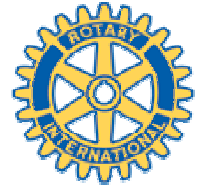


# Rotary District 6080 Newsletter

District Governor Don Brackhahn



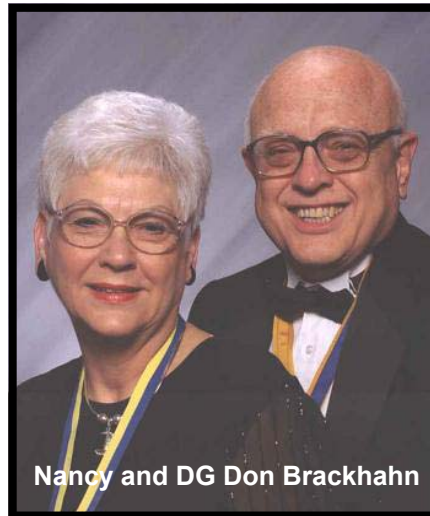
**SERVICE Above Self**

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**We** all understand that Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all business activities, and helps build peace and goodwill throughout the world.

But changing words into reality may be a difficult thing for many of us to do. There are approximately 1.25 million Rotarians that belong to more than 31,000 clubs in 168 countries. Many of these



Nancy and DG Don Brackhahn

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Rotarians tend to think of Rotary as their local Rotary Club and think of their charitable contributions as what needs to be done in their community. There is evidence of Rotary's International scope all around us. In fact the difference between our organization and other service clubs is the immense impact that Rotary has in working to solve the problems of the world and the activities that Rotary sponsors to help us better understand others. If you will take a few minutes to peruse your latest Rotarian magazine, you'll find reasons why we call February the World Understanding month. Talk with a Rotarian who has attended a Rotary International Convention and listen to that person tell about the Rotarians they met and chatted with from other countries of the world. Talk to a past district governor that has attended the International Assembly (training program for District Governors) and the DG will tell you about the translation services at all the training sessions. But all those present were Rotarians and found ways to communicate outside the training rooms.

We have been sending two Ambassadorial Scholars from our District to other countries each year to study and share some of the best our district has to offer with these other countries. At the same time we receive Ambassadorial Scholars from other countries to study in our local universities and share their customs, cultures and dreams with us. We are very fortunate in our district to have the Duane Sterling Ambassadorial Scholarship that provides an international student each year an opportunity to attend Central Missouri State University. The Scholarship is for one year and a student from a different continent is selected each year. We are very fortunate that one of our own district Rotarians from Warrensburg believed in the Internationality of Rotary and set this award up to honor one of our own PDGs and the past head of the Rotary Foundation.

Our Group Study Exchange teams are our district's ambassadors to other countries just as visiting teams bring their customs to share with us. We are fortunate to have with us this April and May a group of business and professional people from District 1950 (Germany) traveling in our part of Missouri to share customs and business ideas. This group of representatives will be at our district conference in Rolla on May 5-6, 2006. We will also be sending five representatives from our district to that part of Germany in June, 2006. They will also attend the district conference there.

Through the Youth Exchange program, we send our high school students to live with families in other countries and learn their cultures and associate with their youth in bringing about peace and better world understanding., and their youth come here for the same reason. Our district is very fortunate to have one of the best programs in the Midwest and it is supported by a team of dedicated Rotary volunteers. *Continued next page*

## New District Governors React to New Theme

Continued from Page 1

Kay Sharon (District 6710):

"I love it. It's wonderful. As Rotarians, that's what we need to be doing: leading the way. And all the emphases are right on target. I'm going to start thinking about ways to support that theme."

Jeff Strickler (District 5390):

"It's important that the [prior] emphases continue. Nothing that we do should be a one-year event. I'm glad he's [Boyd] encouraging the family. In the past, it hasn't been as easy for Rotarians. The future of Rotary is with young people and women. If you're going to keep them committed, you have to involve their families."

Michael Barker (District 1050):

"The theme is superb. It's not complicated, and it's what Rotary is all about. It's going to be easy to sell to our members when we get back. I'm already inspired."

Harley Tarrant (District 9690):

"A three- or four-word imperative is ideal for Rotary. It can be used for any endeavor of Rotary. In recent times, we've perhaps lost the leadership of Rotary in the community."

Bernie Riedel (District 7770):

"It is not restrictive. It encompasses so much. It permeates any area of Rotary. It's short and easy to remember."

Gloria Counsellor (District 7490):

"I can't wait to take it to the presidents-elect training seminar. It empowers the [club] presidents."

Look around at the international projects of Rotary clubs and see what Rotarians are doing to meet the needs of others in the world. One year after the devastating tsunami killed an estimated 300,000 people in a dozen countries bordering the Indian Ocean, our clubs worldwide have continued to donate money and physical assistance in relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts.

Rotary Clubs so far have raised \$ 20 million to assist communities affected by this disaster. The Rotary Foundation also collected \$5 million through its Solidarity in South Asia Fund. Rotary club leaders in the affected countries, including India and Thailand, are coordinating distribution of the fund's money to rebuild schools, hospitals, homes and even replacing boats to continue to provide jobs for those along the coasts. Many of the world's Rotary clubs have also been deeply involved in hurricane Katrina efforts right in our own country. In reading Ken Behring's book *Road to Purpose*, I've found that Rotary has been a very strong supporter of his Wheelchair Foundation. This organization provides wheelchairs all over the world to those whose lives have been affected by their inability to move around and inability to pay for such a form of transportation. Since March 2001, Rotary Clubs, Districts, and individual Rotarians have sponsored the delivery of more than 90,000 wheelchairs to more than 85 countries around the world. To date, Rotarians in all 50 states and the provinces of Canada have participated in the Wheelchair Foundation mission. In fact Ken Behring, the founder of this Foundation, is a member of the Rotary Club of Foster City, CA.

Most of us are very aware of the role that Rotary has had in the elimination of Polio. Rotary has contributed more than \$500,000,000 toward the eradication efforts and continues to coordinate National Immunization Days that have vaccinated up to 100 million people in a single day in India. In fact a number of our own district Rotarians have been a part of those inoculation teams in recent years. I know that President Darcy Wells of the Columbia Club has just returned from volunteering on one of these days. If you see her, ask her about the experience. There are so many other projects that our Rotary Clubs are involved with including providing wells and latrines in India and Mexico, sending medical and dental teams to developing countries, building schools and providing books and supplies in South Africa and Ecuador, providing hearing aids for children in African Countries, and so many more projects that I do not have time to describe. The Rotary Foundation, thanks to the efforts of our Rotarians, has been doing so much to meet the needs of people all over the world. That is the major reason that we should continue to support our Annual Fund program. We should remember that World Understanding should not be just for the month of February, but for the entire year of every year.

- DG Don Brackhahn

### Bill Reinhardt Leaves Missouri

The picture at left was taken Wednesday (Feb. 15) at the Centralia Rotary Club. It was a farewell to Bill Reinhardt PDG who will be leaving Mo. and moving to MN. In the picture L to R are PDG Arthur Allen, PDG R D Ross, DG Don Brackhahn, PDG Bill Reinhardt and PDG Tom Calder

