



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

Rotary Pride - Catch It!



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Governor Bill's Thoughts

December is Family Month

As we enter the month of December, our families become the focus of our lives. We celebrated Thanksgiving for all the wonderful things we have been given this past year and now we concentrate on those that mean so much to us. Let us strengthen our Rotary ties as well by stating to all that we personally support our Rotary Motto – Service above self. There are innumerable opportunities to volunteer in our community to make this season brighter for those that are not as fortunate as we. Invite your family to join you at soup kitchen, a food drive or ringing the bell at the famous Red Kettles to share themselves with others. The reward received is far greater than anything we can buy!

Remaining on the theme of providing service – the FLEX Club of the Lehigh Valley provides the best opportunity for you to make up a meeting. Sue Reeps, their on-line program chair provide great e-learning opportunities each week – yes they are different each week – for you to catch up on Rotary news and Rotary information. Just a 30 minute Make up session and you are fulfilling your weekly attendance requirement. The great part is you will become a far more enlightened Rotarian with each session. Go to <http://lve.clubexpress.com> and check out this great opportunity!



November marked the beginning of the effort to connect our 28 plus Interact clubs. We had four regional meetings of Club and High School Interact advisers who want to begin a drive to connect the High School clubs with a goal of having Interact gatherings in the Spring that are planned by the young people. If we missed you please send me an email at billjahn7430@gmail.com.

November was a month of super Rotary Club functions. Birdsboro had its 9th annual International Wine and Food Tasting event. The \$6,637 proceeds support the Club's philanthropic endeavors. Warminster Rotary held its annual Gala Ball – 250 community supporters dressed to the hilt supported this function honoring Andrew Kocher was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at 18 months of age. See story below. DG Bill took the opportunity to present the Clubs 50 year Certificate to President Katie Farrell.



Speaking of presentations - Rotary International presented banners to Doylestown, Ambler and Emmaus as our Top Three per capita Foundation giving clubs. In addition Morrisville-Yardley received recognition as our only EREY club – well done! What a super opportunity to recognize strong Foundation support.



Have you been to an “International Convention? PDG Jack Brent wants to insure you have all the latest information about attending the 2012 Convention in Bangkok Thailand. Please contact Jack if you are planning to attend or have questions at - jfbrent@comcast.net I know you will be able to get together in one of the world's greatest cities to celebrate Rotary.

Please read on – Rotary is as wonderful way to share what good can be done in the world by a network of concerned individuals that truly share the value of “SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

HAPPY HOLIDAYS – Bill and Karen

Yvette M. Palmer: A Life Well-Lived, A Life Long-Remembered

Yvette M. Palmer, 71, of Emmaus, PA passed away on Friday evening, December 2, 2011, following a long battle with lymphoma, in her home surrounded with family.

Yvette is survived by her husband, William E. Palmer, sisters Helen Tobin of White Salmon, WA and Shirley Broyles of Fort Mill, SC, her daughter, Kimberly Johnston-Pyne of Emmaus, and son, William L. Harris of Concord, NH.

Also there are grandchildren Mitchell Harris of Boston, MA and Amber Harris of Concord, NH along with Bryandon Johnston and Arista Pyne of Emmaus, PA, Kathi Calandra of Bethlehem, PA, and Thomas Johnston of Allentown, PA.

Yvette was the loving stepmother for Erica Mitchell of Shelburne, VT, Carl Hausler, Jr of VT, Wendy Hausler of Jacksonville, FL, Mark Hausler of ME, Ethan Hausler of Little River, SC, David Palmer of Perkasio, PA and Richard Palmer of Mercerville, NJ.



Yvette M. Palmer, CMA, PDG was born and raised in New England. She pursued her Bachelor's degree in Accounting the hard way — beginning at age 30, while working and raising 2 children. She attended college nights and weekends, until graduating 8 years later summa cum laude from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Her MBA from Southern New Hampshire College was earned much the same way. Later she added Certified Management Accountant to her educational accomplishments.

Yvette began her career in finance in 1975. She left her position with a venture capital firm in Boston to come to Pennsylvania in 1987 to startup a newly acquired division for a former client. She was their Chief Financial Officer in the Lehigh Valley. In 2000, Yvette officially retired, but she was really just shifting gears.

In 2001, she and her husband, Bill, established a financial consulting business, *CFO & Stuff, LLC*, a part-time endeavor, primarily aimed at assisting start-up and early-stage companies develop strategic plans and find money.

Her “retirement” also gave her the time to delve even more deeply into her “third career.”

The motto of Rotary International, a world-wide service organization, is “Service Above Self.” Yvette believed passionately in service and dedicated her life to helping others. As a Rotarian for over 20 years, Yvette held leadership roles of all kinds, chaired major fund-raising campaigns, and taught others by example and word how they could be of service.

In 2002-2003, Yvette served as District Governor for District 7430 of Rotary International. The district covers the counties of Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Bucks and Montgomery, has 47 Rotary clubs and 2000 Rotarian members.

As 02-03 District Governor, Yvette led the Polio Eradication campaign, achieving donation of over \$360,000! The Annual Programs Fund of Rotary International's Foundation exceeded all-time giving in any one year, with over \$135,000. And she introduced a Wheelchair campaign, which resulted in over 840 wheelchairs donated (a \$64,000 investment).

Following her DG year, Yvette continued to serve the District as Committee Chair of the following: Budget, Finance, Legislative, Scholarship, P.R. & Nominating. She also served 3 years as District Foundation Chair, as District Trainer for 2 years, and as Chair of the Polio and Major Giving Committees. Additionally, Yvette served 3 years as Zone 32 TRF Strategic Advisor for 8 Districts & Membership Zone Coordinator for 8 Districts. She also served on several Zone Institutes, chaired the DGN Forum at Zone 31-32 Institute in 2004 plus the Mentor Program in 2005 and was Program Chair for 2009. She was elected General Chair of the Mid-Atlantic multi-district Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) (2010-2011) and was a Regional Vice-Chair for the Rotary Leadership Institute. She also led the District in the Open World Program and served on the MAST and INK Ambassadorial Scholarship committees. And Yvette represented the District at the 2007

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Council on Legislation. Yvette represented the President of Rotary International at three District Conferences.

Beyond Rotary, Yvette offered her energy and talent to help many area organizations. Yvette served on : Board of Governors, Lehigh County Chamber of Commerce; Board of Ambassadors, Lehigh Carbon Community College; Board of Directors, Lehigh Chapter of the PA Economy League; Board of Directors, Allentown Economic Development Commission; Allocations Committee of the United Way of Lehigh Valley; and the Allentown Enterprise Zone Study Committee. Plus she was Lehigh County Captain for the Capital campaign for Kutztown University.

Additionally, Yvette was a member of the Board of Directors and/or Finance Committees for the following organizations: Small Business Council of the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Kutztown University Community Scholars Program. Yvette was a 13-year member of the Board of LEAP and served as its Treasurer, and she served on the Financial Audit Committee for Phoebe Ministries.

Yvette received the Community Partnership Award in 1995 from the Allentown-Lehigh County Chamber of Commerce for her Leadership in the economic development arena. In 1999, Yvette received the Lehigh County Athena Award (Business Woman of the Year), which was followed by a Spotlight Award from the East Penn Business Journal in recognition of her leadership and service to the community.

In 2010, The Ben Franklin Technology Partners presented her their Entrepreneurial Advocate Award, given to individuals who have contributed their leadership, time, and expertise to helping entrepreneurs accomplish their goals. She earned this award because she demonstrated a sincere and selfless desire to see the region thrive and backed up her commitment with action.

Yvette was an inspiration to all who knew her. She was generous with her time, treasure, and talents. Her counsel was constantly sought and freely given. Her achievements and contributions to the community and to the broader world through her work with Rotary International speak volumes.

Two words come to mind about Yvette: involvement and compassion. Only someone who was so involved with her community and determined to do the best for all concerned, who had a deeply ingrained sense of fair play, tempered with a passion to level the playing field for all, would give so much of herself personally to see that *something happened*. Yvette made sure that *something happened*. She was a woman of grit and determination, who showed us daily that the only limitations we need accept are those that we put on ourselves. She was a person of strength and character and one who accepted no limitations. Yvette inspired countless others by her example.

Less visible to the community, but readily seen by family and friends, was Yvette's never-ending supply of love. Yvette grew love by planting love. She gave support, kindness, advice, wisdom, laughter, comfort, shelter, and lots of hugs to family members in need. She helped us weather the ups and downs, and the way-way-downs, of life until we were able to sail on our own again. She helped us see that we could be more than we believed we could be. And she helped us turn our visions into reality.

The family suggests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Miller-Keystone Blood Center, 1465 Valley Center Parkway, Bethlehem, PA 18017 or to The Rotary International Foundation Annual Programs Fund.

2012 District Conference: Rotary Pride—Catch It!

As we begin to look forward to 2012, please mark your calendars for the 2012 District Conference on April 20, 21, and 22. This year's conference will be held over three days at two venues. Bear Creek Mountain Resort is once again the site of the 2012 conference. Bear Creek is located in our District, in Macungie, PA. It is a beautiful location and attendees of the 2011 conference will attest to the fantastic service and beautiful accommodations provided. This year, however, Friday night is going to be held off-site. We are starting our weekend at the America on Wheels Museum in Allentown. This venue will allow for fellowship, fun and a few hundred Rotarians to come together to share their stories about what makes them proud to be Rotarians.



Watch the District Newsletter each month for new information as we verify speakers and conference highlights. Information and registration forms for the conference will be distributed to clubs beginning in January. But for now, mark your calendars and make your New Year's Resolution to join District 7430 for the conference on April 20, 21, and 22!!

Interact Adviser's Meetings



Four regional meetings were held in November to begin to improve the communication among the Rotary Club and High School advisers of our Interact program. We have a tremendous number of young people, approximately 1400, that are seeking ways to serve their community and Interact is meeting the bill. During the meetings we identified several key things about the Interact program. These are:

- The difference between Rotary Clubs and Interact Clubs
- Interactors are not Jr. Rotarians
- Interact is a separate Rotary organization
- RCs sponsor an Interact club, we do not own them
- Interact fundraisers are not necessarily about the amount of money raised, rather the enjoyment the members get from the service and fellowship. A successful event may net \$25 and they are happy. Do not apply Rotary standards of success to ICs.

For additional notes please contact DG Bill Jahn.

Rotary United Nations Day

Several hundred Rotarians recently made the trip to New York City for the annual Rotary Day at the U.N. The participants had a tour and briefing at the main headquarters, which included information on some of the more interesting events and activities that have taken place through the years. What follows is an abbreviated summary of some of the highlights:

The millennium goals are a key focus at the U.N. and everyone was interested in receiving an update on the progress that is being made around the world. In some cases there has been good progress but in some regions of the world there is a long way to go before sufficient improvements are seen.

There has been some significant reduction in poverty over the past 25 years with life expectancy increased from 46 years to 68. Child mortality rates have been halved and in 2008 were below 10 million per year for the first time. Despite increased population growth, average incomes have doubled and literacy rates have risen to 78.6

Some interesting (and possibly disturbing) facts learned by the group came from a review of total estimated Global Spending Priorities by all countries:

- \$1.46 trillion spent on military budgets
- \$300 billion spent on farm subsidies worldwide, only
- \$100 billion devoted to development assistance, and only
- \$25 billion put toward U.N. initiatives such as governance, peace, poverty and health

Maternal and Child Health was first on the program with global leaders speaking on the issues that surround this challenge. It is estimated that between 50% and 60% of mortalities take place in village home settings because mothers cannot go to the larger centers for medical help. Health education, culture and rural economic development all affect this problem. The shortage of adequately trained health care professionals is a key factor. In East Africa, e.g., R.I. and Aga Khan University Foundation are working on a joint venture to improve this situation.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene was next on the agenda with a note that diarrheal diseases are a huge cause of mortality in our world at 1.1 million deaths per year. It is the second leading cause of death (after pneumonia) in children under 5 years of age. The goal is to have "improve" water that is sourced within one mile of homes. In addition, simple latrines are necessary to prevent human feces being in contact with people. Water, sanitation and hygiene is a keystone to development. There is a need to promote national government campaigns to monitor and treat water quality and storage in homes. A holistic approach with WHO and the market environment is needed.

Report on Rotary in Haiti - Significant progress has been made in providing education for the children of Haiti. A number of Rotary projects in that country have made schools better by providing feeding kitchens, water filters available, and reducing the threat of cholera. So far some 30,000 children have been in literacy programs with 36 schools rebuilt. Three bridges were also rebuilt, necessary to allow the masses to travel to school. To date, \$2.1 million of Rotary contributions has been leveraged into \$6.5 million worth of aid to our Haitian friends. Congratulations to those of you who have helped.

Engineers Without Borders Presents to Northwestern Lehigh Interact Club

Herb Klotz, a member of the Allentown West Rotary, presented to the Northwestern Lehigh Interact Club on November 9th. Herb is also a member of the Lehigh Valley Professionals chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB-LV). EWB-Lehigh Valley has received a Rotary Foundation grant of \$50,000 for a project at the Centennial School in Mattru Jong, Sierra Leone. The grant money is being used to install solar panels at the school during November, 2011 so that the 1200 students enrolled will have lighting for the first time. The travel team will be meeting with Rotary members in Freetown, Sierra Leone during their visit. The goal of the Centennial School project is to develop appropriate, sustainable water and sanitation systems and provide appropriate electricity.



Herb's presentation introduced the NW Lehigh Interact club members to Engineers Without Borders' mission, local and international projects and university chapters. Locally, the Lehigh Valley Chapter of EWB is working on energy improvements for the Third Street Alliance in Easton. This shelter provides a safe environment for women and children while they get back on their feet.

For more information about EWB-Lehigh Valley please contact Gwenn Carr, a member of the Allentown West Rotary club at gwenn.carr@verizon.net. You do not need to be an Engineer to join the Chapter and the goals are complimentary to the goals and objectives of Rotary.

Solar Panels Provide Opportunity for Sierra Leone Students to Study

There is no running water, sewer system or electricity at Centennial Secondary School in Mattru Jong, Sierra Leone. In November the Lehigh Valley Professionals chapter of Engineers Without Borders installed solar panels to provide classroom lighting at the school. This was possible due to a Rotary International Foundation grant. The Allentown West and Emmaus clubs are partnering in this effort.

The Centennial Secondary School was a thriving boarding school before Sierra Leone's civil war. Today the school is a shell of its former self but serves 1,500 children who commute to the school. When asked their top needs the students responded that they wanted lighting so that they could study in the evening. There is no electric grid for more than 50 miles. The installation was successfully completed by a small team of professionals from the Lehigh Valley who partnered with an in-country nonprofit, Energy for Opportunity. One of the highlights of the trip was a lighting ceremony to celebrate "Lights On" in the classroom building.

In addition to the solar photovoltaic system installation, the team completed additional assessment work to determine next steps on the water supply system. The team also caught up with members of the Freetown Rotary. In 2009 Engineers Without Borders-Lehigh Valley Professionals made a five year commitment to improving this rural African school located in the Southern Province of Sierra Leone. The November installation was another step forward to restoring the school and providing educational opportunities for thousands of students.

Club News

Warminster Rotary Honors Fundraiser Recipient

This year, the rotary club honored 8-year-old Andrew Kocher, who will receive a cash donation raised by the club. Kocher is diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

The banquet rooms at the [Spring Mill Manor Country Club](#) were

packed with tuxedos, elegant dresses, and dancing on Saturday night, as part of the [Warminster Rotary Club's](#) annual charity ball.



This year, the rotary honored 8-year-old Andrew Kocher, of Warminster, who will receive a cash donation raised by the club. Kocher was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when he was 18- "I feel honored to have [Kocher] picked," said Kocher's mother, Diane Charlton.

Charlton said that it was difficult for her when she first learned that her son had the disease. "The doctor pretty much just walked in and said 'Oh, your son has cerebral palsy' and then walked out. I was 25 at the time and had no idea what that meant for my son," Charlton said, "Emotionally, I was feeling everything and anything."

Despite his disease however, Kocher is always in high spirits. Saturday night at the ball, Kocher smiled and danced and gave peace signs to the cameras that walked by.

Kocher is also extremely active and has been playing for the Hatboro Little League Baseball team for the last three years.

This is partly due to the constant encouragement from Kocher's twin brother, Kevin.

"[Kevin] pushes him a lot. [Kocher] wants to do everything that his twin does," Charlton said.

Kocher said that he has good and bad days, but hates having to wear his leg braces when he sleeps at night.

As Kocher has proven by his active lifestyle, he will not let his condition hold him back from his dreams.

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Kocher said that he wants to play football when he's older and that his favorite team was the Philadelphia Eagles.

"My favorite player is Michael Vick. I want to be a quarterback," Kocher said.

The yearly charity ball is the club's largest fundraiser and is accompanied by a plethora of donated raffle items.

Two tickets to the Philadelphia Flyers vs. New York Islanders game were one of this year's hot items.

Each year, after the charity ball, the board of directors chooses from a list of nominations as to who they will help raise money for. Warminster Rotary Club Director Antonello Ianieri said that the winning nominee is usually a child that has some form of disability.

"We look at financial need as well and we try to find residents of Warminster, but we've gone out of the township in the past as well," Ianieri said.

100 percent of the money collected from coin-jars set up in businesses around Warminster and a significant portion of the proceeds from the charity ball will go to the chosen recipient and their family.

The rotary club also celebrated their 50th year of service on Saturday and was presented with a certificate of congratulations by District Governor Bill Jahn.