I wish each and every Rotarian a very Happy Valentine’s Day.

To my Rotary Family,

Happy Birthday Rotary.
The first Rotary club meeting was in Chicago on 23 February 1905. And on that day as we celebrate Rotary’s 104th birthday, Rotarians should acknowledge one of the greatest gift to have been presented to our membership.

At the Governor’s Elect Training Session held in San Diego, CA. during the week of January 18th thru the 25th, Bill Gates Jr. addressed the assembly of District Governors Elect and Rotary Leaders and presented yet another challenge grant to the Rotary Foundation. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will commit an additional $255 million dollars to its already pledged grant of $100 million to the Rotary Foundation’s “Polio Eradication Program”.

Stepping up to the plate in true Rotary fashion, was a pledge by Rotary International to raise our commitment to an additional $100 million. Added together the pledges total a whopping $555 million dollars. Thus our dedication and march to Eradicate Polio continues.

The District’s Governor Nominating Committee convened on January 15th, 2009 and has selected Emil Geering to be our District Governor to serve in 2011-2012. As the Manual of Procedure allows for a challenge period of 15 days and no challenge having crossed my desk, officially, that is until July 1st Emil will be titled District Governor Nominee Designate.

Emil is a member of the Rotary Club
Greetings from the Governor (Continued from page 1)

of Paramus Noon having joined Rotary in 1984, further serving as President of the Paramus club during the Rotary year 1991-1992. Emil’s service to the Club and the District, in true Rotary spirit, is both extensive and impressive and I congratulate the committee for their selection.

I would like to take this opportunity, and I know you will join me in wishing Emil good luck and much success and support as he boards the Governors “Train” to one of the most exciting year in ones Rotary life.

Yours in Rotary,
Dominic Jengo
District Governor 2008-2009

The Secretary’s Desk
Maryalice Foster, District Secretary

It’s February already. Hard to believe that there are only four months left of this Rotary year.

Four months to achieve the goals we set for ourselves way back in July and only two months to finish the work for the Presidential Citation.

Each club should have received a letter from the Governor and a form to complete by April 1, to be eligible for this award. If your club has reached the goals you set for it last July, you need only to fill out the Certification Form and return it to me or the Governor no later than April 1. RI requires that we have the completed forms to them by April 15, so April 1 is a firm date.

Mark your calendars now for this year’s President’s Recognition Ball on April 24. Once again it will be held at the Rockleigh Country Club. This is each club’s opportunity to thank your president for his or her dedication and hard work.

And last, but certainly not least, be sure to submit your application for this year’s district conference in Montreal. PDG Bill Rupp and his committee are hard at work to make this a unique and fabulous weekend. The city is wonderful, the hotel is gorgeous. Now all we need is YOU!

Gift of Life Celebration

On January 7, 2009, Ray Hough, Pat LaRocco, Andy Topp and PDG Joe Laureni left for the Gift of Life’s mission to Vietnam. Several Rotarians went to the airport to assist with the equipment and to see them off and I can honestly say I was never prouder to be a Rotarian when I saw Ray, Pat, Andy and Joe walk towards their gate along with 25 medical personnel (there will be 14 more medical people joining them along the way) all volunteering their time to save about 40 children’s lives. I ask everyone to think of these people in your prayers.

On February 13, 2009 we will be holding our annual Gift of Life Celebration Dinner. Based on the level of ads in this year’s Journal the tough economic environment has impacted area Rotarians and businesses and the Celebration committee is very concerned about attendance at the Dinner. This is the one time every year when Rotarians of District 7490 can get together, enjoy fellowship and congratulate each other for all of our accomplishments, not just GOL but everything we do to make lives locally and throughout the world a little better.

The cost of the Dinner was maintained at $80 despite our expenses increasing. The Dinner is not intended to be a fund raiser but a true celebration. I promise great food, short speeches, dancing and a surprise worth the price of admission. Each club president should have registration forms but if you need one please feel free to contact me.

Paul A. Platek
GOL Foundation Chair
Bonjour Madames et Monsieurs,

Please join Nancy and me in romantic and historical Montreal to celebrate District 7490’s 52nd Annual Conference, hosted by the Maywood Rotary Club, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Located on an island in the St. Lawrence River, Montreal is the 2nd largest French speaking city in the world offering a charming collection of exquisite boutiques and art galleries through which to stroll. Stop and sample French and International cuisine at the many fine restaurants available.

The Hyatt is located in the heart of the city and within easy walking distance of historic “Old Montreal”. Relax at the indoor swimming pool, sauna, garden terrace and fitness center. Perhaps you would prefer an evening at the Casino de Montreal testing your luck at the gaming tables and slots or merely enjoying the ambience.

We’re looking forward to sharing a wonderful weekend of Rotary fellowship and an experience sure to “Make Dreams Real”.

Merci beaucoup,

Dominic

BOOK TODAY!!!

May 14 – May 17, 2009
Montreal Package Includes:

Four Days - Three Nights at the Hyatt Regency Centreville
Full American Breakfast Daily

Thursday 6pm - 8pm
Welcome reception followed by 1st Plenary Session

Friday & Saturday 9am - 12pm
Plenary sessions including coffee breaks

Saturday 6:30pm
Cocktail party with hot & cold hors d’oeuvres followed by the Gala Governor’s banquet

Room Cost Information

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For further information, please contact Bergen Travel Bureau, 60 Passaic Street, Garfield, NJ 07026, Phone: 973-773-8888, Email: bergentravel@optonline.net. You can also download the conference brochure and reservation request form at http://www.rotarydistrict7490.org.
Ridgewood HS Interact Club Receives Rotary Service Award

Community service is alive and well at Ridgewood HS. In recognition for their outstanding commitment and dedication to community service, the Ridgewood A.M. Rotary recently presented the officers and faculty advisors of Ridgewood High School’s Interact Club with the Rotary Service Award and treated all club members to a pizza party.

Since September the club’s 300 plus members have worked on over 15 separate projects including:
- Elwood Day;
- Collecting school supplies for a school in Cambodia;
- Writing Make-a-Wish letters and cards to wounded veterans along with candle and candy fundraisers.

They have also assisted other community organizations:
- Sharing the Arts and Biddie Basketball programs for children with special needs;
- the YMCA’s Christmas Tree sale;
- the Rotary’s Pancake Breakfast, calendar sales and clothing drive for Project Hope, an orphanage in Haiti;
- Paterson Habitat’s Make a Difference Day;
- Social Services’ “Souper Bowl” canned goods collection;
- Cancer Care’s Walk for Hope;
- Balloons and cards for “Valentines for Valley.”

The members of the Ridgewood HS Interact Club are excited to wear their new club tee-shirts.

Shown (L to R) are Ridgewood A.M. Rotary President, John Rogers, Ridgewood Superintendent and fellow Rotarian, Dr. Daniel Fishbein; Interact historian Mary Taylor; Rotarian, Dave Feeley; faculty advisor, Nancy Reilly; Interact secretary, Val Bartlik; Interact President, Ali Schoff and faculty advisor, Lynne Feeley.

At a Ridgewood HS Interact Club meeting the officers (L to R) Historian Mary Taylor, Secretary Val Bartlik and President Ali Schoff presented Superintendent Dr. Daniel Fishbein with the club’s new tee-shirt which the officers themselves designed. Missing is Vice President, Priscilla Chow. Superintendent Dr. Daniel Fishbein is also a member of the Ridgewood A.M. Rotary.
Lois E. Marshall’s Ten Answers To What Is Rotary?

10. Rotary is an organization of community and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

9. Rotary is the world’s first service club. The first Rotary club was founded in Chicago, Illinois, USA on February 23, 1905.

8. Rotary is composed of 1.2 million service-minded men and women belonging to more than 28,000 Rotary clubs in virtually every nation in the world.

7. Rotarians meet weekly for fellowship and interesting and informative programs dealing with topics of local and global importance. Membership reflects a wide cross-section of community representation.

6. Rotarians plan and carry out a remarkable variety of humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs that touch people’s lives in their local communities and our world community.

5. Rotary is The Rotary Foundation, which each year provides some US$90 million for international scholarships, cultural exchanges, and humanitarian projects large and small that improve the quality of life for millions of people. Rotary is widely regarded as the world’s largest private provider of international educational scholarships.

4. Rotary is PolioPlus, Rotary’s commitment to work with national and international health organizations on the goal of polio eradication. More than one billion children in developing nations have been immunized against polio through PolioPlus grants.

3. Rotary is SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

2. Rotary is you and me and all the over 1.2 million Rotarians working together.

1. Rotary is FUN!

Note: New members and their sponsors receive a bumper sticker so they may proudly display that they are Rotarians. For membership information call Ray Hough at (210) 342-3300 or email rh385@aol.com.
R.I. District 7490 Presents: The Walter D. Head Foundation Indoor Family Sports Night

Friday, March 6, 2009 6:00 to 9:00 P.M
Bogota Golf Center
30 Cross Street Bogota, NJ 07603

All Inclusive w/Pizza & Beverages

- Adults Only $25.00
- Children (Under 18) $20.00
- Under 10 Free!

- 18 Hole Miniature Golf Course
- Driving Range w/Balls
- Indoor Batting Cages
- Basketball Hoop Challenge

Miniature Golf Hole Sponsorships Available At Only $100/Hole

For More Information – Bonnie Sirower 201-446-1814 Or 201-652-5894 (Botzie@Aol.Com); or Bob Markarian 201-845-3775, 201-694-6422

Please Support Walter D. Head Foundation,
A 501(C)(3) Charitable Foundation
of Rotary International District 7490
Presidential Membership Conference

Governor Dominic has asked that I let you know about an interesting and important meeting coming up on March 27 and 28, 2009 in Baltimore, MD. The registration form can be downloaded at http://www.crsadmin.com/gen/Accounts/50049/Eml/2351344c-dbal-4385-96b8-adasd22d77b.doc as well as a registration form for a special luncheon with RI President DK Lee on Friday, March 27th.

The Purpose

The purpose of these conferences is to explore and introduce: a vision for the future of Rotary International and its membership; how we can best impact membership at the club level; discuss how demographic and generational changes impacts this vision; review pertinent regional changes and the impact on membership; and celebrate best practices at the club level. Additionally, the goal at each of these conferences is for presenters outside of Rotary to discuss volunteering trends and demographic changes within the specific region.

Suggested Conference attendees:

- Club presidents and officers
- Club membership committee chairs and members
- District membership committee chairs and members
- District extension committee chairs and members
- Other district leadership and past RI officers
- All Rotarians interested in helping Rotary grow!

I hope to see you there.

Regards,

Joe Laureni, PDG

Upcoming Events

February 13, 2009 - Gift of Life Dinner - The Venetian, Garfield, NJ.

February 21, 2009 - Bergen-Hudson-Passaic Counties PRE - P.E.T.S Seminar - Holiday Inn, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. 8:30 am to noon, cost: $15, includes breakfast. For more details contact Bonnie Strower at Bonzie@aol.com or (201) 446-1814.

February 28, 2009 - Fair Lawn Rotary Club's 16th Annual Tricky Tray/Beefsteak Dinner - At the St. Leon's Church, Fair Lawn, NJ. For more details call or email Stu Herrmann at 201-362-4466 or Stuherrmanncpa@aol.com.

February 28, 2009 - West Milford Rotary Annual Beefsteak - 6:30 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Fireman's Hall 97 Hamburg Turnpike, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403. Tickets are $40. p.p and includes beefsteak dinner, tricky tray, DJ, comedian performance, beer, soda and dessert.


March 19, 2009 - Hudson County Rotary Clubs' Annual Assembly: Casino in the Park - The price will be $25 per person. For more details contact Francisco Guzman at F_guzman755@msn.com.

April 1, 2009 - Hawthorne Rotary Club's Annual Beefsteak Dinner/Tricky Tray Fundraiser - Tickets are $45.00 all inclusive at the Brownstone, West Broadway, Paterson, New Jersey. The festivities will begin at 6:00 P.M. For more details contact PDG Gloria Counselor, Event Chair at (973) 332-2162.

April 24, 2009 - Presidents Night & District Celebration - Rockleigh Country Club, Rockleigh, NJ.

May 9, 2009 - District Assembly - 8:30 am to noon at the Hasbrouck Heights Holiday Inn.

May 14 - 17, 2009 - 52nd Annual District Conference - Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center, Montréal, Canada.
Did You Know?

The fastest and quickest way to lose members and reduce attendance at weekly Rotary meetings is to invite guest speakers who have a:

“PRODUCT AND OR A SERVICE TO SELL”

While not spelled out in detail in the Rotary Manual of Procedure, it is an unwritten law that club meetings and assemblies should not be used for networking and or business solicitations unless the program directly benefits a charitable Rotary entity.

What Makes You a Rotarian?

It is not for the Money,
It is not for the fame,
It is not for personal gain,
It is just for the love of fellow man,
It is just to lend a helping hand,
It is just to give a little of self,
It is to do something you can’t buy with wealth,
It is not medals worn with pride,
It is for the feeling deep inside,
It is the reward down in your heart,
It is the feeling you've been part of helping others far and near,

THAT MAKES YOU A ROTARIAN.

Contributed by Mel Fabrikant, from Garry Krischock Rotary Club of Runaway Bay Queensland, Australia.