District Governor’s Message

Dear Rotarians of District 5630,

During July, I have enjoyed several club visits and I’m pleased with the variety of projects these clubs are engaged in or will be starting soon. The hospitality has been great and the Rotarians I have met have all been caring individuals with the goal of “Service above Self.”

The club visits must be one of the most enjoyable duties the District Governor performs. So I look forward to the rest of the club visits. I have started to create a list of the types of projects our clubs are involved with each year. I am requesting each club prepare a list of all the projects/programs on a single sheet and have it ready when I visit your club. I will share these results with you later in the year. The bonus of club visits is I have always been interested in Nebraska and learning about each Rotary community has been a treat.

In the Rotary world, August is Membership & Extension month. All District 5630 clubs are encouraged to join the “5 for 1 Membership Blitz” as we work together to focus on recruiting new members for all of our clubs during August. With additional members, we can provide additional service for people in need locally and internationally. Be sure and share your successes with the rest of the district clubs so we can all celebrate the men and women joining the Family of Rotary.

We need your help... Details are taking shape for our District GSE team trip to District 3030 in India in January of 2011. The team will arrive in Mumbai on January 15th, take a flight to Nagpur and end their life-changing experience in Nasik on February 12th. We plan to send a team of four plus our team leader. Candidates must be non-Rotarians between 25 and 45 years of age. All clubs are encouraged to visit with folks in their community that may be interested in applying to be on the team. Complete information on applying will be sent to all clubs in the next week.

Yours in Rotary,
Dave Snow, District Governor

Start the Rotary Year Off Right!

Foundation and Membership Seminars

Ramada Inn - Kearney
August 7, 2010
Contact Dian Edwards to Register
402.340.6166 or dian@kmtel.net

District Directories

Clubs who have not received their 2010-2011 District Directories yet may pick them up at the Foundation and Membership Seminar in Kearney on Saturday, August 7th.
Local Rotary club helps to transform man’s life

by Mary Pierce - Keith County News, Ogallala, Ne

There were many moist eyes in the room of Rotarians when David Fowler presented a program June 17 on the Alliance for Smiles project, of which he is a volunteer.

“This,” Fowler said, pointing to a projected image on the wall of a middle age man smiling broadly, “This is what you paid for.” If 42-year-old Richard Tetteh were in the room he may have struggled to find the words to express his gratitude to the group of business and professional people in a small western Nebraska town who had paid for the surgery to repair a cleft lip and palate.

Yet, his smile would have said it all.

Thanks to a $1,100 donation from the Ogallala Rotary Club, in April, in Accra, Ghana, Tetteh underwent surgery on a cleft lip. “The greatest gift you gave a man was a smile,” Fowler said.

Cleft lip and palate are conditions in which the tissues of the mouth or lip don’t form properly during fetal development. While in America cleft lip and palates are routinely fixed within months of a child’s birth, that is not so in many countries.

“In third world countries, they don’t have that luxury,” he said.

Not only are many families in third world countries not financially able to pay for the surgery, many doctors are not skilled in the repair process.

Enter Alliance for Smiles.

Alliance for Smiles is a volunteer, non-profit entity that organizes surgical teams to sites for two-week missions to provide medical treatment to children with cleft lip and palate deformities in under-served areas of the world. The medical team also aims to educate local medical practitioners on proper medical techniques and procedures. Teams consist of approximately 20 volunteer plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, pediatricians, nurses and dentists, who are supported by 10 non-medical volunteers.

Rotary Clubs, both nationally and internationally, are among sponsors of Alliance for Smiles, and help with funding. Fowler said, during the mission to Ghana, In addition to Tetteh, 77 children received surgery. While the value of the surgical and most of the dental procedures for the Ghana Alliance for Smiles mission were approximately $380,000, which averages to $5,000 per patient, the actual cost was $1,000 per patient and was funded by monetary and in-kind donations.

Fowler, who owned and operated Fowler Photography at Ogallala for 17 years, has served as a photographer on 13 Alliance for Smiles mission trips since he retired in 2006. During those trips, he has seen first-hand the miraculous work of the medical team and the affect they have had on hundreds of children’s lives.

While many have witnessed the change in a child’s physical appearance after a surgery, Fowler said for an adult who has lived with the condition for decades, the physical improvement can be secondary to the emotional and mental changes that also appear.

Fowler said Tetteh’s parents spent years and all the money they had in pursuit of surgery for their son. Time and again, Tetteh would be scheduled for surgery, and the family would make the long bus trip from the village only to have the procedure cancelled.

Out of love and in an effort to protect their son from unkind children, Tetteh was not allowed to go to school. At 18, only after his parents had died and he had to support his five siblings, did he attend school for the first time while also working on neighboring farms. In junior high, he quit school because he had to work full-time to support the family.

Today, Tetteh is married and has four children. He farms a small piece of property in the village of Okurasa in the eastern region of Ghana. He is able to produce enough food for his family, and for income, he works in neighboring fields.

Tetteh, by way of a friend of a friend of a friend, heard about Alliance for Smiles, and he undertook the 20-hour journey to Accra. Fowler said Tetteh did not tell his wife or children why he was going to be gone from the farm because he didn’t want them to be disappointed if the surgery didn’t happen.

Fowler said there are no words to describe how they all felt as Tetteh looked at himself in the mirror after surgery, and that he wishes he could have been at Tetteh’s home when his family saw him.
Five for One membership contest starts now

August is here and the Membership contest that your club president has been talking about will begin. The program is called Five for One. I will let you know how my club is running the contest so that you have an idea on what your club can do to tailor it to your club.

The North Platte Sunrise Rotary Club appointed five team captains. After one of our meetings we went through and drafted members to be on our teams. The Captain is responsible for motivating and challenging his team to bring in and MENTOR as many new members as possible.

Our club is off to a great start. We will be inducting two new members next week and we have already inducted one new member. Our club is excited for the competition as the team that brings in the most new members will have breakfast purchased for them by the team that brings in the fewest. Notice I did not say losing team. We are not here to put people down, but to drive every Rotarian to bring in and MENTOR as many new members as possible.

Rotary is a great place to mentor and be mentored by a number of great leaders. Bring in some new people and help them grow as business people, Rotarians, and most importantly as people. Have a great August. If you have questions about where to look for new members e-mail me at scott.olesky@gmail.com

Remember, it's not a pin, it's a lifestyle.

—Scott Olesky, Membership Chair

Brief messages from the District Governor

All Club Secretaries: Please send a copy of your RI Semiannual Report-July, 2010 to me at 1107 Baxter St., St. Paul, NE 68873

Clubs with a newsletter: Please send a copy of your newsletter to me: 1107 Baxter St., St. Paul, NE 68873 or dpclsnow@charter.net

I want to THANK the following advertisers for purchasing the ads in the 2010-2011 District Directory. Please express your appreciation to them:

- Lela Ladd Agency - McCook
- Adams Bank & Trust-Ogallala & other sites
- Union Bank - Valentine
- Office Genie - Holdrege
- Young's Western Wearhouse-Valentine
- Farm Bureau Agent-Tam Mortimer-St. Paul
- Heartland Elk Guest Ranch-Valentine
- Matelyn Retirement Community - St. Paul
- Jordan's Fine Dining - Valentine
- Bazata Wealth Management Group - Kearney
- 19th Annual Nebraska Cowboy Poetry Gathering
- Complete Eyecare Associates - North Platte
- Visit Valentine - Valentine Chamber
- Brewers Canoes & Tubers - Valentine
- Aquila Limousine - Grand Island/St. Paul
- St. Paul Rotary Club
- Valentine Rotary Club
- Holiday Inn Mid-Town - Grand Island
- NebraskaLand National Bank - North Platte

—Dave Snow, District Governor

Long-Term Exchange students arrive this month

Beginning August 3, eight long term exchange students will begin arriving in Nebraska. Clubs in District 5630 will host four boys and four girls from Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Brazil, Germany and France.

Rotarians Dick and Paula Witt of the Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club and Ronna Morse of the Valentine Rotary Club have been conducting training sessions for the host clubs and host families in preparation for their students’ arrivals. Thanks to these clubs who will be hosting long-term exchange students this year: Alliance, Chadron, Grand Island Sunrise/Grand Island Noon, Grant, Hastings Sunrise/Hastings Noon, Kearney Noon/Kearney Dawn/Kearney On the Bricks, McCook and Ogallala.

—Ronna Morse, RYE Chair
District 5630 students participate in Short Term Exchange

This summer two students from District 5630 are participating in the Rotary Short Term Youth Exchange program. This exchange is a family to family exchange that lasts from 4-6 weeks for each student.

In June, Abby Allen, daughter of Cindi and Doug Allen of Ogallala, traveled to Palermo, Italy for the first portion of her exchange. She was hosted by Andrea Romano and his family for a month. Abby found the people of Sicily to be very warm and open. She said it was very easy for her to make friends. She has many invitations to return and stay with her new found friends.

On July 19, Andrea Romano, Abby’s exchange partner arrived in Nebraska to stay with the Allen family for a month. Andrea said the first thing he noticed about America is how much freedom we have and the second thing was how big and open things are here. Andrea says he loves America.

Alex Bracht of McCook, son of Kenneth and Kim Bracht, formerly of McCook and now of Elkhorn, is participating in an exchange in Brazil. He and his exchange partner Kaue Torres Topjdian recently toured Sao Paulo. Alex wrote that he has visited the Ipiranga Museum, been to the Banespa Tower, Masp, two colleges, downtown Sao Paulo, a rodeo, Japanese Street in Sao Paulo, Cidade Jardin Shopping Mall, Saint Benot Cathedral, Sao Paulo’s Cathedral at Se Square and all around his host city of Sao Jose do Rio Preto and the towns of Ara-catuba and Mirassol.

Alex wrote that he has been having a lot of fun and seeing many things. He said the culture and people are very interesting and very different from the United States. He added, “I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity and I would like to thank you and the Rotary Club for all your help.”

Alex will return August 14 and Kaue will come to Nebraska in December or January for his part of the exchange.

Three of eight students from District 5630 have departed for their host countries as part of the 2010-11 Rotary Youth Exchange Program. On July 29, Dakota Bergen of Paxton left for Sweden. Samantha DeRosa of Chadron left on Friday, July 30 en route to Brazil and Esther Petersen’s destination on July 31 was Denmark. Soon Janet Kuskie of Grant will head for Finland, and later this month Jeannie Kuskie of Grant and Sara Babcock of Hastings will go to France. Blake Yarrington of Merna and Carey McGehee of Hastings will leave for Germany. We wish them well and look forward to their reports.

—Ronna Morse, RYE Chair
ShelterBox responds quickly

Here’s the latest update on the ShelterBox Response. Please make sure your club considers at least one ShelterBox during the 2010-2011 Rotary year. Thanks.

—C.J. Rezac, ShelterBox Chair.

From: Emily Sperling  [mailto:ESperling@shelterboxusa.org]
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2010 6:50 AM
Subject: ShelterBox USA Reps: Pakistan floods update

Families housed in ShelterBox tents days after Pakistan floods
Homes washed away, infrastructure destroyed and hundreds dead. This is the scene in Pakistan after the worst flooding in more than 80 years.

406 ShelterBoxes have already been distributed to families rescued from the floods in the Punjab and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KPK) regions. A further 600 ShelterBoxes are set to be distributed in the next 24 hours.

ShelterBox Field Operations Advisor, Mark Pearson, returned from Pakistan two weeks ago where he was coordinating the distribution and storage of 1,900 ShelterBoxes.

‘I was working in Pakistan in response to flooding in the south and the north but also to pre-position ShelterBoxes to ensure a rapid response to a disaster of this magnitude,’ said Mark.

‘We’ve worked with NRSP (National Rural Support Programme) and Rotarians in Pakistan for the past five years and they requested our equipment be pre-positioned as they knew the worst monsoon season in years had been predicted.

‘Because of our work with NRSP, we were able to respond instantly and just days after the floods and families are now being sheltered beneath our tents.’

Desperate need
NRSP say there is a desperate need for shelter, food, water, non-food items, medicine, tools and support to begin the rebuilding process.

The unprecedented floods in the KPK region has hit the districts ofCharsadda, Nowshera, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Malakand and Swat. People were caught in the middle of the night when rushing flood waters engulfed their homes leaving thousands homeless within a matter of minutes.

ShelterBox Head of Operations, John Leach, added: ‘Our forward planning and strategic alliance with NRSP means we’ve been able to get aid to families in most need within 48 hours of the floods hitting.’

Rains in Pakistan have now stopped but Pakistan’s Meteorological department say more rain will hit the country in the coming days. Emily Sperling
Director of Operations
ShelterBox USA

Foundation gifts benefit Rotary and the Rotary member

There are many ways that you as a Rotary member can give to The Rotary Foundation. Why don’t you give to The Foundation in a way that will benefit you financially as well as personally.

A good way to give and get is to set up a gift annuity. You will get a tax deduction as well as a quarterly stipend depending on your age. You need to talk to your tax advisor to get the particulars.

If you have extra money, instead of having it in a money market account or other low interest rate account you could get a better return in a gift annuity and know that you are doing good for others through Rotary. Gifts to The Rotary Foundation are the ways to give and know that you are making a difference. We all need to give and help to make this a better world in which to live.

—Frank Sibert, Foundation Chair
Polio Plus Update: outbreaks and gains mark the battle

POLIO OUTBREAKS IN AFRICA AND ASIA

The United Nations World Health Organization reported in July that a recent polio outbreak in Angola could spread to neighboring countries and is urging action to assure vaccination is made available for local children. At least 15 case of wild poliovirus type 1 have been recorded across Angola since the start of the year and WHO warns the pattern of recorded cases suggests the outbreak is expanding.

New vaccination campaigns are needed because an estimated 25% of children have not been vaccinated and are not only susceptible to infection but may also spread the virus to others. WHO is calling on all travelers to or from Angola to ensure they are fully vaccinated against polio to avoid further spread.

The polio outbreak in Tajikistan now tallies 430 cases since the beginning of the year. (More than all the cases from other countries combined.) There have been nineteen fatalities. Seven cases were detected in Russia and traced back to Tajikistan. The Tajikistan outbreak has been linked to polio strains from Northern India. Tajikistan has already held four NIDs (National Immunization Days) in response to the outbreak and coverage has been reported to be high. Rotary International has teamed with WHO to support the Tajikistan vaccination response.

After the spring outbreak of polio on Tajikistan, neighboring Kyrgyzstan has been working with WHO to mount a new vaccination campaign. So far no new cases have been reported in Kyrgyzstan, but concern remains that the recent ethnic violence in southern Kyrgyzstan may fail to reach internally displaced persons (IDPs). Southern Kyrgyzstan was the scene of recent violent attacks, primarily against ethnic Uzbeks, which left 335 people dead. The vaccination campaign in July was estimated to have reached 56 percent of the intended 670,000 children under age five. A second round of vaccinations will be conducted in late August.

GLOBAL GAINS AGAINST POLIO

The number of new polio cases reported for the entire world as of late July, 2010 was 576 year-to-date. This compares with 730 cases for the same period in 2009. It is very encouraging to note that the number of cases in endemic countries has risen to 503 in 2010 compared to 503 in 2010 compared to 191 in 2009. This is primarily a reflection of the outbreak in Tajikistan, this spring.

Countries which have reported no new cases for 2010, to date, include: Guinea, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Burundi, CAR, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, Benin and Togo. These statistics continue to show that END POLIO NOW is making progress.


Delane Wycoff, Polio Plus Chair