



# E-Rotatler

Week of August 16, 2010

A Publication of the ROTARY CLUB OF ST. LOUIS PARK

District 5950, Club 2133 – Since 1947

<http://www.rotaryslp.org> (password: parkrotary)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### 2– Site Visit

St. Louis Park  
Emergency Program  
(STEP)

9-LTC Tom Behling  
Chaplain—MN NG 34th  
Division—The Red Bulls

16-Club Assembly  
Jay Rasmussen  
23-Grass Roots  
Solutions

Charlie Pope  
30-Peace Corps  
Ron Tschetter  
Past Director

## SEPTEMBER

6—Labor Day  
(No Meeting)

13—Steve George  
Baldrige.com

20—DG Larry Zilliox  
27 –Dawn Owens  
CEO—Optimum Health

## INTRODUCTIONS

9– Elmer Schindel

16—Elmer Schindel  
23– Ken Skold

30—Ken Skold

## SGT OF ARMS

Paul Hovde  
Mary Phelps

## WHAT'S YOUR ROTARY STORY???

President's Jay's theme for the year

## THE PRESENT...August 16, 2010 Club Assembly—Jay Rasmussen

## BREAKING NEWS...Progressive Dinner set for Saturday, October 2nd

## FROM THE PODIUM —August 9, 2010

Happy Bucks from

1) Bruce Hasselbring - Bruce gives props to the club for being active and generous supporters of STEP. He is happy about the naming rights to the clothes room at STEP, thanks to the memorial gift from past Rotarian Bill Briggs.



2) Mary Phelps is happy to go to Chicago to see her kids. She also indicated both appreciation and concern for Al Ackerman's flea market hobby. Apparently Al is an arms dealer. She did say that attending the flea market with Tammy Sullivan is less threatening than Al's weapons.

3)Angie Baldwin ventured tent camping with her two kids 5 and 2. They made it home before the big rain. Nice work Angie!



**2010/2011 BOARD**

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**AVENUES OF SERVICE**

- YOUTH**
- COMMUNITY**
- INTERNATIONAL**
- VOCATIONAL**
- CLUB**

4) Al Ackerman needed a couple dollars to vindicate his good name from illegal arms dealer to *innocent flee market people watcher*. Al encourages everyone to check out the market each Sunday from 6:30am-12pm at the Medina Rec Center. It is a flee market except when it is really warm outside, then it may be more of a mee(a?)t market according to Al. Go visit Al's stand.

5) Arnie Bloomquist is also thankful for our support of STEP. Arnie is a long time past board member of STEP.

6) Ken Skold is happy about relaxing on lake superior as well as having a nostalgic and honoring moment as a veteran pilot in the recent air show in the Twin City.

### **THE PAST...LOOKING BACK, August 9th Meeting**

LTC Tom Behling—chaplain with the MN National Guard 34<sup>th</sup> Division. Check out [www.theredbulls.org](http://www.theredbulls.org)

Tom has served two tours. One in Afghanistan and one in Iraq. He shared about the differences of the assignments in each country and the challenges particularly in Afghanistan.

He stressed that today when you serve on a tour there is no vocational difference for active duty, National Guard, or Reserve soldiers. They all are doing the same jobs and share the same experiences on the field.

He said the difference is most evident when they return home. The most difficult transition is for those in the Guard and Reserves because they return separated from those they served with. They are often alone in a community that cannot relate to their experience on tour. This poses a lot of challenges for re-acclimating to civilian life.

The most troubling statistic is that there is a 40% unemployment rate among returning National Guardsman.



Help families out by going to  
[www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org](http://www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org)

Currently recruitment for the National Guard is at capacity. There is a waiting list to join the guard.

The 34 division plans to deploy spring 2011 to Kuwait.

Thanks Tom for your service!!

## GOING FORWARD..8/23/2010

### Speakers from Grass Roots Solutions and Pew Environmental Group

## CHILDREN FIRST BBQ ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

Enjoy the fleeting days of summer during the first-ever Children First bar-b-que on Thursday, August 19, 11:30am-1:00pm at Oak Hill Park. This will be a great chance to connect with Asset Champions before the frenzy of the new school year begins. We will light up the grill and serve hot dogs, snacks and cold beverages. All Asset Champions and friends of Children First are invited.

This is an informal event. Take a break from your day and stop by for as long as you can. It is also a weather dependent event that will be cancelled if the weather does not cooperate. Park in the lot at 33rd and Rhode Island. If planning to attend please email Karen Atkinson. Also, those interested can participate in Asset Champion Training on September 23, 3-5:30pm at St. Louis Park Schools District office.

## DISTRICT NEWS

Here's an opportunity to Serve. An invitation from Ron Axel, District Visioning Chair.

We are looking to add several people to the District Visioning Team. The commitment would be 3-4 Monday evenings throughout the Rotary year. If you or member(s) of your Rotary Club are interested, please contact Ron Axel at ronald9494@aol.com H719-486-8077

### Message from Governor Larry Zilliox

Greetings from Alexandria!

As I write this newsletter I am sitting at my desk looking out over green grass and a waist-high soybean field. When is the last time you recall having to mow the lawn — and in some cases twice in a week — in late July and early August? Normally we give the mower a rest because the lawns are dormant.

Looking over the soybean field made me think of the farmer as he was planting the field and the hopes and expectations he had for the potential crop. He had faith that the seed would germinate and grow under all weather conditions, and survive disease and insect problems. Looking at the crop today, I believe he will harvest a bumper crop as it has been a perfect year.

So too in Rotary we have sowed a new crop of officers in our clubs, and all indications are that the germination was great and the leaders are emerging strong and robust. I am inspired by the club meetings I have attended so far, and look forward to meeting the rest of you in the near future. As we grow through the Rotary year, we will provide a little fertilizer to sustain the enthusiasm that exists in a new year. The first shot of fertilizer is September 24 at Golden Valley Country Club when we kick off our Fall Workshop. I encourage you to have your membership, foundation and public relations chairs in attendance. I will also add a few extra vitamins in the program, as we will have several updates on fall programs such as



Honoring the  
Nine District Governors  
Originating from the  
**ROTARY CLUB OF  
ST. LOUIS PARK**

**CARROLL L. HURD**

District 174  
1952-1953

**FRED V. ROGERS**

**District 595**  
1961-1962

**C. WILLIAM BRIGGS**

**District 595**  
1972-1973

**JOHN N. MITCHELL**

District 595

**TOM O'MEARA**

District 595  
1981-1982

**WILLIAM B. GLEESON**

**District 595**  
1984-1985

**KENNETH L. SKOLD**

District 5950  
1989-1990

**PAUL O. BIERHAUS**

District 5950  
2002-2003

**ROD S. SHILKROT**

District 5950  
2006-2007

**OUR LEGACY OF  
LEADERSHIP**

**THE LEADING DISTRICT 5950  
CLUB IN PRODUCING  
DISTRICT GOVERNORS!**

Camp Enterprise, Youth Exchange, etc. Diana, my trainer, has lined up a keynote speaker that will give one extra boost to your Rotary new year.

**District 5950 Is a World Leader in Foundation Support**

Congratulations go out to PDG Sandy Schley and Jeff Ohe for the work they did in raising funds for The Rotary Foundation! Our district placed third in the world in giving, a tradition in our district that I plan to match. As a result of similar giving during Tammy Laurent's year as Governor, I have been able to set aside nearly \$100,000 for local community grants. Clubs have responded by requesting matching grants, and to date we have given out \$43,000. I encourage clubs to submit grants for the next round so that we can make our communities a better place to live, work and play. I would be so pleased if we ran out of funds by December and would work to find additional dollars somewhere in the system. My hat is off to Don Stiles and his committee for revising the grant form to make it easier to apply for matching grants.

**Group Study Exchange (GSE) Application Deadline is August 27**

Barb Devlin, Chair of Outbound Group Study Exchange (GSE), is seeking additional applications for the exchange to France, which will take place March 6-April 3, 2011. Applications need to come to your club for approval and then be sent to Barb by August 27. So scour the countryside and the city for non-Rotarians, the potential candidates for this program. Clubs are encouraged to host the team from Brazil, which will be in District 5950 from April 1 to April 30. If your club is interested in hosting, contact Inbound Coordinator Mary Daniels ([marydaniels@me.com](mailto:marydaniels@me.com)).

**Candidates for District Governor Sought**

Sandy Schley has announced that we are seeking candidates for District Governor for 2013-14. Applications are available from Diane Confer, Executive Secretary, and on the district website [www.rotary5950.org](http://www.rotary5950.org). Applicants will be interviewed after the fall workshop on September 24.

**Tax-Deductibility Status of Dues**

Here is a recent note from Rotary International reminding individuals about tax-deductible status of dues:

"Contributions to clubs and districts are generally not tax deductible as charitable contributions. Clubs and districts that have gross annual receipts that normally exceed \$100,000 generally must include a disclosure statement regarding the non-deductibility of contributions during fundraising solicitations (IRC Sec. 6113). Note that this includes invoices for payment of dues. See **IRS Notice 88-120** for more details and acceptable disclosure language.

"Contributions to any club or district charitable fund that has obtained tax exemption under **Section 501(c)(3)** of the Internal Revenue Code



## WEBSITES TO REMEMBER

St. Louis Park Rotary  
<http://www.rotaryslp.org>

Rotary District 5950  
<http://www.rotary5950.org>

Rotary International  
<http://www.rotary.org>

City of St. Louis Park  
<http://www.stlouispark.org>

Children First  
<http://www.childrenfirst.org>

St. Louis Park Schools  
<http://www.slpschools.org>

St. Louis Park Emergency Program (STEP)  
<http://www.slpstep.org>

(If you think of any website that you would like to see listed, please email [admin@rotaryslp.org](mailto:admin@rotaryslp.org))

may be tax deductible as charitable contributions. Membership dues may be deductible for some Rotarians as business expenses.”

### **New Generations Youth Exchange Program**

Karin Treiber is giving leadership to a new program called New Generations. Here is her brief report on recent activities.

From June through August 2010, a group of six young adults sought a short-term vocational and cultural experience in the Twin Cities area through the Rotary Youth Exchange program called “New Generations.” They came from Gujarat, India; Halle, Germany; Tours, France; and Taipei, Taiwan. Their vocational interests ranged from civil engineering and software engineering to physical therapy, law, politics and fashion design. Last summer the Minneapolis University Club was the first club to host our “pioneer” New Generations participant.

Hosts for the young adults represented seven Rotary clubs in the metro area and even two couples who are not Rotarians. The clubs who responded to the New Generations Committee’s request for assistance were Minneapolis City of Lakes, Minneapolis University, Minneapolis, Minneapolis South, Hopkins, Burnsville Breakfast, and Blaine/Ham Lake. The young people reported generous hosts, interesting and useful internships in a wide range of sites, and great times in the outdoors here in the metro area.

The New Generations program, not to be confused with the new avenue of service called “New Generations,” offers young adults who are high school graduates and between the ages of 18-25 a unique opportunity. They go to a Rotary district in another part of the world for a short-term exchange that has a clear focus — namely, language development, cultural exposure, or the experience of shadowing a person who works in the young adult’s career interest. Because of our hosting the young adults this summer, our District 5950/5960 Youth Exchange program can now send five young adults to the places represented by these “in-bound” participants. Our exchange with Tours, France has already been filled. Openings are available now for Taipei, Taiwan, eastern Germany, and the Rotary District in Gujarat, India. The exchanges this summer were primarily for four weeks, and this is the amount of time envisioned for the “outbound” young adults.

Members of the New Generations Committee include Michael Cavitt, Sam Dalal, Dennis Kim, Phil and Claudine Solseng, and Karin Treiber. If you would like more information about the New Generations exchange program, please contact any member of the committee. Do contact us in particular if you would like an application form to share with a talented young person eager for a unique, short-term exchange that can be scheduled between September and next June.

- ◆ Karin Treiber, Chair, [drkarinat@yahoo.com](mailto:drkarinat@yahoo.com).



## Haiti Update and Review

Friends of the Safe Water Plus Haiti Project,

I want to report to you on my recent (June 6-17) volunteer trip to Haiti. I will try to briefly cover four areas which are of great interest to all of you.

The earthquake of January 12, 2010.

Work accomplished by our awesome volunteer team. Our impact on the Central Plateau since 2000. Our continued efforts to give Haitians "Hope For The Future."

### EARTHQUAKE:

No words can ever describe the devastation that occurred. You have all seen the photos many times of the damage and loss, both to property and to humans. The death of our dear friend Herve' Dennis' mother when her house collapsed on her, is a personal reminder of how huge the losses are.

The epicenter of quake was on the fault line 40 miles west of Port au Prince. The fault line under the city of PAP has not shifted which causes immediate long term concern.

The staggering statistics are:

- 222,570 died
- 300,000 were injured
- 2.3 million people were displaced
- Loss estimate = \$7.8 billion
- Shelters provided for 1.5 million people
- Food provided for 4.3 million people
- Medical care provided for thousands including over 4,000 needing amputations

When a natural disaster occurs, five steps happen.

Relief – immediate efforts to save and recover the living and provide emergency medical care. This is a process for which Rotary is not well equipped to handle. Red Cross, U.N., and other international NGO's are much better trained for the first response.

Water – survivors need safe water within five days. Our partner, Haiti Outreach, sent their well drilling water truck immediately to provide safe water for survivors. Many international agencies provided water.

Food – survivors need safe food within seven to ten days to combat malnutrition and the resulting onset of diseases.

Shelter – many tent cities, shelter boxes and other forms of housing were set up throughout the area. They will continue to be the only shelter available for a considerable length of time.

Recovery – the repair and replacement of infrastructure. Hospitals and clinics, water supplies, schools, etc. all need to be rebuilt. Rotary and many other agencies are very good at this phase which takes years to accomplish.

Your financial support has resulted in safe water being provided to victims in PAP, repaired electrical and water works for the General Hospital, installed a water supply system for Doctors Without Borders, repaired over 100 wells in the towns of Gressier and Leogane. Continue to repair wells in the Gressier, Petit Goave and Grand Goave areas. We will continue to make additional repairs in the earthquake affected areas for 6-12 months or longer if necessary. I have seen with my own eyes the difference your support has made. I am very grateful for all that you continue to do.

### Recent Volunteer Trip:

In May, we broke ground for the new secondary school in La Victoire. The community has never had a secondary school. Funds for the school (\$170,000) were raised by the partnering group of:

Minneapolis City of Lakes Rotary

Hutchinson Rotary

Brainerd/Baxter Area Rotary

Haiti Outreach

The school will accommodate up to 450 students with the Haitian government providing and paying



for the teachers. Our eight member volunteer team made desks and blackboards for the school. Each desk holds three students.

We cut out parts at the Haiti Outreach offices, transported and assembled 140 desks and eight blackboards. What an incredible group of workers with skills ranging from experienced to those not sure which end of the drill to hold. Everyone on the team deserves a huge thank you for making such a huge difference for the students in La Victoire. Of course, we all looked forward to the truck ride back and forth. Please consider joining us on any upcoming volunteer trip. Your life will never be quite the same when you return.

#### Impact on the Central Plateau:

A few of the projects we have completed in Haiti in the last nine years.

- Drilled 135 wells
- Built 972 latrines
- Provided health and sanitation education in 95 communities
- Sent 26 teams of volunteers for hands on experiences – over 250 volunteers
- Built and worked on three public schools – the most recent is the nearly complete secondary school in La Victoire
- Built hundreds of desks for schools
- Helped support the orphanage in Pignon
- Purchased a new cable tool well drilling rig
- Sent recovery supplies during the devastating hurricanes and earthquake

Has all of our efforts and those of many other groups made a difference in Haiti? Here again, I have seen with my own eyes the tremendous difference we and others have made.

When we provide health and sanitation, clean drinking water and provide literacy, economic improvement automatically occurs. Those of you who traveled to Pignon and the surrounding area some years ago would be amazed at the economic improvement. I am most proud of our cor-

nerstone belief for Haiti's future – Haitians must take ownership of these projects if they are to be sustainable. We provide a hand up not a hand out.

#### Providing "Hope For Haiti's Future"

What projects are we currently working and what are our future plans?

- We have a Rotary International Grant request in to do seven more community educations and wells in the Cap Haitien area – a \$50,000 project.
- We continue to drill wells on the island of La Gonave.
- We have two more communities ready to start a secondary school for 450 students – all that is needed is for a group to commit to raising \$200,000 and the project will move forward.
- A Rotary Matching Grant to build 15 public toilet cabins and water purification systems in Lully, Haiti – a \$50,000 project
- A Rotary Matching Grant to provide and train Haitians in the use of Sand Water Filters – a \$42,000 project
- Partner with Rotary District 5890 in Texas to provide clean water.
- Continue to send 3-4 volunteer teams to Haiti annually
- Continue to provide recovery efforts in the earthquake devastated areas
- Be prepared to be pro-active as new needs surface.
- Etc., Etc., Etc.

On behalf of all needy Haitians, I thank you for your ongoing support. You willingly have shared the most important gift of all – the gift of love and caring. We all realize that there are lots more things to do in Haiti. At the end of the day as I kick back with a "Prestige" in my hand, I can celebrate what a difference our efforts have made.

My Thanks To You All

Ron Axel

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