



# THE LISTENER



Publication of the Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River

FEBRUARY 2014

## Foundation, district grant to fund Seeds of Service project

A portable year-round greenhouse that will allow Magnificat High School students to expand on the school's highly successful Seeds of Service project will be funded as the result of a \$5,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River and Rotary District 6630.

With construction of the "hoop house" greenhouse on Magnificat's property, the project is slated to involve over 150 students and deliver more than 200 pounds of fresh, organically-grown produce to the Rocky River and Lakewood Food Banks.

In addition to the greenhouse, funds from Rotary will be used for heavy duty gardening equipment and a commercial grade produce scale.

Seeds of Service addresses Rotary's priorities in the areas of job training (entrepreneurial education), youth leadership, and health ministry. Through the program, students will collaborate on teams to plan and manage a year-round, complex food garden to maximize agricultural output in an environmentally and financially sustainable fashion.

The project's long-term goal is to produce enough food to expand donations to the Domestic Violence Center and St. Colman's parish in Cleveland.

Mary Jo Rawlins, director of the Seeds of Service Project, has served on the staff of Magnificat High School as Campus Ministry Associate for seven years. She is a certified Master Gardener, having received her certification through The Ohio State University Extension program.

Ms. Rawlins established Seeds of Service as a pilot program at the Rocky River Community Garden last year. Ms. Rawlins and the pilot program were honored with a Certificate of Special Recognition by the City of Rocky River and Mayor Pamela Bobst. The program engaged one dozen students, and delivered approximately fifty pounds of food to the Rocky River Food Bank.

The Seeds of Service Project is the only local school project specifically organized to engage students in sustainable agricultural activities on school grounds and to donate all of its harvest to local community food banks, ensuring that those most in need in our community have access to fresh, organic produce.

The "hoop house" is a semi-permanent, year-round 16 x 32 greenhouse that can withstand the elements, is ADA compliant, and can accommodate a class of 25 students at a

time. The greenhouse will include gutter system for collecting and recycling rainwater for garden irrigation, and suspended growing benches to maximize growing space.

Its addition will allow the project to deliver enough fresh produce through the food banks to supplement 305 meals per month, nine months per year, for a total of 2,145 meals per year, impacting the eating habits and general health of those families served.

Magnificat students enrolled in biology, earth sciences, and chemistry classes will gain hands-on experience in establishing and maintaining an eco-sound, organic produce garden; and, students in the Sustainability Club, Social Justice Club, Key Club and Business Club will learn to establish and operate a socially-responsible, financially self-sufficient community service operation.

Ms. Rawlins estimates that each year, over 2,000 families in the Rocky River and Lakewood communities will benefit from the fresh produce donated to the local food banks, and approximately 170 students annually will benefit from the job and leadership training provided through the project.

Each spring, students in the Seeds of Service Project will cultivate seedling plants and seeds for sale and offer community workshops on eco-friendly gardening to raise the funds necessary for sustaining the program.

Rotarians will offer assistance with tending of the garden during the three summer months that school is not in session, mentoring the Business Club students in planning and executing the spring sale of seedlings and seeds, and assisting with transporting the produce to the food banks.

### *Members celebrate birthdays*

Celebrating birthdays in February are: 6 – John Schmucki, 11 – Jim Harris, 20 – Charles Grace, 21 – Tom English, 26 – George Frank and Chuck Gustafson, 27 – Joe Hammerschmidt, and 28 – Phil Ardussi.

A birthday donation to the club foundation or Rotary International entitles the donor to a free lunch.

### *Years of service saluted*

Rotarians with membership anniversaries in January are Dave Shaw (23 years), John Schmucki (20), Tom English (11), Phil Ardussi (10), and David Zupan (two). We salute you all for your service to Rotary and our club!

# The Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River

P.O. Box 770916, Lakewood, OH 44107  
<http://www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org>

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2013-2014

President .....	Phil Ardussi
President Elect .....	Todd Lessig
Secretary .....	Chuck Gustafson
Treasurer .....	Tom English
Directors:	
2011-2014 – Pam Gallagher-Vine, Jerry Martau, John Mielke	
2012-2015 – Phil Ardussi, Charles Eversole, Lynn Donaldson	
2013-2016 – Tom Turner, David Zupan, Jon Clark	
Past President .....	Curt Brosky

## COMMITTEES 2013-2014

### Club Service

#### Administration

Archives .....	Thom Geist
Attendance .....	John Latham
Cashiers .....	Larry Yunaska (chair), Julius Skerlan, David Zupan
Fund Raising .....	Matt Daugherty (chair), Todd Lessig, Dave Zupan
Membership/Education .....	Jon Clark
Nominations .....	Curt Brosky, Matt Daugherty, Lynn Donaldson
Sunshine .....	John Latham
Listener, Public Relations, Website .....	Lynn Donaldson
District Activities .....	Jim Lechko
Club Foundation .....	Matt Daugherty
Rotary International Foundation .....	Jim Harris

#### Meetings & Fellowship

Devotional .....	Jon Fancher
Greeters .....	David Shaw
Music .....	Charles Eversole, Jon Fancher
Program .....	Matt Daugherty (chair), Tom Turner, Pete Shimrak
Sergeant-At-Arms .....	John Mielke (chair), Chuck Gustafson, John Lamb
Social .....	Pam Gallagher-Vine

**Community Service** .....

**International Service** .....

**New Generations Service** .....

Dictionary Project .....	Jay Rounds
Rachel's Challenge .....	Jean Rounds
Youth Exchange .....	Chris Arnold (chair), Andrew Ginter

**Vocational Service** .....

## LEADERSHIP 2013-2014

**Robert "Bob" Johnson**, Governor, District 6630 (Burton Middlefield)

**Shawn Mueller**, Assistant District Governor, Cuyahoga County Northwest - Lorain County (North Ridgeville)

**Ron D. Burton**, President, Rotary International (Rotary Club of Norman, Oklahoma, USA)

## NEARBY MAKE UP OPPORTUNITIES

Avon/Avon Lake, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. Towne Center Community Campus, 200 Community Drive, Avon Lake.

Cleveland, Downtown, Thursday, Noon. Windows on the River in the Powerhouse, West Bank of Flats.

Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise, Wednesday, 7:15 a.m. Umerley Hall, Rocky River.

Middleburg Heights/Brookpark, Thursday, 7:30 a.m. Front Row Grill, 15119 Snow Road, Middleburg Heights.

North Ridgeville, Friday, Noon, North Ridgeville Senior Center, 7327 Avon Belden Road, behind City Hall.

Westlake/Bay, Thursday, 12:15 p.m. Winking Lizard, 32045 Detroit Rd., Avon.

West Shore (formerly Fairview/West Park/North Olmsted), Tuesday, Noon. 100th Bomb Group, 20920 Brookpark Road near Hopkins airport.

On-line at [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org)

## District speech contest is April 5

Rotary District 6330's Four Way Test Speech Competition is set for Saturday April 5.

Our club's annual speech contest finals will be March 31, with the winner being honored at our annual Beck Center Awards Night on April 7.

This year's district competition will be at the Harmon Middle School located directly behind Aurora High School. The district web site has been updated with contest information and a map to the location.

Approximately 150 people attend this event each year which include the students, Rotarian sponsors, and family and friends of the contestants. Attendees from prior years have commented positively about how this event promotes the importance of public speaking and the value of being able to address a live audience.

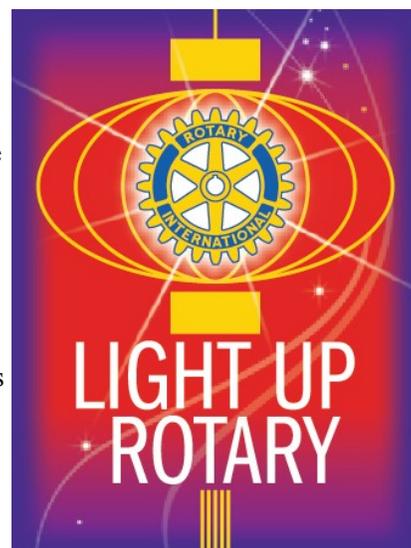
On the day of the event, as the students register they will be receiving a packet of information. The packet will contain information about the Rotary Youth Exchange, RYLA, and Rotaract, as well as other Rotary activities.

Scott Pease is again serving as District 6630 chair for the competition.

## RI president-elect chooses theme of 'Light Up Rotary' for 2014-15

RI President-elect Gary C. K. Huang has chosen Light Up Rotary as his theme for 2014-15. Huang was inspired by the teachings of Chinese philosopher Confucius, who stated, "It is better to light a single candle, than to sit and curse the darkness."

"There are so many problems in the world, so many people who need help. Many people say, 'There's nothing I can do.' So they sit there doing nothing. Meanwhile everything stays dark," Huang told the 537 district governors, their spouses and partners who attended the 2014 International Assembly in San Diego January 12-18.



*Our club's mailing address is:*  
P.O. Box 770916, Lakewood, OH 44107

*Our web site is:*  
<http://www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org>

# Upcoming meetings, activities and events

## Meetings

Remember to invite a guest to an upcoming meeting!

### February 10, Noon.

**Cleveland Indians 2014 Season Preview** – Bob DiBiasio. Entering his 35th season with the Indians and his 36th in major league baseball, Bob started in 1979 as assistant public relations director for the Indians. He is currently senior vice president, public affairs. A Lakewood native, he was the 1999 recipient of the prestigious Robert O. Fischel Award for Public Relations Excellence in Major League Baseball. He was inducted into the Lakewood High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 1999.

### February 17, Noon.

**No meeting due to Presidents Day observance.**

### February 24, Noon.

**Our International Service Projects in Nepal** – Pawan Tuladhar. A member of the Kantipur Rotary Club in Kathmandu, Nepal, Pawan Tuladhar has worked with our member and former college classmate, Kanchan Adhikary, on two projects in Nepal. The first, furnishing of a primary school in a remote village about one and a half hours from Kantipur on the Katmandu Highway, was completed in 2011. The current project is outfitting Shree Chandeswory Higher Secondary School, the only high school in Nala Village, Kavrepalanchowk District, Nepal, with an updated science lab. Spearheaded by Kanchan and our club, both projects were funded by our club, our cluster, Rotary District 6330, and Rotary International.

### March 3, Noon.

**TBA.**

### March 10, Noon.

**Outstanding West Shore Career-Tech Students Awards** – Nancy Ralls. Each year, we recognize West Shore's outstanding career-tech students. The district offers students of varying abilities and career interests a wide spectrum of rewarding, real world technical education experiences. Its programs provide students with hands-on professional training along with high-level academics in new, state-of-the art classrooms and labs. Students have the opportunity to earn college credit and/or industry credentials at no cost to their home school district, parents, or student.

### March 17, Noon.

**TBA.**

### March 24, Noon.

**Rachel's Challenge Update** – Jean Rounds. Students and advisors from Rocky River's middle and high schools will update us on what Rachel's Challenge has been doing this school year, and its plans for the future.

### March 31, Noon.

**Four-Way Speech Contest Finals** – Ed Gallagher.

Finalists from our preliminary competition will present their speeches based on Rotary's Four-Way Test. The winner will present his/her speech at the awards night on April 7 at the Beck Center, and at the district competition on April 5. (Related article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

### April 7, Noon.

**No meeting** due to Speech, Music and Visual Arts Awards Night at Beck Center this evening.

### April 14, Noon.

**Russian Free Enterprise Encouraged with the Help of American Rotary Clubs** – Sharon Tennison. See article in last month's newsletter.

### April 21, Noon.

**Junior Achievement of Greater Cleveland** – Jessica Walters. A CWRU graduate and Cleveland native, Jessica Walters develops relationships with corporate and community partners and manages JA's flagship special events – Bowl-a-Thon, Online Auction and Golf Invitational – which contribute over \$450,000 annually, providing fiscal sustainability that allows JA Cleveland to deliver programs and services to students, educators, donors, and other stakeholders in our community. She has been with JA Cleveland since September 2012.

## Events

### February 20, 5:30 p.m.

The next Thursday After Hours social will be at Pearl of the Orient, 19300 Detroit Rd. in Rocky River. Bring your significant other, friend, or another Rotarian. An informal opportunity for some social time together. This is a fun event where we have the opportunity to get to know your fellow Rotarians.

On **Thursday, March 20**, the social will be at the Rocky River Wine Bar, 1313 Linda St, Rocky River.

### March 29

**District 6630 Training Assembly, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
\$40.00 per person (includes lunch)

**Grant Management Seminar, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** No charge. Both events at the Doubletree Hilton, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence.

### April 7, 6:00 p.m.

**Speech, Music and Art Awards Ceremony** at The Beck Center. Replaces the club's regular noon meeting. The speech and music competition winners will be on stage; visual arts work will be on display. All winning students will be honored, followed by a reception. Cost to attend is \$20.00 per person.

### April 25-27

**District Conference 6630.** More information will be forthcoming.

## Members distribute 769 dictionaries

Once again this year, the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River purchased dictionaries for all 769 third grade students in Lakewood and Rocky River.

Club members take the dictionaries into the classrooms and deliver them personally to each student. They then spend time talking to the students about how Rotary is active in their communities and internationally.

Members distributing the dictionaries to the students were: Jon Clark, Marjorie Corrigan, Matt Daugherty, Lynn Donaldson, Jon Fancher, George Frank, Dick Garrett, Chuck Gustafson, Jim Harris, Todd Lessig, Jean Rounds, and Michael Shoaf. Jay Rounds was the project chairperson.

Schools receiving dictionaries were: Rocky River – Kensington Intermediate, Ruffing Montessori, and St. Christopher; Lakewood – Emerson, Grant, Harrison, Hayes, Horace Mann, Lakewood Catholic Academy, Lincoln, and Roosevelt.

The first page of each dictionary is stamped with the club's name and a copy of the Four-Way Test of Rotary.

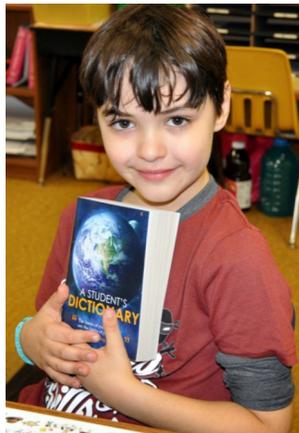
Since 2005, the club has given dictionaries to 8,032 students. The dictionaries are published by The Dictionary Project. A nonprofit organization, its goal is to assist all students to become good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing them with a gift of their own personal dictionary.

Students and teachers alike are very appreciative of the gift, and each year the club receives hundreds of letters and thank-you cards written by the students. The letters mention the students' favorite section of the dictionary and how they have begun to use the dictionary in their classrooms.

One student said that she could not wait for her dictionary as her brother received one the year before. Another student wrote, "Thank you for the dictionary. I absolutely love the planet part." A third student stated, "The thing I like best is it helps me with my writing."

The dictionary features over 32,000 words with simple, child-friendly definitions, plus pronunciation and parts of speech, and includes additional information about punctuation, the nine parts of speech, weights and measures, Roman numerals, and a map of the United States.

Over 150 pages of supplemental information in the back feature the Constitution of the U.S., the Declaration of Independence, brief biographies of all U. S. presidents, world maps, information about all 50 states, countries of the world, and the planets in our solar system. It ends with the longest word in the English language.



**A third grade student at Roosevelt School displays his new dictionary.**

## Save the date!

Planning is well underway for the Sunrise club's annual Sunrise at Sunset Auction set for Friday, May 2. The event will feature the usual reception, dinner, raffles, sideboards, and silent and live auction.

The American Youth Foundation at Lakewood High School and many community service organizations will again share in the proceeds.

## Club Foundation to award scholarships

The Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Foundation is offering four grants for study at any accredited post-high school educational institution.

Three grants of \$2,500 and one grant of \$1,000 will be awarded toward the cost of one year's tuition. Payments will be made to the institution for the recipient, with the understanding that the recipient will remain enrolled in the institution for the full year.

The application is available on the club website and from guidance counselors at the local high schools. It includes additional information, eligibility rules, basis of selection, and the procedure for submitting the application.

Applicants can fill the form out online and print it out, or print the blank form and fill it out by hand.

Applications must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. Monday, March 17, 2014. The awards will be presented on June 9 during the club's regular Monday meeting.

## News briefs

Last month, **Jon Clark** decided he would forego lunch and purchase tickets for the weekly drawing. He made the right decision, and then generously donated his winnings to the club Foundation.



Every February, **Jon Fancher** comes up with new lyrics for old tunes to get us in the spirit for Indians baseball and to celebrate Bob DiBiasio's annual visit. Thanks, Jon!



Many thanks to **Kanchan Adhikary** for agreeing to take over as club treasurer when **Tom English** steps down in June. Tom will continue as treasurer of our club Foundation.



Welcome new members, **Darrell Echard**, co-owner of Echard Enterprises in Lakewood, and **Todd Seabold**, manager of GFS Marketplace on W. 117th Street.



Save the date for our **annual golf outing** fundraiser on Monday, September 8, at Red Tail Golf Club, 4400 Lear Nagle Road, in Avon.

The outing sponsored by our club in conjunction with the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Pillars of Lakewood, and the Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club.

To be an event sponsor, donate prizes, help with the event or learn more, contact **Todd Lessig** or **Matt Daugherty**.

# Helping to establish Rotary in Volgograd, Russia

Last month's *Listener* announced the Sharon Tennison, president and founder of the Center for Citizen Initiatives (CCI), will be the speaker at our club's April 14 meeting. Ms. Tennison's visit here is to recognize and thank the club for its help establishing the Volgograd (Russia) Rotary Club in 1997.

Lakewood-Rocky River Rotarian Carl Johnson was active in helping to establish the Volgograd club, the first in Russia composed mostly of former CCI fellows. He was also present when it was chartered.

The following is a chronology of our club's involvement in establishing the Volgograd club. It is by no means complete. Many current and past members of our club and the Sunrise club had an active role in the success of this initiative, serving as officers, board members, hosting visiting delegations, arranging tours of businesses and Cleveland landmarks, and providing financial support and encouragement.

## January 1997

### *Listener* article by Carl Johnson: "Extension committee explores establishing Volgograd Rotary"

An extension committee has been appointed to develop a Rotary Club in Volgograd, Russia.

In view of the many connections between Cleveland and Volgograd, it was decided last spring to explore the possibilities for establishing Rotary in Volgograd. Things have now progressed to the point that it seems likely that was could be successful so a committee has been formed to take responsibility for this activity.

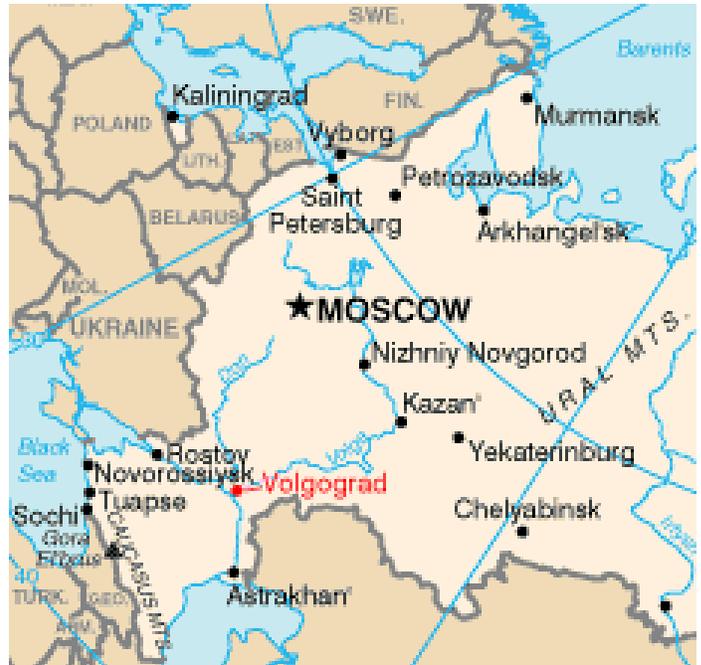
In the way of background, a Cleveland-Volgograd relationship was established in 1985 by Don Cole of the Hillcrest Rotary Club. This developed into the Cleveland-Volgograd Partner Cities organization and resulted in many cultural exchanges which are continuing.

An outgrowth of this was the establishment of the Cleveland City Club of a Free Speech Forum in Volgograd. Both the Partner Cities group and the Volgograd Forum people have encouraged us to establish a Rotary Club.

Alexander "Sasha" Yevreinov, Volgograd director of the Free Speech Forum, is assisting us in this effort. You will recall that Sasha addressed our club in July on the subject of the Free Speech Forum.

Sasha is acquainted with a business club in Volgograd which is interested in becoming a Rotary club. We are waiting approval from Jorma Lamopen of Finland, who is effectively District Governor for Western Russia, before proceeding with activation of the club.

The members of the Volgograd extension Committee are George Gregory, Jim Harris, W.C. Huffman, Carl Johnson, Nancy Malm, John Monson and Jim Saxton.



## January 27 1997

### *Board meeting.*

Nancy Malm will be bringing a young lady from Volgograd to our February 10 club meeting. (Amelia was a guest at our February 10 meeting. In the molecular welding business, she was in the U.S. to study management and marketing. She wants to start a Rotary club in Volgograd.)

## September 22, 1997

### *Board meeting.*

Carl Johnson had been trying to raise \$550 to send Olga Kriakova to the President's Conference in October. The South Savannah (GA) Rotary Club had a woman from Russia whose uncle was past mayor of Volgograd. She's now back in Russia helping Olga.

As Olga is unable to go to the conference, three members will go (paying their own way) along with the woman from the South Savannah club. Carl is asking for \$210 to help with their expenses. Our club will send the money as soon as we determine how.

For a new club, the charter fee is \$15 per member. A club has to have at least 20 members to start up. Hillcrest club may pick up this expense.

## October 27, 1997

### *Board meeting.*

Seven are coming from Volgograd area of Russia in mid-May or early June for three weeks. The needs include developing a training program, providing housing and transportation. Financial support is also needed; there will

**VOLGOGRAD. Continued on page six**

**VOLGOGRAD. Continued from page five**

also be secretarial, copying, meals, social, and other expenses.

Carl is trying to find people in banking industry to do the training. Involvement will be sought on an equal basis from these clubs – Fairview Park, Cleveland West, Westlake, North Ridgeville and Lakewood Rocky River.

There is a provisional Rotary Club now in Volgograd. Four people attended an international meeting in St. Petersburg in early October 1997. (Their district is Zurich.) They expect to have their membership application completed by end of November 1997. They have 21 members.

The Hillcrest club will pay the \$15 per person entry fee (\$315). Volgograd expects to send four to international convention in Indianapolis. They have elected a president – the past mayor of Volgograd – and other officers. The club is meeting once a week and the officers are meeting once a week also.

**November 1997**

***Listener article by Carl Johnson: “Aria II returns home to Volgograd”***

Aria II has returned to Volgograd November 8.

In mid October, Aria II was reported to be in Port Said, Egypt, at the Mediterranean end of the Suez Canal.

The Russian boat had been continuing its voyage, “Peace Around the World.” It left Volgograd in the spring of 1996 and visited us in September of that year. It continued through the Great Lakes to Chicago, then down the Mississippi and Tambigbee Rivers to Mobile, Alabama.

From there, it went through the Panama Canal and across the Pacific Ocean, stopping at the Galapagos and several other island groups.

As a result of engine problems and logistics, the voyage has taken much longer than expected. Captain Ruben Bayatyan is still aboard but the rest of the crew left the boat in Australia.

The city of Volgograd sent additional crew members to help bring the boat home.

Leaving Australia, they crossed the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea as they neared the end of their voyage.

***Listener article by Carl Johnson: “Volgograd now has provisional Rotary club”***

Olga Kriakova reports from Volgograd that the group seeking Rotary affiliation is now recognized as the Provisional Rotary Club of Volgograd.

They are meeting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and have elected the following officers:

Yuri Starovatyhk, president; Olga Kriakova, vice president; Michael Cassyanik, secretary; and Vladimir Bondarev, treasurer.

Yuri Starovatyhk has long been interested in Rotary. He is an ex-mayor of Volgograd and has visited Cleveland on a

Partner Cities exchange. He should be an excellent president.

The club sent a delegation of four to the Rotary Conference of Unity and Peace in St. Petersburg and expects to send four delegates to the Rotary International Convention in Indianapolis next June. Hopefully the delegation will be able to spend some time with us in Cleveland before or after the convention.

The club expects to apply In November to Rotary International for its charter as the Rotary Club of Volgograd. Lakewood/Rocky River will be co-sponsors with the Rotary Club of Saratov, Russia. We are waiting to hear from Volgograd as to what projects they expect to take on and as to how we could be of help.

**November 24, 1997**

***Board meeting.***

Carl Johnson asked for \$1,000 for the Volgograd forum. The Board discussed if it is appropriate for Volgograd club to have continuing relationship with our club. Should we form a new committee? Keep our current committee as a permanent committee?

Volgograd is sending three or four delegates to the Rotary International convention (in Indianapolis) next summer. Carl has encouraged the delegates to come here first, and then go to the convention with our members. They would accept financial help (to attend the convention) but won't ask for it. Hillcrest is paying their charter fee (\$315). Carl will pursue getting waiver from RI for them to attend the convention.

Cleveland Partner Cities is involved in a neonatal project for Volgograd area. Our club would like to provide a blood-gas machine (\$20,000) to Volgograd hospital using an RI grant. If Volgograd raises \$5,000, and we raise \$5,000, then RI will match (\$10,000). The hospital wants better training for its doctors.

**April 27, 1998**

Our speaker from Volgograd expressed appreciation for our members' help in sponsoring the Volgograd club as a provisional club. He also thanked Carl Johnson for working closely with their club, and Galib Alebechhoff for his hospitality.

There are 25 Rotarians in Volgograd. All were Rotarians in U.S. first. They met with RI President Glen Kinross in St. Petersburg.

“In Russia, the rich live to themselves,” he told us. “The poor see the rich as their enemy. The same conditions exist now as did 93 years ago. In Russia, nobody knows Rotarians. America gives us good experience. It is necessary for us to change the minds of people.”

He presented our club with replica of The Motherland statue from Volgograd and a banner. At the district conference, our club presented them with a gavel and bell. Official Rocky River and Lakewood city pins were presented to our guests at the meeting. Also, Vitaliy Bezrodnov was introduced.

**VOLGOGRAD. Continued on page seven**

**VOLGOGRAD. Continued from page six**

*(Editor's note: At that time, Vitaliy was member of a Rotary club in Colorado. He came to the U.S. in 1995 and joined our club in July 1998 with the classification of Musical Entertainment. He became a U.S. citizen in August 2000 and is presently a member of the Fuquay-Varina Rotary Club near Raleigh-Durham, NC.)*

**May 1999**

***Listener article: "Volgograd News"***

Tom Sammon, a native of Lakewood, is living in Volgograd and has joined Rotary there. He reports that while there are street demonstrations against the bombing of Serbia; the Russian people understand the situation and do not hold it against individual Americans. Tom has been made welcome and feels very comfortable as member of the Volgograd Rotary.

Carl Johnson plans to be in Volgograd May 23-27 to help the club celebrate the first anniversary of its charter. He will be a guest of the Volgograd club while he is there. At the anniversary celebration, Carl will represent the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River in presenting a past president's plaque to Yuri Starovatykh, and a recognition clock to Olga Kriakova for her part in starting Rotary in Volgograd, as gifts from our club.

Tom Sammon expects to return to the U. S. in May. He plans to make a report to the club when he gets an opportunity. Tom hopes to build both a commercial and Rotary connection in Volgograd.

**August 1999**

***Listener article: "Volgograd Update"***

At the club's July 19 meeting, Tom Sammon, west side resident who is member of the Volgograd club, gave a report on his business efforts with the city of Volgograd. He has been disappointed so far, but continues to work with companies here and there to establish relationships.

Carl Johnson reported on his May visit to Volgograd as the club celebrated its first complete year in existence. He was very complimentary of the club's hospitality and thanked Tom Sammon for acting as translator.

As a result of his visit to a hospital while he was there, the Volgograd club, our district, and our club made application to Rotary International for an \$8,000 matching grant to provide much needed equipment for the maternity ward at the hospital. The grant was approved and Carl hopes that this cooperative effort with the Volgograd Rotary will continue in the future. He has proposed a number of possible joint projects to the International Service Committee for its consideration.

**November 1999**

***Listener article by Carl Johnson: "The Best Rotary Club in Russia?"***

Taking a cue from the Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Club, Firudin Abdullaev, president, is now opening meetings of the Rotary Club of Volgograd with the line, "Welcome to

the Best Rotary Club in Russia." Whether or not it is the best in Russia, it is certainly a very fine club and one that our club takes a lot of pride in bringing about. Volgograd Rotary has a number of local humanitarian projects underway. In addition, it is the sponsor of a new club in Fkaterinburg and is assisting in the establishment of another new club in Voronesh.

***Listener article: "Rotary International News"***

Through the combined efforts of the Lakewood/Rocky River, Berea, Hillcrest, Westlake/Bay, and Volgograd Rotary Clubs, and District 6630, a matching grant of over \$8,000 was secured to provide an incubator for newborn babies and also a fetal monitor for the Volgograd Central District Maternity Home. Yuri Starovatykh, president of Volgograd club; Dave Skrzynski, 6630 district governor; and Carl Johnson of our club, worked together to see that this much needed equipment was provided.

**February 2000**

***Listener article by Carl Johnson: "News of Volgograd"***

We have been informed that the R I Foundation has released matching gift funds to provide a fetal monitor and an incubator for the Central Maternity Home in Volgograd, Russia. This was a joint project of our club, the Volgograd Rotary Club, and our District 6630. We were assisted by the Rotary Clubs of Berea, Westlake/Bay and Hillcrest. A total of \$ 16,100 is being provided. The Volgograd Club will follow the project closely to see that matters are handled properly and will keep us informed.

Firudin Abdullaev, who visited our club in 1998, is the current Volgograd Rotary president. He owns a group of dental clinics, and was my host when I visited Volgograd in May of 1999. The president-elect is Tatyana Gunkina, who is president of the Commercial Bank of South Russia.

Olga Kriakova, one of the club's founders, and who also visited us in 1998, reports that she is taking driving lessons and plans to purchase a car. I recently heard on the radio that the Queen Mother of England has been made an honorary citizen of Volgograd in recognition of her help securing relief for the city after it was destroyed during World War II. Since I am an honorary member of the Volgograd club, do I have something in common with the Queen Mother?

**May 2000**

***Listener article by Carl Johnson: "News of Volgograd"***

Olga Kriakova reports that the Volgograd Rotary Club is doing fine. They recently accepted two new members, one of which is the past governor of Volgograd Oblast.

The incubator and fetal monitor that was purchased from funds donated by our club, the district and matching funds from Rotary International. It is being installed and should be in operation by May. She will send photos of it in operation.

Ten Russian entrepreneurs, including three of Olga's friends, recently met with the new premier, Vladimir Putin and reported favorably to the club about him. The Volgograd

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**VOLGOGRAD. Continued from page seven**

Club sponsored a new club in neighboring Yekaterinburg. Another club that they will sponsor has applied for a charter in Voronezh, and a group in Rostov has contacted the Volgograd Club about starting a Rotary Club in their city.

In addition, the Volgograd Interact club now has 15 members and has applied to R.I. for a charter. Our club can be proud of its part in bringing Rotary to this part of the world and fostering international service.

In addition, a special Ambassadorial Scholarship that was established by the Estate of Charles Keller of the Kent Rotary Club, and has been designated for use by the Volgograd Club to enable a college student from the Volgograd area to study for one year in the U.S.

**June 2000**

***Listener article.***

The following letter was received on May 14:

Dear Friends,

The members of the Rotary Club of Volgograd send our most sincere greetings on the 75th anniversary of the founding of your club. It is a great event in the life of the club and we wish you happy celebration!

We cordially thank you for all your help and support, and hope that our friendship will continue and flourish for the benefit of our communities. We are fortunate and proud of having such wonderful and helpful friends in Rotary, and hope that our communities will continue to benefit from our mutual accomplishments.

Thank you for your help, support and encouragement. We love you, and remain your true friends in Rotary.

Tatyana Gunkina – President, 2000-2001  
Yuri Starovatykn – Charter President  
Olga Kriakova and Firudin Abdulaev  
and all members of the Volgograd Rotary Club

**July 1, 2000**

***Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Action Plan 2000/2001***

Notes on Major Committee Activities

5. International Service

d. Volgograd

- I. The committee should decide early in the year if there is an opportunity for a co-op project with the Volgograd club during the year.
- II. Any budget requests for this area would be considered based on funds available and other activities planned by the committee.

**September 2001**

***Listener – Committee News***

A group of 13 Russians are due to arrive in the area on September 12. They are coming as part of a “Productivity Enhancement Program” sponsored by the Center for Citizens Initiatives.

The program supports the development and stabilization of the Russian private sector. The visitors gain an understanding of how our free market economy functions.

There will be 13 members in the delegation from the Food Processing and Packaging Industry. It also will give them an opportunity to learn how service clubs work to the benefit of their community.

Housing is still needed for this program. The Russians will be here until October 6, if you can provide a room with twin beds for a couple of nights and possibly two meals a day, contact Carl Johnson. At least one of the people you will entertain will speak English.

Learn more about the PEP Program at the September 17 club meeting.

*(Editor’s Note: The Russians’ visit and their presentation to the club were cancelled due to the events of September 11.)*

**December 2001**

***Listener article by Carl Johnson: “News of Volgograd”***

In December, 1999, the Rotary Club of Volgograd, Russia (which was founded by our Club in 1998) received a matching grant of \$8,050 from Rotary International to purchase an ultrasonic fetal monitor and an incubator for the Volgograd Maternity Home.

An additional \$8,050 was donated by the Rotary Clubs of Volgograd, Lakewood/Rocky River, Westlake/Bay and Hillcrest, and Rotary District 6630.

The equipment was installed in 2000. Over the past year, 255 pregnancies were monitored, and 281 infants used the incubator.

In this short time, infant deaths have been reduced by 6% (or 18 infants), and newborn sickness rates dropped from 349 to 322 out of 1,000. Even more dramatic results are expected in the future.

The Volgograd Club thanks all of the members and clubs who supported this project, and made it possible to save these young lives.



**Smitty Haller (left) and President Phil Ardussi (right) congratulate Jean and Jay Rounds on becoming Paul Harris Fellows at our January 13 meeting.**