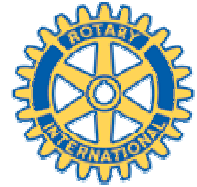


Rotary District 6080 Newsletter

District Governor Don Brackhahn



SERVICE Above Self

April, 2006

Vol. 5 No. 10

The month of May will represent Community Service Month for our District. This one of the four avenues of service is probably the easiest for our clubs to accomplish. There is a very close link between all our district clubs and the communities in which they reside. As I traveled around the district for my District Governor's visits, I was proud of the many times that I saw the Rotary name on physical structures or on the names of parks. But that is not all, I found that when most of the clubs were having their annual fund raising events, the recipients of the contributions were definitely non profit organizations in their communities. I would specially like to recognize the clubs for the success of their fundraisers. First the Springfield Clubs (including the Rotaract) for their very successful "Rock 'n Ribs Barbeque Festival" this month. The clubs raised in excess of \$100,000.00 from the event. The Lake Ozark Breakfast also held a very profitable "Winterfest" this past February 11 with Dinner and Auction that brought over \$28,000.00 to the charities of the Lake. I know there were many other such events throughout the district including the "Christmas Carol" play in Columbia, an auction in Columbia, four separate Rotary Golf Tournaments, Holiday Dinners, and other such events- with community charities benefiting from all these Rotary activities.

But Community Service actually goes back to almost the beginning of Rotary. In 1906, Don Carter suggested that the idea of a Rotary Club was a good idea" if it could do something of some benefit to people besides its own members. I believe it should do civic service of some kind". Carter's idea, added to the Chicago Rotary club constitution in 1906, was adopted by all future Rotary clubs and changed forever the focus of the movement. In the early days of the movement , they provided comfort stations for people visiting downtown areas, rebuilt the city hall in san Francisco (after the fire), took the initiative to launch a transcontinental highway, built settlement houses, and provided emergency assistance to those victims of tornados, floods and earthquakes. In more recent times , they have continued to help the poor , the starving and indigent, but have been working through other non profit organizations on a local level such as Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and the local food banks.

Rotarians see needs in their communities and then go about meeting these needs. I know that in Marshfield, they saw a need for additional trees that needed to be planted and in 2005, with other agencies in Marshfield planted over 1300 trees in six city parks, five schools, county property, and several other public properties at no cost to city , county or public schools. They have continued to plant trees this year with more than 1500 additional trees being planted this Spring. The community has been honored as being a Tree City the last two years. Thanks to Rotarians, almost anything is possible. There were many needs being met last year as the Centennial Projects across our District led the entire area to become aware of Rotary and its belief in Service Above Self. Please make sure that in your club goals this next year, you continue to emphasize assisting you communities.

*Don Brackhahn, DG
Service Above Self*

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A Rotarian revives New Orleans

The Rotarian
May 2006

Balancing atop a fractured New Orleans flood wall in green and black fatigues, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Duane Gapinski spots a man picking through a wrecked home nearby.

He tells Gapinski that his mom lived there for 58 years, and he's trying to find some of her belongings to give her closure.

But there was nothing.

"I'll always remember that," Gapinski says. "It was the moment when I realized just how many people lost everything."

If you followed any of the media coverage of Hurricane Katrina, you likely heard Gapinski explain his plan to drain the flooded city. But what you probably didn't know is that Gapinski is a member of the Rotary Club of the Iowa Quad-Cities (Davenport/Bettendorf), Iowa, USA.

With 80 percent of New Orleans flooded and with water up to the rooftops in some areas, Gapinski's team faced an enormous task. They focused on repairing New Orleans' existing water pumps before systematically draining the city. Because many of these pumps were flooded or damaged, the team also used handheld pumps, initially powered by generators, to force the murky water into the nearby lakes and bayous.

"The water just stunk. It was all that decomposition going on," says Gapinski, adding that the team aerated the water so plants and animals could live in it again.

It took seven weeks to drain the city. "In week one, you couldn't do all the things you take for granted," Gapinski says. "By the time we left, you could drive almost anywhere."

Gapinski has since returned to his post as commander of the Rock Island District for the Corps of Engineers. He plans to retire in July and enter the civilian workforce. But his heroism has not gone unrecognized. In January, Engineering News-Record magazine named him one of the top 25 newsmakers of 2005 in the construction industry. "I never, ever thought I'd do something like this," says Gapinski. "I just hope no one ever has to again."

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Rotary is a volunteer organization with over 32,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. The organization initiates humanitarian programs that address today's challenging issues, such as hunger, poverty, and illiteracy.

Rotary club members represent a cross-section of business and professional leaders worldwide. These 1.2 million men and women donate their expertise, time, and funds to support local and international projects that help people in need and promote understanding among cultures.

Rotary's flagship program is its effort to protect children against polio, with the goal of ending the disease throughout the world.

The 4-Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"