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District Governor Greg Yank Visits Club

Greg Yank, longtime member of the O'Fallon Rotary Club and current Governor of District 6510, made Swansea one of the first stops on his district-wide tour when he joined us at the membership meeting July 31. Greg, who previously served as governor in 2001-2002, has been active in three different Rotary Clubs since 1978: Kirkwood, MO, Muskegon, MI and O'Fallon, IL. He served as president of the O'Fallon Club in 1992-93. During his first term as governor, the district had a net growth of 8% in membership. Greg and his wife Catherine (herself a past district governor) are major donors to the Rotary Foundation; charter members of the Bequest Society; and Paul Harris Society members. Greg has held many positions of distinction in local, district and zone programs and is a frequent speaker at district conferences and other Rotary meetings dealing with membership and other topics. In January of 2011, he will serve as a Trainer at the International Assembly in San Diego.



In his business life, Greg is a professional facilitator and business coach and is the principal in GY Consulting & Facilitation Services, LLC, a management consulting firm which specializes in business coaching, strategy, facilitation, governing board development/education, and executive search. He is a graduate of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary and earned his MBA at Xavier University,

Greg addressed the membership on the goals he has established for the current year. He quoted Mother Teresa's saying, "I do what I can, where I am, with what I have." He noted that RI President Ray Klinginsmith has adopted the theme "Building Communities--Bridging Continents." The core values of diversity, service, fellowship, leadership and integrity characterize Rotary and Rotarians.

Greg outlined four goals for the current year.

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Take a close look at the health of your club. While Rotary, globally, has gained over 21,000 clubs, the district has not grown. Zone 31, which includes 13 districts besides 6510, netted only 18. He suggested that each club in the district strive to achieve a net gain of one member during the year; and that at least half the members invite one person to a meeting.

Greg urged generous giving to the Rotary Foundation, through the Annual Fund and Polio Plus. Rotary is on the cusp of eliminating polio throughout the world, in conjunction with the World Health Organization; only four countries remain to be cleansed of this disease.

The governor demonstrated the "Shoes for Orphans' Soles" project, to begin in October. The program aims to provide new shoes for kids in orphanages throughout the world. Shoes collected for the program (Walmart is cooperating) will be shipped from Dallas, TX by the Buckner Foundation. In our area, St. Clair County West is the lead club. Greg passed a kid's boot among the membership for contributions to the Foundation.

Lastly, Greg urged each club to adopt a "signature" project, one which would be a force for good in the community. He closed by inviting all members to the district conference to be held at the Drury Inn in O'Fallon October 29-31. At the conclusion of Greg's presentation, President Doug Bush presented Greg with a check for Swansea Rotary for \$200 for the Foundation.

Rotary Sponsors Immunization Clinics in September

The Rotary Club of Swansea, recipient of a Rotary Foundation Grant of \$6,000, will co-sponsor a free infant and child immunization program in partnership with the St. Clair County Health Department in September.



Two special immunization clinics are scheduled: Wednesday, Sept. 8th, from 5-7 pm at High Mount School, 1721 Boul Ave. in Swansea, and Wednesday, Sept. 22nd from 5-7 pm at Wolf Branch Elementary School, 125 Huntwood Rd. in Swansea. The program is available to all children ages 2 months to 18 years who are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. The child's current immunization record should be brought to the clinic.

Wayne Schlosser, Rotary Project Chair, commented on the program, which he has led in the past. "Once again, we will be partnering with our good friends at the St. Clair County Health Department as we did successfully in 2005 with a record-breaking children's health project. The free immunizations will be provided to our youngest and most vulnerable children, infants and toddlers without insurance to cover the cost of immunization."

Kevin Hutchison, Executive Director of the St. Clair County Health Department, described immunizations as "the most effective tools we have of preventing illness and keeping our children and families healthy." He complimented Swansea Rotary for its efforts in effectuating the program. "We appreciate the support of the members of Swansea Rotary Club and the Rotary Foundation and their investment in our community."

Appointments for the immunization may be made by calling the Health Department at (618) 233-6170, ext. 4427. Alternative appointments throughout the month of September may be made at the Health Department, 19 Public Square, Suite 150, Belleville, IL 62220.

Robin Hannon of the St. Clair County Health Department will be our guest speaker at the membership meeting on August 26. Many thanks to Wayne Schlosser for leading the club in this most worthwhile health project.

RYLA Outing Great Success at Lake Williamson!

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership training program for students aged 14 - 18. RYLA seeks to develop the qualities of leadership and good citizenship in our young people and to encourage collaboration and the attainment of common goals through teamwork. The program is sponsored by District 6510 under the Chairmanship of Jeff Thornton of Lebanon.



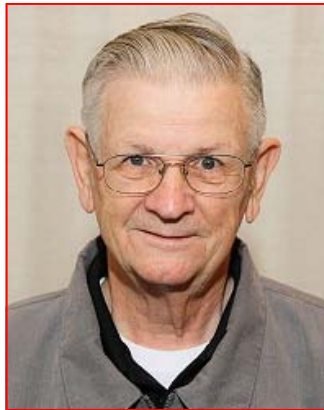
Nathan Klitzing, Swansea's RYLA Chair, reported on the RYLA weekend in Carlinville July 30-Aug. 1. Fifty-seven young people from all parts of the district attended the camp at Lake Williamson. The camp at the lake features indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a beach and waterslides, gymnasiums, a climbing wall, video arcade, miniature golf, and other attractions.

Swansea sponsored five students: Eileen Comerford (Althoff) Trinity Griffin (Belleville East), Jennifer Hipkiss (Althoff), Madeleine McGrady (Belleville East), and Matt Soucy (Althoff). All of the attendees participated in various team-building activities designed to develop qualities of leadership and good citizenship. The most popular activity, according to Nathan, was a "low rope course," in which students work in teams to accomplish different tasks that are virtually impossible to accomplish on an individual basis. The activity required the participants to work as a team to accomplish each task.

Nathan says that new friendships were made with students from many schools throughout District 6510 participating. Our thanks to Nathan for his great work in helping our youngsters learn the Rotary values of teamwork, responsibility, and service to others.

Assistant Governor Speaks to Swansea Members

Rether Johnson, member of the St. Clair County East Rotary Club, addressed the Swansea membership at its August 19 meeting concerning the Ambassadorial Scholarship Program. A young woman from Lebanon, Ashley Huffmon, is currently being assisted in her application for a scholarship by former Swansea Rotarian Hal Harsin. Rether suggested that Swansea may want to sponsor her application.



The Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Program awarded nearly 700 scholarships for study abroad in 2009-10. Through grants totaling over \$16 million, recipients from about 70 countries studied in more than 80 nations. The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries and geographical areas. The program sponsors academic year scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as for qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as goodwill ambassadors to the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to a greater understanding of their host country.

Treasurer Joe Rossi Recognized!



At the membership meeting on Aug. 19, Joe Rossi, longtime Swansea member and treasurer of the club for the past eight years, was recognized for his service to the club. Past President Paul Reiniger presented Joe with the coveted and widely-acclaimed Swansea Rotary Ballpoint Pen, specially engraved with his name. The recognition brought tears to Joe's eyes as he graciously accepted the gift.

Swansea Rotary President's Corner *by Doug Bush*

When you meet a Rotarian, you will likely see a person who is very proud and happy to be a Rotarian. There is good reason for this. For instance, funding and support for many local charities and activities, such as the Swansea Food Pantry, the Swansea Easter Egg Hunt, Exchange Students to and from our community, are just a few of a activities.

We also contribute to Rotary International to promote world peace and understanding and the alleviation of poverty and suffering. To this end we are engaged in an historic and extraordinary effort to eliminate polio from our planet. We have also supported efforts abroad for clean water and medical services for some of the poorest countries in the world.



Rotary is our nation's oldest service organization, originating in Chicago in 1905. There are 1.2 million Rotarians in 33,000 clubs in 200 countries.

Rotary traditionally has recognized Four Avenues of Service: (1) *community service* to improve the well-being of our local communities; (2) *international service* to help promote world understanding; (3) *vocational service* through our jobs; and (4) *club service* to make all of this possible. Rotary International has just recently added a fifth avenue of service, called *New Generations*, recognizing Rotary's traditional commitment to our youth who will become tomorrow's leaders. Rotarians exhibit great fellowship and camaraderie at their meetings as we work together on these projects to help others in our local community and throughout the world.

Our Swansea Rotary Club has 40 members who are actively involved in 32 committees that help accomplish our charitable work. This newsletter is available because of our committee consisting of Editor Joe McDonnell, Reporter Cheryl Moody, and Publisher Debbie Willard. The \$6,000 Immunization Matching Grant, described in an article elsewhere, was obtained through the efforts of Wayne Schlosser, long-time Rotarian and Chair of our Grants Committee.

During our current Membership Month, our membership co-chairs, Terry Hoefle and Wayne Schlosser, have planned programs to assist in District 6510's goal of each club achieving a net increase of one member by June 30, 2011. I urge each of you to assist in bringing the message of Rotary to others by inviting one or more of your friends or colleagues to our weekly breakfast meetings. I am pleased to serve as president of such a lively, interesting and dedicated group of people – the Rotary Club of Swansea.

Upcoming Events for the Rotary Club of Swansea

Meeting, Aug. 26, Speaker Robin Hannon, St. Clair Department of Public Health

Meeting September 2, Speaker Glen Peterson, "Inspire Health and Fitness"

September 8 & 22, Immunization Clinic, St. Clair County Health Department, 19 Public Square, Belleville; Rotarians urged to attend and wear the new Rotary golf shirts

Meeting September 9, Dan Polites, Golf Pro, Clinton Hill CC

Meeting September 15, Board Meeting, Clinton Hill, members invited

Meeting September 16, Membership Business Board.

For further information and events, please see the Calendar on the web site at www.swansearotary.org.

Polio Efforts Building in Pakistan

Editor's note: One of Rotary's most successful programs, as noted by Governor Greg Yank during his August 5 visit to Swansea Rotary,, is the Polio Plus initiative which began in 1985. The following article by Dan Nixon of Rotary International News is taken from the RI website and illustrates the great strides that have been made in the continuing struggle to eradicate the disease.

By Dan Nixon
Rotary International News – Aug. 12, 2010



A polio awareness seminar in Pakistan's Swat Valley has helped open the door for more children in the security-compromised area to be immunized against the disease. *Photo courtesy of Aziz Memon*

Momentum toward polio eradication continues to build in Pakistan, including efforts to take advantage of improved security in parts of the country.

On 8 July, the Pakistan PolioPlus Committee led a polio awareness seminar in Mingora, located in the Swat Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. More than 120 representatives from Rotary International, the World Health Organization, and UNICEF, along with national and local health officials, tribal and religious leaders, and others, took part.

"[It] was the first major event after the opening of the Swat Valley," says committee chair Aziz Memon. "Full security was extended by the police department and army to ensure the safety of people."

At the seminar, it was reported that after reestablishing security in the Swat Valley earlier this year, Pakistan's army began immunizing children against polio at 15 checkpoints. By July, only six were needed. The Ministry of Health now stockpiles oral polio vaccine at the checkpoints for use during National Immunization Days (NIDs).

In addition, the governor of the province inaugurated supplementary immunization activities in May and has committed to ensuring health workers' ac-

cess to children in security-compromised areas.

After presentations by the representatives at the seminar, participants took part in a question-and-answer session and offered suggestions for improving the region's efforts to end polio.

The event "was a grand success," Memon says. "The news of Rotary having a polio workshop was all over Swat. We feel we have sent a message to eradicate polio, and have requested the local community leaders to lend a hand. We will hold more such workshops so that no new polio cases arise from this region."

The seminar is characteristic of Pakistan's persistence toward eradicating the disease, as well as the family of Rotary's. NIDs held 12-14 July in the country reached almost 34 million children under age five. Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors in Karachi braved temperatures as high as 120 degrees to vaccinate children in their homes, in alleys, in marketplaces, and elsewhere. They also handed out caps, stickers, pencils, and other gifts to the children.

"Every single worker counts in the fight against polio," Shoukat Ali, UNICEF polio officer for Sind Province, told Abdul Mohee Kazi, Rotaract District 3271 PolioPlus Chair, after the NIDs. "The [immunization] team in Korangi Town [Karachi] was really happy to see your workforce with them, and it was very well highlighted in the results, as this area got 100 percent coverage by independent monitoring. It is really a success story."

Board Actions...

At its August 11 meeting, the Swansea Board of Directors recognized "Bud" Riess, Jim's dad, as an Honorary Member and voted to award him points for a Paul Harris Fellowship. Bud has been a faithful worker on virtually every date when the club has put up and taken down flags on the eight days of the year set aside for that purpose. He will be formally recognized for his good work at a membership meeting in the near future.

The board decided on a "special awards" program to recognize certain members for extraordinary service throughout the year...The Rotary T-Shirt Program has been completed with the delivery of the navy blue Rotary shirts at the August 19 meeting. Wayne Schlosser was instrumental in carrying out the project.

A new club brochure was authorized and \$500 budgeted for the project. The new brochure will be easier to duplicate and will update club information. Wayne Schlosser, Public Relations Chair, will head the project...A budget for the current year is being hammered out and is expected to be presented for approval within the next month or two.

A committee was appointed to track activities specified in the Governor's Trophy Application. Committee members are Dennis Sparn, Ruth Ann Erdmann and Tim Hammond. The next board meeting will be held at Clinton Hill on Sept. 11. Members are invited.

District Doings...

Dennis Sparn calls attention to certain information which is part of the Governor's Trophy Application and which deals with Membership. During Membership Month, this information is particularly pertinent and should be kept in mind by all members. As most Rotarians know, points are awarded in the Governor's Trophy application for a club which fulfills certain requirements. For the current Rotary year ending June 30, 2011, a club can gain 300 points for achieving a net growth increase of one member and 200 points if 50% of the club members bring a prospective qualified Rotary member to the club. In addition, a club which institutes a New Member Plan and identifies potential members may be awarded 10 points.

The Swansea Rotary Club has been awarded the District 6510 Governor's Trophy (Small Clubs) six years in succession. This record has been achieved in part by a focus on sustaining the club's membership and encouraging the enlistment of new members, the lifeblood of any organization. Membership Co-Chairs Terry Hoeffle and Wayne Schlosser urge all members to do all you can to boost the membership of Swansea Rotary during the coming months.

New Strategic Plan is In Effect...

With the start of the new Rotary year, Rotary International's revised strategic plan officially went into effect.

The plan comprises three priorities, all of equal importance to Rotary's future: support and strengthen clubs, focus and increase humanitarian service, and enhance public image and awareness. These priorities stem from Rotary's core values of service, leadership, diversity, integrity, and fellowship.

Effective community service projects are essential to increasing Rotary's commitment to humanitarian service. Consider developing a project in one of The Rotary Foundation's areas of focus and pursuing a cooperative relationship with a local organization.

Learn more on the Rotary International web site at www.rotary.org