



Rotary District 5550

Saskatchewan • Manitoba • Ontario

District Governor's Newsletter



Joint District Conference
5550/ 5580 May 12-16, 2010
Winnipeg, MB

Governor Nancy Morris

November 7, 2009

Greetings to all our friends,

We have only one more club visit and we have made so many more Rotary friends. Thanks to everyone who made us so welcome when we came to your clubs. The projects and fund raisers differ from club to club but the Rotary culture based upon our motto - "Service Above Self" and the Four Way Test remains the same. Clubs - new and old, small and large are all committed to the betterment of our communities and the world.

NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

To learn more about the Rotary Foundation is go online to www.rotary.org. The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

Every amount contributed to The Rotary Foundation is spent in support of humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs and their operations. Clubs and districts apply for and receive Foundation grants to carry out worthy projects worldwide.

Contact our Rotary Foundation Chair, Robert Fisher - rafisher@sasktel.net or Our Annual Givings Chair David Deane - ddeane@mts.net

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

The **Saskatoon North Club** which celebrated their 30th anniversary in October.

The **Regina Oskaya Club** which celebrated their chartering on October 28. We were pleased to attend and share the achievement of this group of people. They have been working on the formation of their club for a while and they made it a memorable occasion. There was an abundance of Past District Governors - PDG Peter Peters and Doug Mortin of the Regina Eastview club and Elly Contreras of District 5370. Many good wishes were expressed by members and presidents of other clubs. There was appreciation expressed because "Food Was Served"! And delicious food indeed which was prepared by the Regina Immigrant Women's Association.

The **Brandon Rotaract Club** which celebrated their chartering on November 5. It was well attended by the presidents and members of the Brandon Sunset Club and the Brandon Club who enjoyed the well planned program and dinner. We were pleased to share an exciting occasion with this group of young people who are excited about Rotaract ! Great evening !

PDG Peter Peters upon assuming the Presidency of the Canadian Rotary Collaboration for International Development - CRCID. Thank you Peter for continuing to provide leadership in the area of International Service and for bringing your talents to the wider community of Rotary in Canada.

The **Group Study Exchange Team** for a successful trip to District 1200 in England. We received wonderful reports about them from the Rotarians there. The team members are Andre Fagnou, Carla Robinson, Kristen

Wilde, Dana Palidwar under the leadership of Cory Prokop of the Estevan club. Thanks to all of you for representing our district.

(If we have missed any important events please let us know and we'll include them next month)

ASSISTANT DISTRICT GOVERNORS RETREAT

The Assistant Governors met in Brandon on October 23 - 25. It was a packed agenda with important information to discuss and an opportunity to share their experiences and insight gained from working with their clubs. DGE Harvey Hanson and DGN Eva Vida also attended. Thank you to all of these people who are willing to put in this extra time to help the district. Our district trainer, Jim Forestell, provided excellent leadership and planning for the meetings. Thanks, Jim.

IMPORTANT DISTRICT 5550 INFORMATION FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD

All clubs know that the District requires every Rotarian who is involved with programs where we are serving "vulnerable people", (students and minors, elderly people and physically and/or mentally challenged people) must have a background check and in Manitoba, those who are working with minors, a Child Abuse Registry check. Originally, the District rule was that this be renewed every four years. However, it is the practice in places of employment and in other volunteer groups that they do not require the renewal of these checks.

Therefore, on September 30, 2009, at the meeting of the board ,a motion " to discontinue the requirement for members to have the background check and the Child Abuse Registry check in Manitoba renewed every four years" was put forward by the Youth Exchange committee, discussed and passed. If you have any questions, please contact me mordana@shaw.ca

ROTARIAN QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Why is violinist Itzhak Perlman featured on the cover of "THE ROTARIAN" ? Read the November issue and find out. Share it with your club.

THE AFGHANISTAN CHALLENGE

During our visits I spent some time talking about the need for education for girls in all parts of the world and especially in Afghanistan. The Rotary clubs in Canada are asked to share the responsibility for building a school for girls in Afghanistan because the District Governors elect pledged our assistance when we were in San Diego for our training in January. I know that some people have wondered if it is worth it - if it's safe for the students - will the school buildings be bombed? I have received this article which I want to share with you. This is from THE NEW YORK TIMES by Nicholas D. Kristoff. (Nicholas has an article in the November issue of the Rotarian.)

Please read this and consider your club and personal donation to the Canadian Rotary Project for the Afghanistan School in Jalalabad. Individuals can donate and receive an income tax receipt. Each club in Canada is asked to donate at least \$250.00 to make this project succeed.

Build a classroom - \$400. - Furnish a classroom - \$100. Buy a student desk - \$25.

Please send your donations and make your cheques payable to:
Winnipeg Rotary Club Community Service Fund Inc.
Rotary Club of Winnipeg, 243 - 375 York Avenue
Winnipeg, Mb. R3C 3J3

MORE SCHOOLS, NOT TROOPS

Dispatching more troops to Afghanistan would be a monumental bet and probably a bad one, most likely a waste of lives and resources that might simply empower the Taliban. In particular, one of the most compelling arguments against more troops rests on this stunning trade-off: For the cost of a single additional soldier stationed in Afghanistan for one year, we could build roughly 20 schools there.

It's hard to do the calculation precisely, but for the cost of 40,000 troops over a few years - well, we could just about turn every Afghan into a Ph.D.

The hawks respond: It's naïve to think that you can sprinkle a bit of education on a war-torn society. It's impossible to build schools now because the Taliban will blow them up. In fact, it's still quite possible to operate schools in Afghanistan - particularly when there's a strong "buy-in" from the local community.

Greg Mortenson, author of "Three Cups of Tea," has now built 39 schools in Afghanistan and 92 in Pakistan - and not one has been burned down or closed. The aid organization CARE has 295 schools educating 50,000 girls in Afghanistan, and not a single one has been closed or burned by the Taliban. The Afghan Institute of Learning, another aid group, has 32 schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan, with none closed by the Taliban (although local communities have temporarily suspended three for security reasons).

In short, there is still vast scope for greater investment in education, health and agriculture in Afghanistan. These are extraordinarily cheap and have a better record at stabilizing societies than military solutions, which, in fact, have a pretty dismal record.

In Afghanistan, for example, we have already increased our troop presence by 40,000 troops since the beginning of last year, yet the result has not been the promised stability but only more casualties and a strengthened insurgency. If the last surge of 40,000 troops didn't help, why will the next one be so different?

Matthew P. Hoh, an American military veteran who was the top civilian officer in Zabul Province, resigned over Afghan policy, as The Washington Post reported this week. Mr. Hoh argues that our military presence is feeding the insurgency, not quelling it. Already our troops have created a backlash with Kabul University students this week burning President Obama in effigy until police dispersed them with gunshots. The heavier our military footprint, the more resentment - and perhaps the more legitimacy for the Taliban.

Schools are not a quick fix or silver bullet any more than troops are. But we have abundant evidence that they can, over time, transform countries, and in the area near Afghanistan there's a nice natural experiment in the comparative power of educational versus military tools.

Since 9/11, the United States has spent \$15 billion in Pakistan, mostly on military support, and today Pakistan is more unstable than ever. In contrast, Bangladesh, which until 1971 was a part of Pakistan, has focused on education in a way that Pakistan never did. Bangladesh now has more girls in high school than boys. (In contrast, only 3 percent of Pakistani women in the tribal areas are literate.)

Those educated Bangladeshi women joined the labor force, laying the foundation for a garment industry and working in civil society groups like BRAC and Grameen Bank. That led to a virtuous spiral of development, jobs, lower birth rates, education and stability. That's one reason Al Qaeda is holed up in Pakistan, not in Bangladesh, and it's a reminder that education can transform societies.

When I travel in Pakistan, I see evidence that one group - Islamic extremists - believes in the transformative power of education. They pay for madrassas that provide free schooling and often free meals for students. They then offer scholarships for the best pupils to study abroad in Wahhabi madrassas before returning to become leaders of their communities. What I don't see on my trips is similar numbers of American-backed schools. It breaks my heart that we don't invest in schools as much as medieval, misogynist extremists.

For roughly the same cost as stationing 40,000 troops in Afghanistan for one year, we could educate the great majority of the 75 million children worldwide who, according to Unicef, are not getting even a primary education. We won't turn them into graduate students, but we can help them achieve literacy. Such a vast global education campaign would reduce poverty, cut birth rates, improve America's image in the world, promote stability and chip away at extremism.

Education isn't a panacea, and no policy in Afghanistan is a sure bet. But all in all, the evidence suggests that education can help foster a virtuous cycle that promotes stability and moderation. So instead of sending 40,000 troops more to Afghanistan, how about opening 40,000 schools?

GOOD WILL WEEKEND

Don't forget to plan for the Goodwill Weekend, February 19 & 20, 2010. This long standing International Fellowship Event is a great way to have fun and meet new Rotary friends. It will be held at the Fort Garry Hotel. Contact Geoff Broucher for more information broucher@mts.net

TOP 10 LIST

Let's borrow from David Letterman. Here's the Top Ten List of ways to keep clubs growing and going in District 5550 !

- NO. 10** - Try new ideas for programming and projects !
- NO. 9** - Don't say "We tried that already"!
- NO. 8** - Try it again !
- NO. 7** - When looking for members "Get your ASK in gear"!
- NO. 6** - Encourage new members to participate !
- No. 5** - Each Rotarian - Reach one, Keep one !
- No. 4** - Make your clubs friendly !
- No. 3** - Promote fellowship amongst the members!
- No. 2** - Have FUN !
- No. 1** - Remember that "The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands" !

NEW CLUBS IN DISTRICT 5550

One of the best ways to see our membership grow is to develop new clubs. Some of the most successful clubs are those in smaller communities. We need Rotarians who have contacts in the towns without Rotary clubs . So put your thinking caps on and start to get in touch with those people you know. We are thinking of places such as Virden, MB, Moosomin, SK, Humboldt, Sk, Morden, MB, Morris, MB, Wolseley-Grenfell, SK (2 towns 10 minutes apart)- Where else can you think of possible expansion? The Winnipeg East AM club has

volunteered to help with club development.

Call me and we can develop a plan for working in those communities -204 - 832-6064 or mordana@shaw.ca

WANTED.....DISTRICT TRAINER AND TEAM

We are looking for a training team for district 5550. The team will consist of a senior trainer and two assistants. A description of responsibilities for the senior trainer position is available in the manual of procedures (check the home page of the district website). Applications and/or queries are to be directed to DGN Eva Vida via email (evavida@mts.net).

Yours in Rotary Fellowship,
Nancy and Dave Morris

I encourage all Rotarians to log on to your District Website www.Rotary District 5550.ca for all the District news and check out the links to the District Events and other District programs.

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

From Around The District



Photos: top left

Charter meeting of the Wheat City Rotaract Club in Brandon, Manitoba, November 5, 2009

Photos: top right

Presentation of a Paul Harris Award to Linda Rudachek in Weyburn, SK to honour her for her work for the families and children in Weyburn. Thank you Linda for a wonderful job !

Photos: bottom left

President Ray Ruth, DG Nancy Morris, President Elect Scott Yule at the Charter Night of the Regina Oskaya Club on October 28, 2009.

Photos: bottom right

GSE Team in England

