



in District 9320

Monthly Newsletter
February 2007

WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

From the Desk of the DG:



At a time when there seems to be very little understanding in the world, it seems appropriate that Rotary should focus on World Understanding Month.

You are reminded that 23 February is not only Rotary's Anniversary, but also World Understanding and Peace Day. What better way to celebrate our 102nd Anniversary than by also commemorating the event as World Understanding and Peace Day.

For possible inclusion in the next newsletter, please send a brief e-mail explaining what your club has done for our Anniversary Day, with a picture if possible. But please remember that space is limited, so keep it short, and remember that it is never possible to publish everything received.

Membership remains a concern: why are numbers of members in clubs declining, while numbers of clubs are actually increasing? What happens to the initial enthusiasm of some new Rotarians that they do not remain as members of Rotary clubs? Send your thoughts on this to the DG's e-mail address for publication in the next newsletter.

Yours in Rotary

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PR Grants

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the response world-wide to the opportunity to apply for PR grants was overwhelming. Some of our clubs have not yet heard from RI, but several have, and many applications have been successful, even though they may not have received the full sum asked for. Congratulations to the successful clubs. We hope to give a fuller report in the next newsletter.

With or without the benefit of grants, many clubs continue to do great work in promoting the image of Rotary. The Tree of Joy was a great promotional opportunity, and Radio Algoa gave regular coverage to this. Well done to clubs in the PE and EL areas. There was also newspaper coverage, in various parts of the District. And local radio stations have also been promoting the Rotary story, with clubs such as Graaff Reinet using that medium successfully.

Keep up the good work clubs. Let the Rotary wheel become as well known and recognised as the logos of well known soft drinks, hamburgers, etc.



From RI President Bill Boyd,
a special message for

World Understanding Month:

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Thirty-one years ago, Muhammad Yunus, then a professor of economics at Chittagong University in Bangladesh, discovered a harsh reality of extreme poverty: The difference between self-sufficiency and virtual slavery is much smaller than one might think. In the village of Jobra, he found, it was just a few cents.

While talking to a bamboo-stool maker, Yunus learned that the woman purchased her supply of bamboo on credit, for roughly 25 U.S. cents, every morning. Lacking the money for even a single day's supply of bamboo, she would never be able to repay the loan. Throughout the village, Yunus found many in similar straits. Their total debt? Twenty-seven U.S. dollars. Yunus did what was, for him, the natural thing: He paid their debts. The new entrepreneurs quickly turned a profit, his loan was repaid, and microcredit was born.

The idea of giving small loans to the very poor was a revolutionary one, and it has had revolutionary results. In 2005 alone, 100 million microcredit loans helped people in 130 countries. Today, Rotarians are involved in more than 60 microcredit projects around the world. In 1999, Yunus was honored at the RI Convention in Singapore. In October, he received the Nobel Prize.

The simple principle of microcredit is also a principle of Rotary. Small changes can become great changes, and a seemingly inconsequential act can have tremendous consequences. Just as 25 cents in that Bangladeshi village meant so much more than merely a quarter of a dollar, the prosperity of an unnoticed individual or village has international implications.

As we enter World Understanding Month, we are reminded by Yunus' achievement that we can never know every consequence of what we do. His loan of \$27, given in compassion, led to far more good than he could possibly have imagined. Our Rotary work also leads to benefits we'll never see: new friendships, new connections, warm feelings among people who may have little in common.

Poverty, as we know too well, is a tremendous obstacle to peace and stability. So, every intelligent act of generosity, every project that helps others to lead better lives, is also an act of hope. We Rotarians share the belief that love for others does make a difference. Each small act of kindness, from one human being to another, brings us closer to each other and to the kind of world we hope to leave to our children.

We may think we are only helping to equip a school, supply a clinic, or build a well for a faraway community. But in truth, what we are doing is helping to build a better, more stable, and more peaceful future.

W.B. (Bill) Boyd
President, Rotary International

(From the RI website)

New Rotary Clubs Fueling Membership Growth

© Rotary International

According to a 2006 study of RI membership data, membership continues to decline in existing Rotary clubs, while new clubs are providing the foundation for growth. Today, the average club has 40 members, down from 45 members, as reported on a 2002 demographic study.

The 2006 study, conducted by RI's Membership Development Division, found that the most common club size is 20 members, the minimum requirement for chartering a new club. About 22 percent of clubs have fewer than 20 members, and 4 percent have fewer than 11.

As existing clubs become smaller, the number of new clubs is increasing by 20 percent between 1995 and 2005 which is leaving many districts with more clubs but fewer members. Although new clubs expand the breadth of Rotary service, this trend highlights the challenges of retention in existing clubs.

Chris Offer, chair of RI's Membership Development Committee, attributes changing membership patterns to several factors. One is action by the Council on Legislation that liberalized restrictions on club territory and lowered the number of members required to charter a new club to 20. Another factor is not making membership a club priority.

"Many clubs simply are not giving membership the attention it requires. It is not easy to recruit new members," Offer says. He points out that new clubs have energy, enthusiasm, and a clear goal to achieve in order to charter. "Membership recruitment cannot be a periodic campaign; rather, clubs must have active committees that work on membership all the time."

Implementing the Club Leadership Plan is the best tactic for every club, Offer says. Having a membership committee that reports directly to the board "keeps membership on the top of the club's agenda."

PRLS (Potential Rotary Leadership Seminar)

A very successful PRLS session was held in Klerksdorp on Saturday 27 January; thanks to John McDonald for the detailed preparation and organisation, and to his fellow presenters, Des Willis and Ian Harris. Evaluation sheets from participants showed this to have been a very successful event.

The PRLS (Potential Rotary Leadership Seminar) scheduled for Grahamstown on 10 February has to be rescheduled, as Des Willis, who is the trainer for the South, and will be leading this, will be overseas at that time. More will follow later.

ROTARY SHOP CONTACT DETAIL CHANGE

Due to the Telkom lines being continuously stolen, if you need to phone, please contact Joan Wolfe directly on Cell 082-458-8116. The email address remains unchanged as rotyd9300@mweb.co.za

From the Anns:

Dear Friends in Rotary,

It is a great privilege to be able to write to you all, with news of what is happening in the Rotary Ann and Inner Wheel clubs in the central area of District 9320.

These ladies have been very busy in the past six months with ongoing projects.

However, a few new ideas have been put into practice, and I will mention them, merely as an idea for other clubs.

The Kroonstad Anns concentrated on disadvantaged children. They arranged for 40 to 60 underprivileged children, who are usually fed at school, to be fed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, during the school holidays, ensuring that these children remain in a reasonable nutritional state.

The Inner Wheel club of Bloemfontein also concentrated on children by taking under their wing one of the smaller 'houses' of an orphanage, and seeing to the needs of these boys.

The Ladybrand Anns have organised a dance on behalf of CANSA on the 21st April, so girls, get out your party gear, and let's join them! Remember these are our famous District 9320 Calendar Girls!

The Raadzaal Anns are busy making Rape Crisis kits – a very worthwhile project.

The Harrismith Anns assist with a Hope House where HIV children are cared for.

The Flamingo Anns have a project in which each Ann 'adopts' a child from a local orphanage, and then ensures that their child has a truly memorable birthday and Christmas.

The Goldfields Sunset Anns have focussed on the elderly in local retirement homes, as also the Hospice crèche.

The Goldfields Sunset and Flamingo Anns are quick to remind me, that they also have fun, and enjoyed a great get together recently!

In Odendaalsrus, the Anns assisted with food which was served on Christmas day to the underprivileged in the town. That is Service Above Self!

The Bothaville Anns are small in number, but continue to serve their community. Now, if you want to make big bucks, ladies, go no further than our DG's club, where the Anns of Kimberley South, raised a great deal of money with an upmarket fashion show, and not content with that, then raffled two diamonds!!

Please note ladies who live in the big cities – there are distinct advantages to live in a smaller town, especially where the diamonds are mined!!

My love and best wishes to you all.

Yours in Rotary.

Melodene Stonestreet.

ATTENDANCE RECORD

CLUB	OCT			NOV		
	%	Mem	Mtg	%	Mem	Mtg
Algoa Bay	80.7	61	5	92.9	61	4
Aliwal North	87.1	14	5	80.4	14	4
Arcadia	93.4	38	5	99.5	38	4
Beacon Bay	73.1	28	4	74.8	28	5
Bethlehem						
Bloemfontein	68.0	16	3			
Bonza Bay	96.9	24	5	100.0	23	4
Bothaville						
Colesberg						
Cradock	90.0	10	3	76.0	10	3
De Aar	87.0	10	4	90.0	9	4
East London	76.4	55	4	85.3	55	4
Ficksburg	69.6	17	4			
Flamingo	76.4	22	5	77.3	22	4
Gately	64.0	39	5	81.0	39	4
Goldfields Sunset	96.7	26	5	90.3	26	4
Gonubie	75.0	27	5	64.0	27	4
Graaff Reinet						
Grahamstown	73.0	37	4	78.3	38	5
G'town Sunset	68.0	35	5	74.0	35	4
Harrismith	67.0	19	4	90.5	17	4
Imperani	68.3	15	4	90.0	14	5
Jeffreys Bay	83.0	14	5	85.0	13	4
Kimberley						
Kimberley South	83.3	30	4	72.5	30	4
King Williams Town	38.6	23	4			
Klerksdorp	91.5	43	4	82.4	41	5
Kroonstad	70.7	19	5	87.5	19	4
Ladybrand	96.9	17	2	87.8	17	5
Lukhanji Sunset						
Maloti	74.0	25	3	78.0	25	4
Maseru						
Odendaalsrus	69.0	12	4	68.0	12	5
Orkney	66.0	19	5	68.0	19	4
Parys	100.0	8	5			
Port Alfred	85.4	33	5			
Port Elizabeth	56.0	50	4	67.0	51	4
PE East	75.0	17	4	69.0	17	4
PE South	81.7	15	5	77.0	15	4
PE Sunrise	71.1	19	4	67.1	19	4
PE West	79.0	30	4	80.0	23	4
Potchefstroom	50.0	36	4	64.0	36	5
Potchefstroom Mooi	83.8	16	5	82.8	16	4
Queenstown	69.5	29	4			
Raadzaal	78.5	14	5	68.5	14	4
Stutterheim	96.5	15	4	98.6	15	5
Uitenhage						
Uitenhage South						
Viljoenskroon	94.9	28	5	90.4	28	4
Vryburg	90.0	10	5	85.0	10	4
Welkom	82.0	11	4	95.5	11	4
Total		1026			887	

Secretaries and Attendance Officers: please submit your attendance figures, on time, to District Attendance Officer Phil Hart. Gaps in the record make the whole exercise meaningless. (Some clubs have responded to requests concerning this, but their responses were too late for this newsletter. The amended record will appear in the March newsletter.)

A special message from RI President Bill Boyd:



... inviting YOU to the Rotary Convention in Salt Lake City in June 2007:

Greetings to the team of 2006/07. Lorna and I met yesterday with the Host Committee for the International Convention in June, and I am contacting you in the hope that we can communicate some of our excitement. This will be a great Convention, and all it needs now is for the registrations to pour in. We are already assured of a big attendance, but more Rotarians will mean even greater fellowship.

The House of Friendship will be bigger and better. As you enter, you will see an Indian Village, 150 feet by 35 feet, complete with a stream. The signage will be on totem poles showing languages and directions. There will be comfortable conversation areas, and roving entertainment, and the food area will feed 1,000 people at a time with plenty of choice (and alcohol available). There will be an internet area and connections to the Genealogy Centre. If you want to study your family even more, there will be tours of the Genealogy Centre. And your gift bag will be very usable!

A new feature will be the Rotary Youth Hub with attractions for Rotaract, Interact, RYLA, Youth Exchange, Ambassadorial Scholars, and any other young attendees plus probably a few other Rotarians. Plans currently include a climbing wall, movies made in Utah shown on a large screen, bean bags, internet, a snack bar, virtual rides and a mechanical bull. The Host Committee wants to encourage our young future Rotarians to attend Conventions!

Lorna and I heard two of the performers from Saturday night's Sensational Entertainment

and they were superb. Also appearing will be the Osmond's Second Generation and the Five Browns (piano music on five pianos). Don't miss this one, but then you would not want to miss the rodeo on the Tuesday night, and it will be hard to choose between the Country and Western, home hospitality, or the Evening at the Capitol Theatre on the Monday night. The Evening at the Capitol Theatre will have 214 performers entertaining with songs from opera and musicals (and a Rotarian is significantly sponsoring this to keep the cost to you low).

I haven't covered the Rendezvous in the Park on Sunday, or the business to Business contact sessions being arranged.

I have not told you anything of the Plenary sessions and the Workshops or the special features of the opening and closing, and they can wait till later but Donny Osmond is breaking his tour through the U.S. to entertain us at the opening.

For the golfers, just to get you excited, you will be able to play top courses for under \$50 including green fees and cart.

I hope I have not gone on too long for you but I wanted to convey how convinced Lorna and I are that this will be a memorable Convention.

Please encourage the Rotarians of your district to attend the top Rotary fellowship event of the year.

We send you our warmest regards, and look forward to seeing you at Salt Lake City.

Bill

P.S. I forget to mention that there will be 2,000 volunteers speaking a wide range of languages available to assist you.

