



Editor's Note:

This is the first of three daily reports of the proceedings from the 2010 Rotary International Past Officers' Reunion held January 17-19, 2010 at the Omni Hotel in San Diego, California. The online version is in color and includes the final day's plenary sessions and closing remarks which were not distributed in hard copy at the gathering.

Because of the rapid turn-around time, some reports may not be as complete as I might wish; many presentations, however, can be supplemented by online information accessible directly from the main Rotary web site at www.rotary.org, and I would encourage you to visit the site to broaden your understanding of the many issues presented during the reunion.

Our webmaster PDG Philippe Lamoise's outstanding presentation on Tuesday morning deserves special acknowledgement; its wealth of information and Philippe's easily understood explanation of his projects web site should be, in my opinion, a program each and every incoming officer should learn about.

Many thanks to PDG Tom Tilton, Maria Tilton and PDG Marv Munro for their reports and to past RC president Jim Bradford for his photography.

If you have any questions, additions or corrections please e-mail me at:

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or telephone:

1-520-975-0450.



Annual Reunion of Rotary International Past Officers San Diego, 17-19 January 2010

San Diego Rotary International Assembly 17-24 January 2010

THE REUNION WHEEL

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Plenary Session I

“Re-visioning, Hand in Hand”



PRID David Hossler (upper left), General Chairman of this year's POR, addressed an audience of over 100 Rotarians, visitors and guests and introduced D5340 Governor Marge Cole, who welcomed everyone to her home district.



PDG Philippe Lamoise followed DG Cole with a short introduction of Past Rotary International Director Francisco Creo (bottom photo), who thoughtfully reviewed Rotary's *raison d'être*. Francisco proudly says he has been a Rotarian for forty years. In his Centennial book, David C. Forward describes Rotary as a “mighty river,” a force which exists today because of men and women of the past who were committed Rotarians, who desired to help others, who were and continue to be determined to help others, and who share with their communities Rotary's timeless principles. In February 1905 ideas for our organization were set into motion, ideas which soon became *ideals*, and ideals that have now withstood the test of time.



Citing one story of Rotary, Francisco noted that in 1920 the Rotary Club of Madrid was chartered, the first club in continental Europe; the first in Rotary District 60. In 1936, however, civil war broke out in Spain. One million people died. Thirty-one clubs, 812 Rotarians and District 60 were no more. Many who were Rotarians had left the country because of the war and because the government had banned Rotary's existence. A few committed Rotarians nevertheless continued to meet-- surreptitiously, for the next 40 years and, in 1977, at the RI Convention in San Francisco, Rotary was again returned to Spain.



Percy Chu has kept alive the ideals of Rotary as a service organization in China.

Contrary to belief by many, Rotary had not been banned by Castro in Cuba. Indeed, Castro even visited the RC of Havana!

Rotary in Mexico helped to rebuild a nation torn apart by civil strife. Was Rotary less complicated in the past? Administratively, it seems that at the present time Rotary is a more complex organization. But, Rotary takes life via the work and commitment of individual Rotarians and their clubs: essential components to the survival of our organization. Even more so today a need exists for Rotary in our society, he stated. The Rotary philosophy has become even more relevant and powerful today vis-a-vis personal values. Linking history to present times, Rotarians have a ‘responsibility’ to promote the “idea and the ideal” for peace. We must

re-vision our concept of Rotary.

In 1906 Donald M. Carter, a lawyer in Chicago, noted that the purpose of a Rotary “Club has great possibilities if it advanced civil spirit, pride and loyalty” amongst the citizens of Chicago; and, if it could do something for the people other than its own members, it could help to build a better society, fostering better citizenship, better friendships and a better world ultimately leading to global peace.

Education remains the necessary element for building world peace. Within the Rotary world we have our Peace Scholars, Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotaractors, Interactors and youth exchangees. Rotary has no geopolitical interests; 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide speak the same Rotary language: “Service Above Self.”

PRIP Chuck Keller once said that humanity will not survive armed conflicts.

PRIP Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar has said that if every 17 year-old could be a youth exchange student, there would be no wars.

Since the early 1960’s most of us have lived with armed conflicts, but through education, acts of kindness and continual Rotarian commitment we can achieve world peace. Humans are either part of the problem or part of the solution. Leadership is the spark that ignites our association. Leaders and collaborators need to effect real, intended change. We need to build a permanent legacy of bringing lasting peace to the world.

Concluding his remarks, Francisco related the story of how his daughter, when she was younger and first saw the Rotary wheel on his sweater, called it “a tiny shining sun.” It is up to us to see that the rays of our ‘Rotary sun’ continue to help eliminate darkness in the world. Truly, Rotary’s future is in our hands.

Plenary Session II

“Directors’ Comments: Rotary’s Future”



Vice President
Eric E. Adamson
2008-10, USA

Chairman RI Vice-President Eric Adamson introduced the panel of distinguished RI Directors:



Treasurer
Michael Colasurdo Sr.
2008-10, USA



Director
John T. Blount
2009-11, USA



Director
Catherine Noyer-Riveau
2008-10, France



Director
José A. Sepúlveda
2008-10, México

Following VP Adamson’s short overview of problems that face the Board of Directors and the next Council on Legislation, Treasurer Colasurdo stated there are a number of legislative issues coming before the 2010 Council on Legislation. The Board has discussed two of the most important ones: 1) dues increase and 2) legitimizing e-Clubs by RI.

RI Treasurer Mike advised the gathering that there had been significant “belt tightening” by Rotary International staff, but that the dues increase of \$2.00 per member is vitally important. The basic source of revenue is membership dues. There are three major influences on revenue: membership; market volatility; and inflation.

John Blount reported that the RI Board has adopted a revised strategic plan that comprises three priorities, all of equal importance to Rotary’s future: 1) support and strengthen clubs; 2) focus and increase humanitarian service; 3) enhance public image and awareness. Director John advised that RI is doing everything possible to use its resources more effectively. Changes to the strategic plan will be a direct result of responses to a recent survey, although Rotary’s basic vision remains the same.

[Ed. Note: Please link to RI main page to browse all areas of concern as reported by RI Staff coverage of all Board of Directors’ actions and future plans. The address is www.rotary.org]

Director Catherine stated that, in her opinion, the future of Rotary is in the hands of our youth. We must not forget what Interact, Rotaract, and youth exchange programs have to offer to us as resources for future Rotary leadership. We may need to make organizational structural changes to better accommodate and foster younger men and women as future Rotary leaders.

Director Jose reminded us that we have new learning opportunities every day and that diversity in RI is one of our greatest unifying strengths. We must always look to resurrect values from our past as we go into the future. We need to continue to respect the object of Rotary and clubs need to respect the four avenues of service. The Board should consider creating a new award which recognizes all hard-working Rotarians, since the Service Above Self Award is given to but a few each year.

During the Q and A session with the Directors we were informed that the Board continues to support the Rotarian Action Groups. When asked if the Board will continue to fund Ambassadorial Scholarships we were reminded that this is an issue for the Trustees and to pose this question to CFO Peter DeBerge on Monday. We also were reminded that membership continues to be problematic in North America and that Rotary Clubs need reasons to retain their members. Fellowship, ethics, service, and peace is what Rotary is all about!

POR Banquet

Rotary International President John Kenny

“2009-2010 and Beyond”



Rotary International President John Kenny and his wife, June, joined us Sunday evening for fellowship and dinner. Immediately following dinner and following a short introduction by his aide, Anthony de St. Dalmas, RIP John Kenny, quoting Paul Harris, said “we must plan today for the Rotary of tomorrow.” The President reminded us that the future of Rotary is in the hands of each and every Rotarian. It is our duty to ensure that there will be



Rotarians in the future to do the good work of Rotary. We need to seek quality people who wish to serve and work to develop in them a life long commitment to Rotary. The heart of Rotary is at the club level, John said, noting that past officers have the collective Rotary experience and wisdom. We can integrate these experiences into the heart of the Rotary club. We need to get to know one another better. Three major initiatives developed by Rotary are 1) support and strengthen clubs, 2) increase humanitarian programs and 3) enhance our public image. John suggested that people who want to do good will want to be a part of our efforts if they see the good that Rotary does. There will always be a place for men and women who want to do good in the world and that place is in Rotary. He reminded us that Rotarians do not serve for their own satisfaction or glory, they serve to help and to help themselves.

Our Rotary Foundation is a powerful force for good in the world and makes a big difference in people’s lives. The end is in sight for the Polio Plus campaign. Eradication of polio will be accomplished. We have many partners in the fight. Just last year, General Secretary Ed Futa, announced that we surpassed the half way mark of the challenge and have less than 100 million dollars to raise. We will be victorious against Polio.

In describing an example of Rotary’s lasting impact on the world, the President, gave this example: After the 2004 Tsunami in Indonesia, the government was so impressed with Rotary’s efforts, that they set aside land for Rotary to develop an orphanage, a health center and a center for youth. The impact of this will be felt for years to come.

John concluded by reminding us that “Rotary can do nothing about a problem, but Rotarians can.” Lastly, John recited the following poem he has used for years:

A Celtic Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rain fall soft upon your field,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

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The following Rotarians have given generously and the POR Committee deeply appreciates their contributions of time and financial support:

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Thank you for attending our Past Officers Reunion

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Marge Cole
Governor 5340

The following Rotarians have given generously and the POR Committee deeply appreciates their contributions of time and financial support:



PDG Mike Stelman & Karen

PDG Tony Brockington & Ruth



PDG Fernando Favela & Lydia

PDG Celso Reyes

PDG Dave Heagerty

Kudos to the Bunnell family, a quintet of four sisters and a brother, who provided the entertainment during dinner Sunday evening. These accomplished young people are from the San Diego area, are home-schooled, and each sits as “first chair” in his or her symphonic orchestra.

"Vive l'Amitié"

"Long Live Friendship"

Rotary Zones 25/26 "Far West Reception"

Join Us in Old Montréal
Monday, June 21, 2010
5 p.m. to 7p.m.



Montréal Science Centre

(In the heart of Old Montréal)

www.RotaryZones2526.org/events.html

[Registration \$40 per person (includes one drink) - all sales are final]

Canapés - Full Bar - Entertainment

*Come and say "Bonjour" to our hosts,
R.I. Director John Blount and Patti*



Questions Contact: David G. Moyers, Event Chair Tel: 310-544-0400 DGMoyers2007-08@hotmail.com

