary Club of Chariton has received. One was the Rotary Foundation Centurion Club Award where the Rotary Club of Chariton averaged over $100 per member to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) for 2003-04 in support of the Foundation’s humanitarian, educational and peace programs.

Another citation on display is the 2004-05 Presidential Citation to celebrate Rotary signed by then District Governor Bill Tubbs. Tubbs owns The North Scott Press newspaper in Eldridge, Iowa, and he’s the uncle of former University of Iowa basketball player, Brigham Tubbs.

Also on display is a citation awarded to Chariton resident, Judge Bill Stuart, for 31 years of Rotary service back in June 2005. There’s also a certificate on display honoring 75 years of membership in Rotary International.

Also on display are special tabs commemorating Chariton Rotary’s 50th and 75th anniversaries in 1974 and 1999. In the 75th anniversary tab is an article about the founder of Rotary, Paul P. Harris. The first Rotary Club was started with four men in Chicago, Ill., on Feb. 23, 1905. Rotary is the first and oldest service organization in the world.

Another item on display is a directory from 2005-06 when Corliss Klaassen was the District Governor. Corliss and wife, Jeanne, are pictured on the directory’s back cover.

Another interesting item is a Rotary Club of Chariton songbook signed by world famous opera singer, Simon Este. He was at Rotary 6000’s District conference in 1997 and 1999 and his choir sang there. Estes is originally from Centerville and has sang all over the world.

Another item on display is The Four Way Test of the Things Rotary members think, say and do. The first is “Is it the TRUH?” The second asks “Is it FAIR to all concerned?” The third is “Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?” The fourth thing is “Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?”

Another item on display is a 2005 calendar of the Rotary Club of Chariton. Also up is an article from the Sept. 9, 2004, Chariton Herald-Patriot telling about the Rotary Club of Chariton turn-
Past RI President Wilkinson in Cedar Falls

On Nov. 14, 2007-08 RI President Wilf Wilkinson of Ontario, Canada, keynoted the second annual Rotary Foundation celebration of District 5970, northern Iowa, at Cedar Falls. Attending from District 6000 were District Governor Gary Welch and Colleen, and PDG Don Goering and Doris. This summary of the event is by District 5970 PDG Ken Kolek of Cedar Rapids.

Rotarians gathered Sunday, Nov. 14 at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, to celebrate Rotary Foundation Month. The afternoon and evening events focused on both the program and impact of “Our Rotary Foundation,” noted Past Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson.

All attendees enjoyed fellowship, food and refreshment at the main event dinner. Rotarians were treated to an insightful report from Dr. Maria Otelia Costales. She is the senior advisor to the Health Section of UNICEF and a New York Rotarian. She has over 20 years’ experience managing programs on maternal and child health specifically focused on immunization, acute respiratory infection, reproductive health and clean water. She manages the Accelerated Disease Control and the Polio Eradication programs at UNICEF headquarters.

Dr. Costales’ remarks were experienced and insightful as to the remaining task for the completion of polio eradication. She also shared her opportunity to answer questions about the potential and willingness of Rotary to become more actively involved in various aspects of the program. It was her privilege to be able to answer each question with the refrain, “Rotarians are already doing these things.”

Past RI President and current Foundation trustee Wilkinson delivered an engaging keynote review of polio eradication progress and the importance of The Rotary Foundation in impacting the world through the six areas of focus. He also announced the encouraging progress of the End Polio Now campaign by Rotarians worldwide with the hope of funding completion by the time Rotarians assembled in New Orleans for the International Convention.

District 5970 Governor Roger Kueter enjoyed the company and support of District 6040 Governor Jeff Romine (Missouri), District 6360 Governor Don Frohm (Michigan), and District 6000 Governor Gary Welch (Iowa) as well as his district successors, Governor-Elect Jim Patton from Fort Dodge and Governor nominee Jill Olsen from Marion East-Cedar Rapids. The governor was also supported by five D-5970 past district governors.

Governor Kueter noted the afternoon performance at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center by a vocal, instrumental, and dance team from Haiti as most appropriate considering PDG Gerald Retzlaff’s leadership efforts to supply Shelter Box funding and financial support to Haiti.

The dinner event, not the evening, concluded with thought-provoking remarks from Foundation Annual Giving Officer Anita Rieder, an appropriate closing song, and a toast to clean water. The evening continued with a closing social gathering of refreshment and gift giving at the home of DG Roger and Barb Kueter joined by RRFC Don and Doris Goering and many other Foundation supporters. This was a warm wonderful way to launch the holiday season, Foundation efforts, and a remembrance of being “Great Full with Thanks Giving,” as quoted from RI Staff member, Anita Rieder.

On the bottom shelf of the display are various Rotary banners from different years with the mottos from the years on them, including one from when Corliss Klaassen was District Governor in 2005-06. Rotary’s international president determines the motto for each year and the motto for 2005-06 was “Service Above Self.”

One unique thing about the international president from 2005-06 was that his first name is hyphenated. His name is Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar and he is from Sweden. Also on the bottom shelf is the Rotary banner from 2007-08 which has the motto “Rotary Shares” on it. The international president in 2007-08 was Wilfrid J. Wilkinson.

The banner from 2008-09 has the motto “Make Dreams Real” and the international president that year was D.K. Lee. Also displayed is a small banner with Old Betsy, the Chariton Volunteer Fire Department’s 1883 Silsby steam engine, and the Lucas County Courthouse on it.
**Foundation news**

What you **GOT** when you **GAVE**

By PDG Corliss Klaassen/Chariton

D-6000, Rotary Foundation chair

“What you **GOT** when you **GAVE**”

For every dollar we contribute to the Annual Program Fund of The Rotary Foundation, the District receives a 50-cent credit for matching fund (district-sponsored projects and activities) three years later.

Here’s what our district and clubs **GOT** last year (2009-10):

District 6000 started the year with $240,088, which is 50 percent of what we Rotarians contributed three years ago. Added to this was $17,048, which were earnings from the Permanent Fund, and $80,462 carried over from the previous year. This gave the District $337,599 to start the year.

And here are the benefits from this 50 percent of our contributions:

- **Our district granted three Ambassadorial Scholarships, a total of $72,000, for study abroad.**
- **Twenty clubs received Matching Grants for 17 international projects, using $202,023 (not counting the clubs’ own contributions).** These projects provided funds for medical equipment, kitchen equipment, solar power generators and ovens, and sanitation facilities – also for the non-surgical Ponseti method for club foot treatment – to name a few examples in Columbia, South Africa, Nigeria, Guatemala, Argentina, Brazil, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Belize, Peru, Mexico and Malawi.

And here are the benefits from this 50 percent of our contributions:

- **Our district granted three Ambassadorial Scholarships, a total of $72,000, for study abroad.**
- **Twenty clubs received Matching Grants for 17 international projects, using $202,023 (not counting the clubs’ own contributions).**
- **For projects in our local communities, District 6000 awarded 19 clubs a total of $48,010 in District Simplified Grants.** The grants ranged in size from $750 to $5,000. These grants supported the purchase of playground equipment, bicycle helmets, infra-red cameras, birthday bags, books, DVD’s, holiday food baskets and more in our local communities.

Your contribution to The Rotary Foundation makes it possible for us as Rotarians to change the lives of thousands of individuals, both locally and around the world.

**THAT’S “What you GET when you GIVE” to THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**

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### Rotary Foundation Annual giving

**District 6000 Clubs • July 1, 2010 - Dec. 14, 2010***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/Club</th>
<th>10-11 Goal</th>
<th>Thru 12-14-10</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
<th>Per capita</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adel (28/29)</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>$ 25.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albia (32/32)</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ames Morning (61/63)</td>
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<td>5,700</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ames (237/247)</td>
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<td>32.74</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic (65/67)</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Davenport (133/168)</td>
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<td>Des Moines AM (138/143)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>18.12</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>9.15</td>
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<td>Manning (20/17)</td>
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<td>Marengo (12/14)</td>
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<td>Marshalltown (168/174)</td>
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<td>Northwest Des Moines (51/54)</td>
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<td>Osceola (30/31)</td>
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<td>Osksaloosa (50/55)</td>
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<td>Pella (39/41)</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>25.64</td>
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<td>275</td>
<td>63</td>
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<td>1.57</td>
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<td>West Des Moines (74/80)</td>
<td>8,970</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.72</td>
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<td>West Liberty (37/32)</td>
<td>7,400</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>67.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winterset (30/31)</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total (4,053/4,184)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 414,338</strong></td>
<td><strong>$95,608</strong></td>
<td><strong>23.08</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 23.59</strong></td>
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(*) Interim Report
A bigger, bolder Paul Harris Society

The Paul Harris Society was begun in District 6000 during Rotary’s Centennial year to recognize individuals or couples who give $1,000 or more a year to The Rotary Foundation’s Annual Programs Fund. Does your club have members who would make this commitment if asked? Read on.

By Bill Koellner/West Liberty
D-6000, Annual Giving chair

**Question:** What is the commitment level to become a member of the Paul Harris Society?

**Answer:** The District 6000 Paul Harris Society’s pledge is for a gift of $1,000 a year. Rotary Foundation Recognition Points may not be used to fund any portion of the PHS pledge. The full $1,000 must be paid during the Rotary year (by June 30), though it need not be done in one check. You may pay in installments (e.g., TRFDIRECT). Please indicate on your commitment pledge form how you will be paying if your contribution will be in installments.

**Question:** Do I have to be a Paul Harris Fellow before I become a member of the Paul Harris Society?

**Answer:** You don’t have to be a Paul Harris Fellow to become a Paul Harris Society member. If you are not already a Paul Harris Fellow, you will become one as soon as you fully fund your first year’s PHS pledge (or give your first $1,000).

**Question:** Where do I send my pledge form and check?

**Answer:** Make your check payable to “The Rotary Foundation” and send to Bill Koellner, chair, Annual Funds Program, 1110 N. Miller, West Liberty, IA 52776 along with a completed PHS pledge form. When your pledge is fully funded, your PHF will be ordered from The Rotary Foundation and your Paul Harris Society recognition will be prepared by the District.

**Question:** Will my annual PHS donation qualify for multiple Paul Harris Fellows and Major Donor recognition?

**Answer:** With each $1,000 gift you will receive multiple PHF recognition with appropriate PHF pin and stones after your first PHF. You may also name a new Paul Harris Fellow using the recognition points from your account. Each donation counts towards recognition as a Major Donor, also, which is recognized when $10,000 has been donated by an individual. All previous personal gifts to the Foundation are also counted toward Major Donor recognition. Your pledge of $1,000 annually will enable you to become a Major Donor very quickly.

**Question:** Which contributions will best benefit my club and District 6000?

**Answer:** Contributions to the Annual Programs Fund will go to fund Foundation programs. In three years the Rotary Foundation will return 50 percent of the contributions to Annual Programs Fund SHARE to the District as District Designated Funds to be used for the Foundation’s humanitarian and educational programs by the Rotary clubs in our district.

**Question:** What if I already made a contribution to the Annual Programs Fund this year? Will it count towards my Paul Harris Society contribution?

**Answer:** A personal gift already made to the Annual Programs Fund this year will count toward your Paul Harris Society pledge. For example, if you have already made a $200 gift this year, you can become a Paul Harris Society member with an additional gift of $800.

**Question:** Is the Paul Harris Society recognized by The Rotary Foundation?

**Answer:** The Paul Harris Society is an official Rotary Foundation program, but all administration and recognition is at the district level.

**Question:** Do I stop giving $1,000 a year when I reach the major donor level?

**Answer:** Your selection to be a Paul Harris Society Member is a statement of commitment to The Rotary Foundation to give $1,000 a year for a minimum of 10 years, and hopefully more.

**Question:** Who do I ask about the District 6000 Rotary Foundation Paul Harris Society?

**Answer:** District Foundation Chair Corliss Klaassen or District Annual Fund Program Chair Bill Koellner.

Coordinator meets Rotarians

District 6000 Rotarians met Rotary Foundation Annual Giving coordinator, Anita Rieder, Thursday, Nov. 11 in Iowa City. The breakfast and reception was hosted by PDG Herb Wilson. In attendance were Bill Koellner, Tom Brooke, Bruce Guither, PDG Cal Litwiller, Betty Mullen, Bitrus Guamna, PDG Gary Pacha, DG Gary Welch and Colleen, Verne Folkman and DGND Rita Perea.

District administrator Carolyn Scharff (l) is working with a new computer and wireless system at the district office in Pella, with appreciation to Iowa City Rotarian Michael Schmitz who did the installation on Oct. 28.
Hy-Vee: Hy-Vee Stores vice president of special projects, Gary Goodhall, met with RI President Ray Klinginsmith and DG Gary Welch and Colleen Oct. 23. A partnership for humanitarian service between the Iowa-based supermarket and The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is under consideration. Watch for details.

* * *

Festival: Rotarians from Districts 6000 and 5970 will again be manning the phones during Iowa Public TV’s Festival, the evening of Tuesday, March 8, 2011. Our involvement last year was fun for the participants and put Rotary’s image forward in a very positive way. IPTV officials had high praise for the professionalism of the Rotarians. Please mark the date and watch for details of the signup in January or February.

* * *

International Assembly: DGE Don Patterson and Becky of Washington will represent District 6000 at the International Assembly, Jan. 17-23, 2011, in San Diego. PDG Diana Reed of Northwest Des Moines will participate in her second year as a trainer. PDG Susan Herrick of Boone will attend the Past Officers Reunion Jan. 16-18 at the same location and is encouraging PDGs to attend.

* * *

Youth Exchange: The District 6000 Winter Retreat for Rotary Youth Exchange will be Jan. 15-16 at Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola. A weekend get together for Inbound and Outbound students will be March 5-6 at the Steeplegate Inn in Davenport, hosted by North Scott Rotary.

* * *

New Orleans: Through the generosity of PDG Herb Wilson of Iowa City who offered to donate $5,000, and a $2,500 match by the district, $1,500 was offered for clubs with 25 or fewer members to send their president-elect to the RI Convention in New Orleans. Five have accepted: Tipton, Iowa City Downtown, Marengo, Coon Rapids and Decatur County. Thank you, PDG Herb, and much success to these clubs!

* * *

Paul Harris Society: Annual Giving chair Bill Koellner reports two new members of the District 6000 Paul Harris Society (see page 29). Congratulations and a big Thank You to Tim Terry of Iowa City, and Gerald Clausen of Carroll.

PDG Dave Piersel of the Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines performed a stirring rendition of “Malaguena” for the Past District Governors Nov. 13 at the Salisbury House. Piersel, a piano virtuoso who is also a docent at Salisbury House, was district governor in 1996-97 in District 5610, South Dakota.

* * *

Smiles: The District 6000 Iowa Miles Of Smiles Team (MOST) will travel to Huehuetenango, Guatemala, Feb. 17-27 to perform cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries. It will be the sixth trip under the capable leadership of PDG Gary Pacha.

* * *

Public Relations: A “media kit” of Rotary news releases will be provided to the Iowa Newspaper Association, to be offered to newspapers for their Rotary pages. The electronic (Word) files will be posted at INA’s website, www.inanews.org.

* * *

RYLA: Watch for information about 2011 RYLA and a report from last year’s RYLA in future issues of District 6000 News.

* * *

President: The Rotary Club of Newton has a new president, Thomas Mott. His vocation is district court judge. Congratulations and good luck, Tom!

* * *

Obituaries: District 6000 News has learned of the deaths of Rotarians Richard “Dick” Sharpnack, a 52-year member of the Rotary Club of Des Moines, on Oct. 19, and Randall Winters, the longtime pianist for the Rotary Club of Des Moines, on Oct. 25. May light perpetual shining upon them.
Tell Your Rotary Stories

Clubs in District 6000 are invited and encouraged to submit news of past and upcoming activities for District 6000 News. Send Word documents and free-standing .jpg photos to: btubbs@northscottpress.com.

If you have questions, please call DG Gary Welch, (515) 964-7432; editor Bill Tubbs, (563) 285-8111; Jacque Andrew, (515) 386-2114; Karin Franklin, (319), 321-8261; or your assistant governor.

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Why attend Rotary? Some things to think about

Here are some answers to the question, “Why come to Rotary?” for you to consider the next time you’re wondering: “Should I stay at the office, play golf, go to the gym – or attend the meeting of my Rotary club?” Clip and save for reference!

By Kitte Noble/Des Moines Club Executive Secretary

Why come to Rotary?!

• Because there will be at least one person at your table whose company is worth traveling a long way to enjoy.
• Because two or three others will act as though they enjoyed the meeting more because you were there.
• Because someone will add to your knowledge by talking about his or her business or some recent experience he or she has had.
• Because someone across the room will wave at you and grin.
• Because Rotary club programs provide a continuing education.

Attend Rotary wherever you go!

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CLUB ATTENDANCE PERCENT AND RANK
August 2010 - October 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPTMBER</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
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<td>64.00%</td>
<td>67.00%</td>
<td>59.00%</td>
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<td>54.80%</td>
<td>55.60%</td>
<td>56.00%</td>
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<td>Ames</td>
<td>62.00%</td>
<td>57.00%</td>
<td>59.00%</td>
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<td>Ankeny</td>
<td>75.51%</td>
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Club leaders’ checklist

From DG Gary Welch . . .

• Secretaries submit your 2011-12 officers to RI and District administrator Carolyn Scharff (both, please!) by Dec. 31.
  • Talk to your local newspaper about a Rotary promotion in the first quarter of 2011 (p. 8).
  • Nominate a worthy club member for the Paul E. Hellewegen Guardian of Integrity Award by Jan. 31 (p. 5).
  • Watch for registration information for Multi-District PETS (p. 3) and District Conference (p. 2) and plan your club’s participation in both.
  • Encourage members to be part of Xicotepec Project Teams (p. 12)
  • Encourage members to attend the 2011 RI Convention and District 6000 Breakfast in New Orleans (11).
  • Ask members to support the East Polk Rotary’s “Iowa-Africa” fundraiser (p. 15).
  • Ask members to become involved with Rotary Youth Exchange (p. 23).
  • Encourage attendance and report your attendance monthly to District Administrator Carolyn Scharff (p. 31).
  • Plan activities to create awareness in your community of Rotary’s campaign to eradicate polio and to raise funds to meet or exceed your club’s commitment (p. 9).
  • Explore the possibility of a new club (p. 30).
  • Lead by example, and ask members to increase giving to The Rotary Foundation, including Sustaining Members ($100/year); Paul Harris Society Members ($1,000/year); Major Donors (combined personal outright or cumulative giving to the Annual Programs Fund of $10,000); Benefactors (minimum $1,000 to the Permanent Fund as an outright gift or in an estate plan); and Bequest Society Members ($10,000 or more for The Rotary Foundation in an estate plan) (p. 28-29).
  • Identify projects and plan activities to achieve 2010-11 RI President Ray Klinginsmith’s Presidential Citation and DGE Gary Welch’s District Governor’s Challenge (www.rotary6000.org).
    • Submit news of your club’s successes or upcoming events by Feb. 23, 2011 for the next issue of District 6000 News to PDG Bill Tubbs, or Karin Franklin (Iowa City) or Jacque Andrews (Jefferson).

• Happy Holidays!