



# Rotary 5960

## Newsletter



[www.rotary5960.org](http://www.rotary5960.org)

June 2009

2233 Hamline Avenue North, Suite 511  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

651-636-9054  
800-636-9054

### Reflections of Your 2008-09 District Governor



Dear Rotarian District 5960 Leaders and Club Leaders,

One year ago, I wrote my first DG Newsletter Article opening with the words, "And so it begins..." If you would permit me, I would like to share a few reflections about this past year.

An Honor. I have lived a year of my life which was like none other. I have experienced an honor that has left an imprint upon my soul. This position that you placed me in, to be the District Governor of Rotary International District 5960, is a position of great respect in the home office of Rotary in Evanston and of great respect in our Zone. As proof, most recently our District was awarded the privilege of being one of the 100 districts selected worldwide for the Future Vision Pilot Program of the Rotary Foundation.

But it is this District's history that created the lofty honor. When a person is selected to be a District Governor of our district, he or she immediately embarks on a 2.5 year training program. The members of the Governors Planning Council filled with the three Past District Governors, the current District Governor, the DGE and the DGN, offered mentoring and friendship that made the intensive ramping up of Rotary knowledge seem as if I had 6 private tutors coaching me along. The dedication of those individuals set the tone of the leadership experience for me while still giving me the freedom to shape and mold the year of my leadership term into something that would be personal, as well.

Other traditions that made the honor of serving as your District Governor so significant, included the many invitations to club gala events, [grabbing the winning apple in the chilly Apple River for the Amery Rotary Club], new club extensions [Austin Rotaract], willingness of so many club leaders and district leaders to say, yes, to my calls for serving on committees and task forces.

And then there were those giant, "is this really happening to me moments", such as Jerry Meigs's invitation to me to personally escort RI President DK Lee and his wife when they arrived for Jeanne's funeral, PDG Jon Stillman arranging to have Polio Plus world leader, Dr. Bob Scott, come to our Rotary Foundation Event, dancing with all my fellow District Governors from every district in the world while in San Diego for the International Assembly, John Knutson arranging to have Shelter Box founder, Tom Henderson, come to our District Conference, our District Conference Planning Committee arranging for polar explorer, Ann Bancroft, and professor, Dr. Kelly Cain, to deliver powerful presentations at our District Conference and then my strongest supporter, my wife and soul mate, Lana, arranging for Deepa Willingham to come to the District Conference and inspire us all about making a difference in the lives of young people in distant lands.

On the lighter side, my most spontaneous out of body experience occurred in Masaya, Nicaragua this past May, when Past District Governor Dr. Raul was bending over while painting an area of his hospital and I, holding a water bottle, had the presence off mind to pour water down his pants much to the delight of his staff who were watching. PDG Dr. Raul and I laughed and laughed about that one.

#### Better Friendships.

My second reflection is that I realize that as time is precious, you want to spend your time with people who have similar values. Active Rotarians, those with many years of Rotary membership or those who may have just joined a Rotaract Club are on a path that I want to be on. It is a pathway to significance, to making a difference. It is not a path of seeking a dream home, a muscle car, or any other love

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



of money false truth. Having visited a small rural village in poor Nicaragua, I found the people to be happier and leading less stressful lives than most of the people I know in the Twin Cities. The advertising hype is not there and Nica people value relationships high above the pursuit of wealth. What a powerful lesson I learned while in Nicaragua.

The friendships that Lana and I have created over this past couple of years are genuine and deep. These are friendships with people for whom we hold the highest respect as their dedication to the values of Rotary shapes their lives. These friends are club presidents, assistant governors, past district governors, committee chairs, youth exchange leaders and our wonderful super glue, Jingle Mahan.

#### Is the District Stronger Going Forward?

I sure hope so. While many of our clubs lost members this past year, most were able to maintain and a few grow, despite the longest economic recession since the Great Depression. Our club presidents led the way in offering accommodations to members who were too strapped financially to continue with the full meal costs and dues. Thank you club presidents 2008-09, I truly enjoyed this walk with you from PETS in Hayward then through our official visits, the many training sessions, and the ending with our fantastic celebration at District Conference. You're not done yet... I may be calling.

While membership is the lifeblood of our activities, the clubs continued to pursue countless fund raising efforts to benefit their communities. We will likely meet our district goal for Rotary Foundation Annual Giving, our clubs and district propelled our area to prominence under John Knutson's leadership with Shelter Box, and Charlie Cogan and the members of the Polio Plus Committee and the Rotary Foundation Event committee exceeded all expectations and goals with our generous gifts to Polio Plus.

Being a business lawyer I saw an opportunity to improve some of our organizational structure, and we now enjoy a new District Organization model operating as a corporation with an active Board of Directors. The Directors each serve as liaisons to 2-3 district committees giving feedback and increasing accountability. With Andy Goke's leadership, our Youth Protection Task Force recommended a new policy for our District and its clubs, which has been adopted by the Board. This policy will help insure the safety of the youth that Rotarians interact with and will also protect our Rotarians through training and reporting requirements. The Sustainable Communities Committee under the leadership of DGND Judy Freund and Stew Erickson have inspired many clubs to work in their communities to pursue the Natural Step's plan to conserve our resources and leave this planet a better place rather than a depleted one. Finally, more than 60 of our clubs now participate in the group Directors and Officers liability insurance plan that has cut our costs per club by 70%.

#### Regrets?

While I gave it my all, there were still times when I was not able to respond as quickly as ideal to an email request and there were times when I simply ran out of gas in giving more guidance to our club and district leaders. But I accept this, my saying was if you are going to do a lot of cooking, a few plates are going to break.

#### What's Next?

Lana and I went camping a few weekends back and we simply loved it. So we will be doing more of that. Our son, Christopher, is studying architecture in Rome, Italy, so we will likely go visit him later this summer. My back is still that of an 80 year old, so I won't be playing a lot of golf like some PDGs I know. [Doug and Al].

I will become active again in my home club, which has been wonderfully supportive this entire year. I will also be serving in a number of leadership positions for Newell including my favorite, Rotaract Extension Team Leader. Newell knows that next week I am flying to California and will be undergoing an age change. [I saw an ad on the internet, so I know it can be done.]

In closing, thank you for the support that each of you have given to me and Lana. It has truly been an honor, allowed me to create new and better friendships, and in Michael Jackson's words, we have made this world a better place for you and me. Good luck Newell, you have already taken many truly insightful steps to make the district even stronger under your leadership.

God Bless Rotary and God Bless our District and Clubs,  
Yours in Rotary Service, I am  
Roy A. Sjoberg

***DSG Project entitled: 'Las Aldea de Ninos Library & Science Lab Project' in Santa Cruz, Bolivia***

On behalf of all of the Rotarians in the Farmington and Lakeville Rotary Clubs, we want to sincerely thank you and the rest of the members of the District Grants Subcommittee for taking the extra time to make such a great program possible for our members.

This project was a real asset to our clubs and its members. The matching grant program really shows our members how teamwork can work and how we can make a difference for those in need on an international level. The program helps us facilitate a simple act of purchasing books and science equipment possible. This kind of project gives a real meaning to our stated mission of serving others. As we introduce new members into our clubs, talking about projects such as this one really helps in our recruiting efforts. We have an enhanced sense of pride in knowing that we have helped young students across the globe learn and grow intellectually. Many of our members are starting to talk about organizing a trip to this school sometime in the near future. We want to continue the relationship we have created. I have included some photos of the new books and lab equipment IN REAL USE BY THE STUDENTS!

Thanks again for working with the Rotary Clubs of Farmington and Lakeville for making our club dollars work even more by contributing grant funds.

We look forward to continuing our international efforts in the future by working with this and other programs that Rotary International and our District can offer.

Many blessings!

Sincerely,

Julie May  
President  
Rotary Club of Farmington

***Announcing New District Youth Protection Policy and Timeline***

The Board of Directors, following a year long study by the District Youth Protection Task Force Committee, chaired by Andy Goke, has adopted a new policy addressing Youth Protection. This is intended to cover those Youth activities that previously had no formal protection policy attached; such as Camp RYLA, STRIVE, Interact, career mentoring, students of the month, etc. The policy will continue to be reviewed and training programs written from July- December 2009. Training of the clubs begins in January 2010 and the policy comes "online" beginning July 1, 2010. This is a big commitment on the part of our District so please read the policy carefully and direct your comments to Andy Goke's committee. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

***Barron County Sunrise Host First Annual Rotary Golf Classic.***

Barron County Sunrise won the trophy and \$300 for Polio Plus in the first annual Rotary Golf Classic. Twenty golfers from Grantsburg, Siren/Webster, Hayward, Rice Lake and Barron County hit the ball.



## Use of District Directory

The 2009-10 Directory is published for the use of the Rotarians in Rotary International District 5960 and is currently being distributed to club and district officers. The primary purpose is to provide contact information for the District Officers, District Chairs, Assistant Governors, and Club Officers. In addition, it provides easy reference to pertinent data which is useful to all Rotarians in the District. The District Directory is not for distribution to non-Rotarians, and its use as a commercial mailing list or for non-Rotary purposes is specifically prohibited. Club Directories have these same restrictions. **See Rotary Code of Policy, section 11.030 Circularization, and, more specifically, subsection 11.030.3.** The above is quoted directly from page 8 of our own District Directory for the current year. It's just time for the periodic reminder to be careful, folks. We're all involved with other worthy causes and it's easy to let our enthusiasm carry us to the District Directory to harvest a few names for the good of another cause. Please don't, thank you.

B<sup>2</sup> Bill Brueck, District 5960 Technology Chair

## June Club Anniversaries

Elk River Rotary Club (1960) – 49 Years  
Coon Rapids Rotary Club (1965) – 44 Years  
St. Croix Falls/Taylor Falls (1986) – 23 Years  
New Richmond Rotary Club (1987) – 22 Years  
Barron County Sunrise (1996) – 13 Years  
Lake Elmo Rotary Club (2005) – 4 Years  
Cannon Valley Rotaract (2006) – 3 Years



## Very Important Links

[District Calendar](#) (District 5960 events)  
[Club Event Calendar](#) (enter YOUR club's event!)  
[Online Directory](#) (for up to date contact information)  
[Club Goals Monthly](#) (monthly club goal status)  
[Club Map/Meetings](#)

Please forward articles for the July newsletter to District Governor Newell Krogmann at [krogmann@earthlink.net](mailto:krogmann@earthlink.net) or District Governor's Newsletter Editor Deanna Rotz [drotz@centralroofing.com](mailto:drotz@centralroofing.com). Articles for consideration must be received by **the 30th** of each month to be included in the next publication.