



Rotary Pride - Catch It!

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Governor Bill's Thoughts

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Rotary Awareness and History Month

As we enter the new calendar year, please review all the great things your club has done in the first half of our Rotary year. Did you raise a great deal of funds for your charitable contributions? Did you work alongside other community volunteers to build your community? This is the month that we should focus on **Rotary Awareness** by letting our communities know just how valuable Rotary is to them. Please take a minute to review the RI Webpage for creating awareness (<http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/RunningAClub/InformingTheCommunity/Pages/PromotingRotary.aspx>)

This is also a good time to review **Rotary History** with your members and in particular have a fireside chat with new members. You will find resources on our District Web site as well as this one at RI. Celebrate Rotary Awareness Month by training members on Rotary history (<http://www.rotary.org/en/aboutus/history/Pages/ridefault.aspx>),

Again we have had many successful happenings around the District. Starting with our annual trip to the Phillies' **Strike Out for Hunger** game. The following clubs participated in this super "Awareness" event – Ambler, Blue Bell, Churchville, Collegeville, Fleetwood, Norristown, Pottstown, Slatington, Warminster, Willow Grove, - providing a total of \$4,733 to the Rotary Foundation. A great big thanks to PDG Gerry Long and Marilyn Gannon.

Once again our District Rotarians have been extraordinarily generous in their donations to **the Rotaplast Auction**. Maria Kim, Jill Long, DGE Tony Jannetta and their team were fantastic. The auction was a professional event raising approximately \$37,000 for our Rotaplast Missions.

We should also be looking at how we engage our community youth. Have you nominated a high school student for a **Rotary SUMMER Youth Exchange**? Remember this is a 3-6 week experience that brings awareness to our young people of other cultures and provides perspective of our current American issues. Please look at the article below and contact Rtn. Charlie Walter (CWalter@janney.com), for additional information.

Speaking of our **Youth Exchange Program** – we have 9 outstanding young people selected to depart this summer for the greatest year of their lives. I had the pleasure of meeting them as well as seeing our inbound students once again at the Annual District Youth Exchange Christmas Party. If you have not had a conversation with them please do – they are super!

Karen and I hope you all had a wonderful holiday with family and friends. As we move into these next few months we plan to once again visit with many clubs. Don't worry I am not asking to be the program. We would like to just see how you are doing and put a plug in for the **District Conference April 20-22**. Again, we look to have fun and to do things a bit differently. Please see the article below from our Conference Committee to learn more of how you may want to participate.

District Conference

The 2012 District Conference on April 20, 21, and 22 is less than 4 months away! We have a fantastic weekend planned filled with opportunities to build friendships, learn about the significant ways District 7430 Rotarians impact their communities and hear from Rotarian leaders who are making a difference around the world.



You will also get a chance to show off your prize collectables, entertaining talents and your club's favorite projects. To make this the best conference in recent memory – WE NEED YOU!

1. Mark your calendars. NOW. Plan to attend some or all of the 2012 District Conference.
2. Register. Visit the District Website. Conference Registration information is available. Anyone registering before March 31st will have their names put in a drawing for a SIGNIFICANT prize!
3. Get Involved.
 - Do you have a collectable vehicle – car, truck, motorcycle, and bicycle? We want you to display it on Friday night at the American On Wheels Museum. Contact conference co-chair Mike Long at mlong@longfuneralhome.com
 - Are you a musician or performer willing to share your talent? Is your club prepared to share the work that they do? We hope to showcase both Rotarians and Rotary Clubs throughout the weekend - because we are PROUD of what we do both individually and as a club. So, contact us to see about performing and start thinking about your clubs display!
 - Volunteers are needed for a few key committees, as well as the weekend of the conference. If you can help, please contact Gretchen Vakiener, Conference Co-Chair at g_vakiener@yahoo.com.
4. Listen for Updates. DG Bill Jahn, Assistant Governors, and even club members will be talking with you during the next few months about conference details. We will be sharing information to get you excited to come to conference to share your ROTARY PRIDE.

Gretchen Vakiener Conference Co-Chair



Emmaus RC President Woody Rohrbach and his 1931 Cadillac Fleetwood

We are very excited to 'wave the green flag' on the start of our Rotary 7430 District Conference with a special night at the America On Wheels Museum in Allentown. Friday night will start the Conference with fellowship, food, drinks and entertainment, while we tour and generally have the run of the America On Wheels Transportation Museum. A few Rotarians will have a unique opportunity to be a special part of this opening night. We invite any Rotarian in the District who has a Collector, Classic or Antique car to contact Mike Long, Morning Star Rotary-Past President and event Co-chair,

at mike@longfuneralhome.com or by phone at [610-730-9382](tel:610-730-9382). We will accept between 25 to 30 automobiles to be displayed immediately outside of the America On Wheels Museum. You can show your 'Rotary Pride' while showing off your automotive pride. This Rotarian Car Show will be a feature of our Friday evening and continue in the outdoor plaza at Bear Creek, providing security and supervision for your prized sheet metal. Space is limited so contact Mike today! In addition to the Rotary Car Show, participants will be invited to assemble at Bear Creek by 5pm on Friday for a 'cruise' to the America On Wheels Museum to start the 'Rotary Pride' weekend experience. Call or email me, right now!

"Our 2012 District Conference starts with an evening of food, drink, fellowship and entertainment at the America On Wheels Transportation Museum. If your club wants to extend your special brand of hospitality to the evening by sponsoring the 'liquid hospitality' consider yourself invited. Contact Mike Long, event Co-chair at mike@longfuneralhome.com or call [610-730-9382](tel:610-730-9382), on how you can provide that special brand of Hospitality only your Rotary Club can offer."



Dr Dick Whittaker and his Model A

Mike Long Conference Co-Chair

Summer Youth Exchange

Rotary's Short-Term Exchange Program presents opportunities for students to advance their knowledge and world understanding by allowing them to visit a different country for a limited period of time. Participating students live with a matched host family in their selected country from three to six weeks in the summer under the sponsorship of a local Rotary Club. **If you are interested, contact Rtn. Charlie Walter (CWalter@janney.com), for additional information.**

The objective of the Short-Term Exchange Program is to foster world peace, international understanding and good will by extending international communication at the personal level through the exchange of students of high school age. It is our hope that these students will be able to see firsthand the problems and accomplishments of other peoples of different colors, creeds, and cultures.

The ESSEX Short-Term Family-to Family Exchange arranges for the student's family to host a matching Rotary applicant (between the ages of 15 and 18 1/2 years) usually during the summer. Exchanges can be arranged between the two families for not less than 3 weeks and not more than 6 weeks. The exchange in each country is for an equal amount of time except for Argentina, Australia, Brazil, India, and South Africa. These countries will not exchange with us unless we host their applicants for a minimum of 8 weeks during their summer months. During this period, the student must not have a job or commitments that would interfere with the obligations of hosting.

Cost of travel, the ESSEX fee, Rotary District fees, Rotary insurance, clothing and personal expenses are the responsibility of the participating students and their families.

Travel to the host country is arranged by each student's family communicating with the other student's family, determining dates, times and airlines to be booked for the exchange. Frequently, students who exchange first accompany their host sibling on the return flight home.

The earlier an application arrives, the better your chance of exchanging in your first choice country. It is also helpful for placement if you are able to host a student of either gender.

Qualifications for Short-Term Exchange Students

Any student, age 15-18-1/2, of good character who possesses a warm personality and a desire to live abroad and host in return is eligible for Rotary's Short-Term Exchange. Candidates should be adaptable and flexible, well mannered and want to experience life in other countries and cultures. Children of both Rotarians and non-Rotarians are eligible.



Rotary TV Auction Thank You

Rotaplast



Saving Smiles, Changing Lives



Thank you to everyone who supported the 2011 Rotary TV Auction!

We could not have done it without you.

Stay tuned for an official update.

Club News

Blue Bell Rotarians Celebrate Successful Partnership with Habitat for Humanity

December 12, 2011 – Blue Bell, PA - The Rotary Club of Blue Bell presented a check for \$10,000 to Montgomery County's Habitat for Humanity, representing a down payment on a Habitat home to be built in the club's name. The money is the product of two profitable events, a golf tournament and the Chefs of the Burbs food fest, hosted by the Rotary in conjunction with Habitat.

"We're so pleased to be working with Habitat," said Rotary president Dale Rubinkam. "Our club has been doing Habitat volunteer work days for years, but with the economy so tight, we've committed to engage more directly as partners with this fine community organization. We're delighted to announce such a positive beginning to that relationship."

Marianne Albanese, Executive Director of Habitat - Montgomery County, and Kim Tobin, its Associate Director of Development, received the contribution at Blue Bell Rotary's annual holiday dinner, held at Meadowlands Country Club.

"It's always a pleasure to work with an organization that supports Habitat's core mission, to build affordable housing for and with the help of hardworking, low-income folks in our community," said Ms. Albanese., "and we look forward to building on our relationship with the Blue Bell Rotary."

