



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9320

DISTRICT GOVERNOR LIONEL HEATH

2007 to 2008

From the Lion's Den

The monthly newsletter from the District Governor of District 9320

July 2007

LITERACY MONTH

A NEW BEGINNING

The new Rotary year brings with it much promise for Rotary in District 9320, but I must start by thanking Ethne for her leadership and advice during the past year and by thanking Wes for his support for her. Thank you both for what you have meant to us and our district.

Without the foundation set in previous years and the support and advice of Past DGs, Maureen and I could not set out in the new year with the confidence we have. This has increased since a good POETS and the warm, positive and supportive atmosphere at our induction. Thank you to those who made the evening so special.

This edition of the newsletter will differ from later editions as there is a lot that needs to be said at the start of the year before we settle down to more routine matters.

The DG's newsletter will be posted on the District website www.rotary9320.org.za each month and an electronic copy will be sent to each president and each secretary for distribution to club members. A hard copy will also be posted to each club. In addition, an addendum will be sent, as happened three years ago, containing administrative matters (like the exchange rates, etc.) of importance to the board but not necessarily to all Rotarians This will mean that information from the DG will be sent once a month unless urgent matters arise.

Let us start the year with a short Rotary story:

A Rotarian, transferred to a new town, wanted to continue his Rotary membership and visited one of the clubs in his new town. Choosing an obviously experienced Rotarian, he asked, "What is this club like?"

Surprisingly the answer to the question was a question: "What was your last club like?"

"To tell the truth," he answered, "it was not much of a club. Members were unfriendly and fellowship hardly existed. Club projects were limited and involved only a

few members of a clique. We learnt nothing about Rotary or the Foundation."

"You will find this club just the same," came the reply .

A month later a similar situation arose when another newly transferred Rotarian came to visit the club with the same intention. The same question was asked and the same question came in reply, but this time the response from the newcomer differed.

"Our club members are wonderfully friendly. We all get on so well together and hold fellowship functions filled with fun and laughter. We all get stuck in and assist with projects, host GSE teams, donate to the Foundation and last year we nominated a young person who won an Ambassadorial Scholarship. I am sad to be moving."

The reply was the same as previously: "You will find this club is just the same."

The experienced Rotarian knew that what Rotary is to each of us is determined by each person's attitude.

At the start of the new Rotary year let us individually have another look at why we are in Rotary and at our attitude to fellow Rotarians in our own club **and** other clubs. We have been asked to **SHARE ROTARY**. The word SHARE is one highly charged with positive connotations and we all know the positive connotations of the word ROTARY.

It may be a cliché nowadays, but we all need to remember the ten word / twenty letter slogan:

IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME!



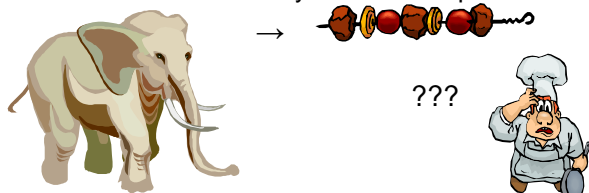
IS LITTLE LEARNING DANGEROUS?

Alexander Pope warned that a little learning is a dangerous thing – but is this always so?

The more you know about something, the more you understand and appreciate it. If you do not know the rules of cricket, how can you really understand what is going on? And the better you know the rules, the more you appreciate the subtleties of the game.

The more you know about Rotary and the Rotary Foundation, the more you are going to enjoy being involved in and appreciate them. Retired teachers may lose their class, but they remain teachers and I should like every Rotarian in the district to learn much more about Rotary in the year ahead.

You know that the best way to eat an elephant



is in bite size pieces!

The best way to accumulate a huge amount of learning is also in small pieces. The Foundation is like a huge elephant and we are now able to learn about it by eating bite size pieces.

The Foundation has sent to each president a little blue book entitled **EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR**. In it is a weekly **ROTARY FOUNDATION THOUGHT** of a few lines. One can be read each week by a selected Rotarian or by the sergeant. The Foundation Thought may replace or accompany the Thought for the Day prevalent in many clubs, or a club may prefer to print each thought in the weekly club bulletin.

Why stop at your weekly bite of Foundation Knowledge? Our district trainers are organising another series of LET'S TALK ROTARY (LTR) in various centres in the district. Ask any Rotarian who has attended one and you will be told how informative and enjoyable it was.

WATCH OUT FOR LET'S TALK ROTARY or a **FOUNDATION SEMINAR** AT A VENUE NEAR YOU.

Our district training, following the Let's Talk Rotary pattern, is set to become more interactive and participatory so that experienced and less experienced Rotarians can participate together. Try to attend one – you will be surprised how much you learn.

In addition there will a number of PRLS (Potential Rotary Leaders' Seminars) in various parts of the district. PRLS ONE is a useful course in public speaking and meeting management that any Rotarian can apply in Rotary or in his or her private and vocational life.

District 9320 Governor's Newsletter

July 2007

In Klerksdorp Rotarians and their partners attended a PRLS session and raved about it to such an extent that the first PRLS TWO will be held in Klerksdorp once our trainers have themselves been trained.

If you are going to attend a training session like PRLS or LTR, why not bring your partner? In addition, as the Family of Rotary is one of RI President Wilf Wilkinson's emphases, you should be encouraging Interactors and Rotaractors to attend these sessions as well.

A little learning is probably not dangerous if you have a bite size piece every week and settle down to a Foundation, Membership, PRLS or LET'S TALK ROTARY banquet two or three times a year.

Your diet should also allow you another meal or two on a more regular basis. Every club should be holding Rotary Information sessions and/or providing Rotary information material in the Club Bulletin.

At POETS your president was given a number of pamphlets, books, etc. containing Rotary information. Traditionally these are placed in a hidden drawer by the president and then he or she denies they were ever received until they are found a year or two after his or her term of office has ended. This is **not** going to be the case this year. This year's presidents indicated at POETS that they were going to be different leaders and were going to SHARE ROTARY and this includes Rotary information.

All presidents have the resources mentioned below in addition to the blue Foundation book mentioned earlier and all can be used for Rotary information sessions so that this year all Rotarians will become more knowledgeable than ever before and as a result get more involved in and supportive of Rotary and Foundation programmes.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

(Material given to Presidents at or before POETS)

- 1 [Presidential theme & citation brochures](#)
- 2 [Club Leadership Plan booklet](#)
- 3 [Membership Development Resource Guide](#)
- 4 [New Member Orientation booklet](#)
- 5 [Rotary Basics \(An ideal reference\)](#)
- 6 [This is Rotary \(A very brief reference\)](#)
- 7 [The Rotary Foundation Quick Reference Guide \(An easy to use reference\)](#)
- 8 [Up to date manuals for each committee as per the Club Leadership Plan.](#)

DON'T FORGET THE WEBSITES

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
www.rotary.org
DISTRICT 9320
www.rotary9320.org.za

“CONSCIENCE PRICKERS”

Presidents may feel they have had a raw deal – some of their secrets have been let out of the bag and as a result a few things may be changing in the clubs in this year. It is not all over.

You will also notice in the directory (that you should have by now or very soon) that there are additional “conscience-prickers” in there. At the end of the calendar for each month, there is a note to check that something is being done in the club.

Also in the directory are the district goals that should impact on your club goals for the year. One of the conscience-prickers that occurs more than others is the one that asks whether the club is reviewing its goals.

If the president does accidentally slip up on something, I am sure every club has a friendly (not hostile) “stirrer” that will ensure that things happen.

The club “stirrer” may also like to know that the secretaries at POETS promised that all due dates would be met. The first is the attendance report that needs to be in within ten days of the end of a month. Shouldn't somebody pay a fine if your club attendance details are missing in the monthly DG's bulletin?

The directory lists due dates and somebody in the club can remind those involved in case they forget.

It has often been proved that the well administered sports unions are the ones that achieve the best results on the field of play. The same applies to Rotary clubs. The successful clubs are seldom those that have not paid dues or submitted attendance figures on time.

Let this year be a great year for club administration.

LITERACY MONTH

The Rotary year starts with Literacy Month and each club should try to do something in this regard.



The way for South Africa and Lesotho to release their inhabitants from a spiral of poverty and ignorance, is to increase literacy levels in the countries. South Africa was recently placed 100th in a world literacy report, below the position of a number of other Southern African countries. At a recent international education conference in Port Elizabeth, the low literacy rate was called a “time bomb” because of the consequences.

A simple project is collecting children's books and donating them to disadvantaged schools. In America clubs often provide a dictionary for every child in a particular grade. A regular programme of listening to children read or of reading to them is also common. There is plenty of scope for ideas.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

August is Membership and Extension month and clubs should be making an all out effort to meet membership goals now so that there is not a rush at the end of March to reach these. Do not lose a citation because you meet membership goals and then lose a member just before citation forms needed to be submitted. Have spares!

Every president has pledged to bring in a new Rotarian this year – a bit more pressure on him or her, but so has every Assistant Governor. If you have an AG in your club, you need to keep him or her on his or her toes as well. The club with the DG in it can do the same to him – President Wilf Wilkinson expects him to introduce a new member as well!

SPONSOR LAPEL PINS

President Wilf has introduced a new Rotary lapel pin for those that sponsor new Rotarians.



RI has sent me 51 for the Presidents as every president in District 9320 will be bringing in a new member. I shall probably present these to them on the occasion of my visit and I look forward to meeting the new member introduced by the president.

Clubs are encouraged to use these pins for Rotarians who introduce members. The Rotary Shop does not yet have any in stock, but clubs can purchase them when they come into stock.

RECOGNITION FOR SMALLER CLUBS

Another initiative of President Wilf is to give a special recognition certificate to clubs with fewer than twenty members that increase their membership. There are three categories – those that start the year below 10 need to reach 10; those between 10 and 14 to reach 15; those between 15 and 19 to reach 20.

Many of our smaller clubs can easily earn this recognition and a certificate of achievement.

FOUNDATION NEWS

At my induction I offered to have my head shaved if the district averaged \$100 per Rotarian in donations to the Foundation this year. This follows the outgoing DG of the district that covers Zambia, Northern Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe that has collected \$100 per Rotarian for 2006-7. All he had to do was shave his beard! Jeffrey's Bay Rotarians suggested a tattoo might be more appropriate than the shaved head for me. Anyone interested in taking up either challenge!

Information to date indicates that at least five clubs in the district have paid in at least \$100 per member for this Rotary year. Next month we shall have final figures. A number are aiming at \$100 this year and one for \$105.

COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION

The REPORT OF ACTION of the 2007 Council on Legislation of RI has just been published and the enactments now come into operation. These should also appear on our district website quite soon and are available on the RI website.

Each club has received a copy of the document and there are a number of important issues that need to be looked at by each club board.

Some changes will have to be made to club bylaws. Once changes have been made, they need to be approved by **all** members. Those changing their bylaws to the new bylaws appropriate for the CLP are reminded that these changes also need club approval.

One enactment that should interest Rotarians is that if a president-elect does not attend POETS, that president may not assume office and the outgoing president has to remain president for another year. I can see this year's presidents driving their successors to Colesberg next year for POETS to be sure they go.

CONSOLIDATION OF DISTRICTS

Rotarians should all be aware of the recent discussions about the consolidation of the six districts in Southern Africa (southwards from Zambia and Angola) into five or four. A proposal from the immediate past district governors and the present governors of the six districts concerned was put to the clubs in the region.



The four regions would be those shown in the four colours on the map.

Clubs voted on whether to accept the plan in principle or not. Fifty percent of clubs had to vote against the proposal for it to be rejected. In our district 32 of the 51 clubs submitted the results of voting in their clubs to me and 29 voted against and 3 in favour of the proposal.

The point was brought home to me that lack of interest or poor administration in our clubs is crucial. If four more clubs had voted for the proposal, it would not have been rejected as the majority wanted to happen.

One of the major problems with the request from Rotary International for us to consolidate with other districts was that we did not know the reasons for the consolidation. RI can only compel us to combine with other districts if we have fewer than 30 clubs or 1000 Rotarians. We meet both criteria but are moving steadily down towards the 1000 mark, as has happened to two other districts in South Africa. We are requesting reasons from RI.

For the time being we will not be combining with other districts but we need to ensure that our numbers remain well above 1000.

Overall what will probably happen is that districts will remain as they are except that, in July 2010, the districts that cover the old Transvaal, Swaziland, Botswana and Southern Mozambique will consolidate into one district.

Over 80% of clubs in the Natal district were in favour of trying to improve the quality of their district by joining the Eastern Cape clubs in our district! They are also able to survive a bit longer as they have over 1000 members. The Western Cape and Namibia district is the strongest in member numbers and was not under any pressure to be involved in the consolidation process.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that I report the passing of the father of PP Gay Best (PE West) and the mother of AG Ian Harris (Goldfields Sunset) in the past few weeks.

We also bade a final farewell to three Rotarians during the past month:

Rtn Werner Loewenstein, the oldest member of the Rotary Club of Algoa Bay and Rotarians Andrew Le Riche and John Knipe of the Rotary Club of Kimberley.

Our sympathies go to their families, friends and the members of their clubs.

PERSONAL NEWS

Rtn Louis Opperman (Queenstown) is in intensive care in the Greenacres Hospital in Port Elizabeth.

We wish him a speedy recovery

DISCON 2007/8
ROTARY IN THE MOUNTAIN KINGDOM
MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTRE
MASERU, LESOTHO
Starts : FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 18:30
Ends : SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER after the evening banquet.

Registration forms on District website.
Contact details for accommodation, etc. are on the bottom of the registration form.
We have been informed by the local Rotarians that the unrest at present is minor and that they will let us know if there is any likelihood of trouble. One Rotarian has described it as politicians practising shadow boxing.

REMEMBER YOU NEED PASSPORTS FOR LESOTHO. CHECK YOURS NOW!

Rotary Greetings Lionel Heath DG : District 9320

SPOUSE'S SPOT

Greetings to you all at the start of the new Rotary year

I hope that in the year that "Rotary shares" we will all be able to do just that – to share ideas for service projects, fundraising and also friendship and fellowship. If you do have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions you would like to share with other clubs do e-mail me in this regard.

Lionel and I are looking forward to seeing many of you in Maseru in September for the District Conference. We have an interesting and varied day planned for Saturday in the breakaway spouse meeting when it is hoped the Queen of Lesotho will address us. As well as many opportunities to meet and greet with others from the Rotary family during Conference, we will be hearing good speeches and presentations and having some excellent fellowship.

The month of July is observed as literacy month on the Rotary Calendar and I should like to request each one of you to obtain a child's illustrated book (eg Picture Puffin, Songololo etc) suitable for Junior Primary ages of 7 to 10 years to bring with you to Conference – or send it with a friend if you are unable to come. You may have suitable books that your children or grandchildren no longer require and that are still in good condition. On Saturday 22 September you will be given a book plate to insert in each book with your name and that of your club and the books will then be donated to needy schools in Lesotho so that we can share the gift of Literacy. Although Lesotho is a very poor country, the children have access to free primary schooling but books to assist in encouraging reading – the key to educating a child – are not plentiful.

Thank you Lynne (East London area), Melodene (Central), Cathy (Port Elizabeth area) and Sheila (North) for being District Co-ordinators last year. I know the clubs enjoyed your help and involvement and the interest that you showed. Thank you also to all the other PDG Anns who have been so helpful with advice and encouragement.

With best wishes

Maureen.

ALL LADY PARTNERS OF ROTARIANS, WHETHER THEY ARE OFFICIALLY ANNS OR MEMBERS OF THE INNER WHEEL OR NOT, ARE INVITED TO REGISTER FOR THE ANNS' LUNCH AND CONFERENCE AT THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN MASERU IN SEPTEMBER.



PDG's Ann Sheila McDonald prepares to pin the badge of office onto incoming DG's Ann, Maureen Heath while newly inducted DG Lionel Heath and outgoing DG Ethne Papenfus look on.