



District 6600 Governor's Newsletter



December 2007



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Coming Events in District 6600

- February 2 Executive Committee
Findlay Ford - 9:30 AM
- February 9 PETS I
Owens Community College - Findlay
- March 7-9 All-Ohio PETS
The Columbus, a Renaissance Hotel
- March 29 District Assembly
Owens Community College - Findlay
- April 25-27 District Conference

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During this month of December, a great deal of our energy is used up getting ready for the holidays. We are thinking of family and friends. We are thinking of what to parties we are going

get whom, of all the to be attending, and in many respects already wishing that the days were over. As clubs, we will also be working to help relieve some of the hopelessness of some folks of our communities.

As you have been doing all this, have you ever stopped to ask yourself, "What are my roots?" Have you ever worked on your genealogy? I have been working on mine for about 15 years, and have found some interesting things. (Perhaps some I would rather not know?) I discovered that some of my ancestors moved onto Ohio in 1801 and 1806. Some were in the Revolutionary War. Some came

to the US as early as the late 1600's while others came as late as early 1900's .As far as the present is concerned, I discovered that I have relatives living in many states in the US, as well as Canada, Germany and Switzerland. Through this, I have visited cousins I did not know about, and in Switzerland had a party with 28 cousins. Not only have I come to know about relatives in the past and present, in many instances, I also know about the next couple of generations. All this even triggered memories of those family reunions, that we as kids found so boring, as we were picked apart by the older generation as having grandpa's nose and great-grandma's eyes.

What does all this have to do with Rotary? If you have read the latest Rotarian, you will know that December is the "Family of Rotary" month. It is a time to be thinking about and being thankful for the family that we call Rotary. In some respects, it is like doing our genealogy. There are those Rotarians of the past, like Paul Harris and the founders of the family. There are those who kept the family viable through the years. They are the

generations past in our genealogy charts. Then, there are those of the present, such as Bill Boyd and Wilf Wilkinson and D.K. Lee. There are also the present RI Directors such as Mike Johns, and all the District Governors. These make up some of the genealogy charts of the present, as well as you who are currently the club members and leaders. And, as the Rotarian illustrated by pictures, you have Rotary relatives all over the world. And, yes, we even have some family reunions, but we call them District Conferences and The International Convention. (Have you made your reservation for the family reunion in Los Angeles yet?)

We, as clubs, will get together to celebrate the Holidays. I hope this includes some activities with our children. As we do this genealogy thing, the question becomes, "Where is the next generation?" Whose names will be in the charts?" This is also part of doing the genealogy of Rotary, of discovering our Rotary family.

No matter where we go, there are members of the Family of Rotary ready to greet us. Take some time to enjoy the family.

Pat and I wish you the happiest of holidays, enjoying the company of those whom you love, and celebrating who you are.

Ralph

IT'S NEARLY TIME FOR PETS

David V. Daugherty
DGE



Are you President-Elect of a Rotary Club in District 6600? If so, it is time for you to take care of your PETS!

PETS is mandatory for all incoming presidents during the 2008-2009 Rotary year.

Are you a current president of a Rotary Club? If so and your successor doesn't attend the PETS training, then you must serve another year!

What is PETS? PETS is the President Elect Training Seminar to be held in Columbus on March 7-9, 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel. District 6600 participates in the All-Ohio PETS which includes the other four districts in Ohio. About 250 president-elects and their spouses attend this event annually. Complete information may be found at <http://www.allohiopets.org/about/>.

A working committee made up of 5-7 representatives of the five districts is hard at work planning this year's event. Some major speakers with vast Rotary knowledge and experience have been recruited to participate. Past RI President, Frank J. Devlyn - RI President 2001-2002 and Chairman of the Rotary Foundation in 2005-2006, will be the featured speaker. All PE's will get a copy of his newest book entitled "*Frank Talk on our Rotary Foundation*." He is an excellent and inspiring speaker.

Other speakers include Frank Collins of Connecticut, Past Rotary International Director and Vice President; Chris Offer of British Columbia, Canada, RI Membership Coordinator and Past RI Foundation Coordinator; and Carolyn E. Jones, Rotary Foundation Trustee from Alaska (first female Foundation Trustee).

While there will be wonderful and inspiring speakers, the best part of PETS is the opportunity for all PE's to discuss among themselves the best practices of their clubs. Without exception, past attendees have named these sessions as top reasons to attend.

Spouses are not forgotten! There will be some basic 101 type courses for spouses to learn more about Rotary and how they can be supportive of their presidents during the year. Since we will be in Columbus, there will also be a tour of the state capitol building for spouses (which is right down the street from the Renaissance Hotel).

Now, the best part! District 6600 pays for the entire training session. After you return from PETS, you may submit your receipts to the district Secretary who will reimburse the PE for his/her registration fee and hotel expense. All-in-all, PETS is a fantastic weekend to learn about Rotary and to sharpen your skills in becoming an effective president. See you in Columbus...



A Very Merry Christmas from the elves at the top!

All this clever artwork was done by Dave Holland

Gates Foundation Grant to Rotary Garneres Worldwide Publicity

Rotary International News - 29 November 2007



Monday's announcement that Rotary accepted a US\$100 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that will generate \$200 million for polio eradication continues to receive media attention around the globe.

Highlights include stories in the *Chicago Tribune*, *O Globo* (Brazil), *La Nacion* (Argentina), *El País* (Spain), *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe*, the *Herald* (Scotland), BBC Radio, National Public Radio, Agence France-Presse, Reuters, and Associated Press.

Monday's press conference, moderated by RI's PolioPlus Manager Carol Pandak, included remarks by Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Dr. Robert Scott in Evanston, Illinois, USA; Gates Foundation Cochair William Gates Sr. in Seattle; and WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan in Geneva.

Media coverage continued Tuesday, with a press briefing convened by RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson in Kuala Lumpur, which was covered by 15 news organizations.

Gates Foundation, Rotary pledge \$200 million to fight polio

Gates Foundation puts up a \$100 million for Rotary to match in fundraising

By Deborah L. Shelton | Chicago Tribune staff reporter

November 27, 2007

Aiming to inject \$200 million into the global campaign to eradicate polio, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced Monday that it is awarding a \$100 million challenge grant to the Evanston-based Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation said it plans to match the Gates grant dollar-for-dollar through fundraising over the next three years. In the first year alone, Rotary expects to spend \$100 million on immunization projects in the four remaining countries where polio is still endemic.

The grant is one of the largest challenge grants ever awarded by the Gates Foundation and is the largest given by any organization to Rotary. The foundation is the nonprofit charitable arm of Rotary International, which has contributed \$633 million to efforts to stamp out polio.

Eradicating the crippling and potentially fatal disease would represent a landmark public health achievement, and some global health experts believe the world stands at the brink of seeing that goal realized. Other experts are not so sure.

Scientists and public health professionals have been debating whether eradication is possible. Some have argued that resources should be directed at trying to contain the disease, which would be far less costly than trying to eliminate it.

That idea was dismissed during Monday's announcement.

"Eradicating polio is an achievable goal," said William Gates Sr., co-chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, said: "We have very few opportunities to improve the world in a permanent way. And this is one."

Polio has stricken untold millions around the world. In 1952, its peak year in the U.S., it paralyzed more than 20,000 Americans.

But it became a disease of the past in this country after the discovery of a preventive vaccine in the 1950s and widespread immunization. Gone were widespread fears about sudden, debilitating paralysis and the use of iron lungs to keep people alive. No cases of infection from "wild virus" — transmitted from person to person — have been reported in this country since 1979.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative was launched in 1988, led by the World Health Organization, Rotary International, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF. At that time, more than 125 countries reported polio cases.

Since then, the incidence of polio has been cut by more than 99 percent, and endemic wild polio virus has been eliminated in every country except Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Armed conflicts, cultural barriers and geographical isolation are among the obstacles to stamping out polio in those

countries.

Last year, fewer than 2,000 cases were reported worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

Poliomyelitis mainly affects children under age 5. The virus enters the body through the mouth, multiplies in the intestine and invades the nervous system. One in 200 polio infections leads to irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs. Among those paralyzed, 5 to 10 percent die when muscles in their chest become immobilized and they are unable to breathe. Polio is incurable.

"Since the virus moves from child to child, it is capable of re-emerging anywhere in the world if we let down our guard and don't eradicate it," said Dr. Robert Scott, who leads Rotary's polio-eradication effort and is chairman of The Rotary Foundation.

The Gates grant comes at a critical time for the global initiative, which faces a funding shortfall of \$650 million, officials said.

In recent years, importation of the disease from affected areas into countries where the disease had been eliminated has set back eradication efforts. But last month the World Health Organization released data indicating that the last four polio-endemic countries were within reach of wiping out the disease. The health authority said significant progress had been made in India and Nigeria, which together account for 85 percent of the world's polio cases.

"We hope that this shared commitment of Rotary and the Gates Foundation will challenge other donors — including foundations, governments and non-governmental organizations — to step up and make sure we have the resources needed to rid the world of polio once and for all," Scott said.

Chan said the grant "is precisely the catalyst we need as we intensify the push to finish polio. We have the technical tools to do it, and we can achieve a polio-free world."
