



Annual Reunion of Rotary International Past Officers San Diego, 19-21 February 2006

San Diego Rotary International Assembly - 16-23 February 2006

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2006

THE DAILY WHEEL

Plenary Session VIII (conclusion)

PDG Yngve Anderberg and **PDG Kurt Bostrom** opened Tuesday's final plenary sessions with their entertaining promotion of the Past Officers Reunion, in Lund, Sweden, scheduled June 10 and 11, before the opening of the International Convention.

Plenary Session IX Session A:

Water, Health and Hunger

PDG Ron Denham focused on water issues. The United Nations Millennium Development Goal is to reduce by 50% the number of people who have no access to potable water or to sanitation. The figures are staggering. There are about 1.2 billion people worldwide without adequate drinking water; 2.5 billion exist without proper sanitation. Of these numbers, between 6,000-10,000 die every day! Nearly 50% of Sub-Saharan Africans are without adequate water and sanitation (in Ethiopia, this number reaches nearly 78%). Additional figures include the middle East (18%), East Asia (29%) South America (28 %), and Central America (18%). The United States is not immune to these problems, either. California and Arizona are facing inadequate potable water needs in the not too distant future.

A range of projects are available for Rotary Clubs to undertake at minimal costs and investment of time. Some of these are:

- Drilling new and Rehabilitating old wells
- Rainwater collection
- Bio-Sand Filters (cost about \$40 USD) which will purify water at a rate of 20-30 Liters/hour
- Solar Disinfecting (SODIS) utilizing plastic soda bottles
- Mini Pipelines
- Integrated rural development

Risk Management

CPA Katherine DeYoung and PDG Steve Garrett emphasized three areas of greatest concern to the RI Board of Directors:

- Significant penalties await clubs/districts for failure to file with the IRS in a timely fashion
- Lack of adequate club financial oversight may lend itself to the problem of embezzlement
- Child Safety Policies (Specifically, with regard to the Youth Exchange Programs, the recommendation is “Two-deep Leadership,” meaning never having a single Rotarian or Non-Rotarian host family member be alone with a child or teenager) [Editor’s Note: stay tuned for more specific Board recommendations and actions on this issue]

Literacy Programs

PDG Eileen Gentilcore referenced “Person-Deed-Cause,” Victor Frankel’s three paths for learning and being energized. Namely, the focus of an integrated, project-based curriculum is rooted in the concept that each person is his or her own best teacher. A student will develop his own learning experiences based on his interests and passions, instead of attending formal, subject-oriented classes.

We all know the value of literacy, she stated. Now we need to “step ahead” and lead communities to value it as well.

Membership

PDG Chris Offer reported that RI has made significant changes to its efforts to help Clubs and Districts with respect to attracting new members, retention of members, and club extension. There has been a new Membership Logo created, updated materials for distribution at PETS and Assemblies, the RI web site has relevant materials available, and The Rotarian monthly magazine, from time to time will include focus articles on these issues (*cf* August 2005). Chris emphasized that the New Club Leadership Plan has been a great help to those clubs that have adopted it.

Public Image

PDG Mary Margaret Fleming stated that every Rotarian should automatically be on his/her club’s Public Relations Committee. It is up to each club to use any one or more of the following methods to promote the image of Rotary International:

- Billboards
- Print Media
- Radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
- Television PSAs
- “Word of Mouth” in each of our daily interpersonal social/professional relations

Attendees received a new membership Projects Kit at the end of Mary Margaret’s report.

Session B:

Disaster Relief

PDG Noel Bajat; RID John Germ, PRIVP; RID Robert Stuart, Jr.; and PDG George Mahl, III updated attendees with respect to status of donations, Rotary volunteer efforts, club to club and district to district support for all people affected by not only Katrina in the US, but also by the Tsunami in Southeast Asia. [For a complete report about post-Katrina efforts go to www.rizones29-30.net and for Tsunami, www.rotary.org/programs/wcs/disaster/reliefefforts.html] Of note is that several districts with 501c3 Foundations were able to accept financial contributions immediately.

The most important message from this panel is that Rotarians do NOT wish to be left out of Disaster Relief Problems, that our parent organization should re-create a proactive mechanism which can be readily activated in times of need and that this response should be immediate, informative and directive.

Plenary Session X

RI Directors Tell It Like It Is

Moderator RID David Hossler introduced panel members **RID Horst Hellge, RID Jerry Hall, RID Anthony de St. Dalmas, RID Frank Goldberg, RID Jose Salazar Cruz, TRFT Carolyn Jones and TRFT Michael Abdalla.**

David told each attendee that he/she has the power to aid and to support his/her district by bringing in new ideas and researching issues for the current district governor, who otherwise is busy with day-to-day district operations. David recommended each district should develop a long-range planning process, keeping each year's governor active and assuring that the momentum generated by the current governor does not falter.

The panel responded to several questions from the audience. Carolyn Jones said that she would look into the question of having minutes from the Board of Directors/Trustees meetings sent out to all past officers in a timely fashion.

The panel suggested that any issue for the Board of Directors should be submitted to the Board in writing as a proposal.

It was announced that there is a new service entity: Rotarian Action Groups, a fellowship for performing **Service**-related activities. [*cf.*: <http://www.rotary.org/programs/fellowships/resources/faq.html>]

Wrap Up and Close...

With thanks and appreciation to all who attended, by PDG Frank Mead and PDG Marty Peters, Co-Chairmen. See you in Sweden!!!!