



the Bastoff

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Space Center
 P. O. Box 58862, Houston, Texas 77058
 Meetings Monday Noon at Bay Oaks Country Club
 14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Clear Lake City
 Phone: 281.488.7888 * Chartered 1964
 Volume 47 : Number 2 * July 21, 2008



Service Above Self

Dong Kurn Lee, president of Bubang Co. Ltd in South Korea, took office on July 1 as president of Rotary International 2008-2009.



Rotary District 5890 Governor 2008-2009,
Rhonda Kennedy & husband.



Alvin, Seabrook, Space Center District Assistant Governor **Chris Schneider.**



Programs —

Kippy Carraway, Chair 2008-09

Today. . . Oliver Luck, President of the Houston Dynamos
July 28. Club Assembly
Aug 4. TBD
Aug 11. TBD
Aug 18. TBD
Aug 25. TBD
Sep 1. Labor Day — No Meeting
Sep 8. TBD
Sep 15. TBD
Sep 22. TBD
Sep 29. TBD
Oct 6 TBD
Oct 13. TBD
Oct 20. TBD
Oct 27. TBD

Bring a Guest.

Say Happy Birthday to —

Bob Richmond. July 18th
 Rodolfo Gonzalez. July 28th

July is Literacy Month



Events Calendar

- * Club Board of Directors 3rd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- * Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees
. 2nd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- * Rotary Foundation Comm. last Wed @ 7 a.m.
- * Membership Comm 2nd Monday @ 1:15 p.m.
- * Shrimpooree October 25th
- * Springoree 2009
- * District 5890 Conference, Lake Charles
. Apr 30-May 2, 2009
- * 100th RI Convention, Birmingham, England . . . June'09

SCRC Fellowships 6:30 p.m.
Ridonnely@aol.com

SPONSORS OF SHRIMPOREE 2008

- ★ Amoco Federal Credit Union
- ★ Art Oswald — AOVCO
- ★ Bastion Technologies (Mike Hernandez)
- ★ Belinda K. Skloss, LLC
- ★ Ben Bridge Jewelers (Travis Vermeer)
- ★ Billy R. Smith, Attorney at Law
- ★ Gay & Reitz, Attorneys at Law (Becky Reitz)
- ★ Gregg & Gregg, P. C., Attorneys at Law
- ★ Gurry Mechanical, LP (Ken Gurry)
- ★ Hopping Eye Associates (Vissett Sun)
- ★ Hydrocarbon Resource Recovery (Scott Rainey)
- ★ JSC Federal Credit Union (Mike Brown)
- ★ J. Pamela Photography (Pam Culpepper)
- ★ Kirchoff Peterson Co. (Don Kirchoff)
- ★ L. D. Bowles Associates (Lamar Bowles)
- ★ Las Colinas Custom Interiors (Rae De Castro)
- ★ Lexus of Clear Lake
- ★ Maudlin Products — Earl & Terrilee Maudlin
- ★ MRI Technologies (Tim Kropp)
- ★ Prosperity Bank (Mark Humphrey)
- ★ Space Center Automotive (Jerrold Dewease)
- ★ State Farm Insurance— Johnny R. White, Agent
- ★ Texas Citizens Bank (Mike Cornett)
- ★ Texas Wealth Management (Mike Hesse)
- ★ Gene & Donna Tromblee
- ★ University of Houston — Clear Lake Campus
- ★ Waldron & Schneider, Attorneys (Marc Schneider)

SCRC Endowment Foundation Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday
August 16th
Tickets \$7.00 each
or 5 for \$30.00
See Jack Lister & team**



Engineers Without Borders has received a gift from the Tomball Rotary Club in the amount of \$3,000 for their Rwanda water project.





Pictures from the last meeting by Bob Mitchell: clockwise from upper left — Pres. Mike receives a Paul Harris Fellowship pin for his second PHF from David Coney; Jon McKinney talks about membership development; PDG Suzi pins David; the special Rotary Foundation pin & a ruined shirt collar; new member, Jack Bacon; Engineers Without Border, Evan Thomas announces that the Tomball Rotary Club is giving EWB \$3,000 for its Rwanda project; the speaker, David Branch, VP with Clear Lake City Water Authority; with Pres Mike, Kippy Carraway, Program Chr., thanks the speaker with a special gift.

*A little girl had been shopping with her Mom in Target. She must have been 6 years old, this beautiful red haired, freckle faced image of innocence. It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout. We all stood there under the awning and just inside the door of the Target. We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day. I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day. The little voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance we were all caught in "Mom let's run through the rain," she said. "What?" Mom asked. "Let's run through the rain!" She repeated. "No, honey. We'll wait until it slows down a bit," Mom replied. This young child waited about another minute and repeated: "Mom, let's run through the rain." "We'll get soaked if we do," Mom said. "No, we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning," the young girl said as she tugged at her Mom's arm. "This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?" "Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said," "If God can get us through this, he can get us through anything!" The entire crowd stopped dead silent. I swear you couldn't hear anything but the rain.. We all stood silently. No one came or left in the next few minutes. Mom paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith. "Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD let's us get wet, well maybe we just needed washing," Mom said. Then off they ran. We all stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case. They got soaked. But they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars. And yes, I did. I ran. I got wet. I needed washing. Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions, they can take away your money, and they can take away your health. But no one can ever take away your precious memories...So, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories everyday. To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. **I Hope You Still Take the Time to Run Through the Rain.***

President, Mike Hernandez, Acceptance Speech to the Club 6/30/08

"First I would like to thank Dick Gregg III for his leadership and commitment during this past year. Dick, on behalf of the 2007-08 Board and the Club membership it is my pleasure to present to you this token of our appreciation.

Now, I would like to introduce my wife Tery, who has supported me throughout all these years. I would also like to introduce our younger son Jorge whom I thank for making this new stage of my life possible by taking over the reigns of Hernandez Engineering. I also want to recognize another person, my mother who was a Social Worker by profession and by commitment, and also a professor at the University of Havana. She taught me, by example, to always do the right things (sort of a four way test principle) and the importance of helping persons in need to get back on their feet. Probably this is why I believe in helping others by giving a fishing pole and teaching them to fish. I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the club for the confidence you have bestowed upon me to lead the Space Center Rotary Club during this next year. I am honored to serve as your President.

I joined Rotary close to 20 years ago. There are two individuals I want to recognize and thank for their love, support and guidance, and I am proud to call them my friends, both have been presidents of this club, Jerry Hammack, who passed away last year, and Billy Weseman. Jerry introduced me

to Rotary and Billy brought me into the club. Both of them kept me on the right path. In addition I want to thank the many of you who have encouraged me and guided me throughout these years (and some times twisted my arm), without your help I would not be standing here today.

As a business man, I saw the club as a venue to meet individuals that had the same interest as mine. For many years I was a member of the club, I contributed with time and money, attended events, but I still did not fully understand what the true meaning of being a Rotarian was. It took me a while to realize that Rotary was not only this club, but that Rotary is an international family – and I mean a FAMILY, because whichever club you attend anywhere in the world you are embraced as a family member. I have seen the wonderful projects that go on here and throughout the world and the common thread in the dedication and commitment of the members, disregarding nationality or ethnicity. I have learned that being a Rotarian is a way of life. It is not only giving time and money; it is giving yourself to help accomplish the many goals that benefit those in need. I have learned that nothing defines it better than, simply “Service above self”.

I am excited! I am truly excited in working with this fine Board (Officers and Directors) and I am excited in working with each one of you in continuing the tradition of excellence of this club.”



Rotary International Headquarters
Evanston, IL.

Rotary according to Wikipedia:

Rotary International is an organization of service clubs known as Rotary Clubs located all over the world. It is a non-religious organization and open to all persons regardless of race, colour or creed. There are more than 32,000 clubs and over 1.2 million members world-wide. The members of Rotary Clubs are known as Rotarians. The stated purpose of the organization is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Members usually meet weekly for breakfast, lunch or dinner, which is a social event as well as an opportunity to organize work on their service goals. Rotary’s best-known motto is “Service above Self”, and its secondary motto is “They profit most who serve best”.

Philosophy

The objectives of Rotary are to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business, and community life;
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

These objectives are further set against the “Rotarian four-way test”, used to see if a planned action is compatible with the Rotarian spirit. The test was developed by Rotarian and entrepreneur Herbert J. Taylor during the Great Depression as a set of guidelines for restoring faltering businesses and was adopted as the standard of ethics by Rotary in 1942. It is still seen as a standard for ethics in business management:

Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build good will and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

History — Early years

The first Rotary Club was formed in Chicago by attorney Paul P. Harris on February 23, 1905, Harris held the first meeting with three friends, Silvester Schiele, coal merchant, Gustave E. Loehr, mines engineer and Hiram E. Shorey, tailor. The members chose the name Rotary because they rotated club meetings to each member’s office each week. The National Association of Rotary Clubs was formed in 1910. The same year, Rotary chartered a branch in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, marking the first establishment of an American-style service club outside the United States. This was followed in 1911 by the founding of the first club outside North America in Dublin, Ireland. During World War I, Rotary in Britain increased from 9 to 22 clubs, and other early international branches were Cuba in 1916 and India in 1920. In 1922, because branches had been formed in six continents, the name was changed to Rotary International. By 1925, Rotary had grown to 200 clubs with more than 20,000 members.

War time

Rotary Clubs in Spain ‘ceased to operate’ shortly after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. In Germany, no club had been formed before 1927 due to the “opposition from the continental clubs”. For a while after 1933, Rotary Clubs ‘met with approval’ of the Nazi authorities and were considered

to offer ‘opportunity for party comrades ... to provide enlightenment regarding the nature and policy of the National Socialist movement’. The Nazis, although they saw international organizations as suspect, had authorised NSDAP members to be members of the Rotary through Nazi Party’s court rulings issued in 1933, 1934 and 1936, and in 1937, more than half the rotarians were Nazi Party members . Six German Clubs were formed after Hitler came to power, they almost immediately came under pressure to expel their Jewish members. Rotary clubs do not appear to have had a unified policy towards the Nazi regime: while several German Rotary Clubs decided to disband their organizations in 1933, others practiced a policy of appeasement or collaborated. In Munich the club removed from its members’ list a number of Rotarians, Jewish and non-Jewish, who were politically unacceptable for the regime, including Thomas Mann (already in exile in Switzerland). Twelve members resigned in “sympathy with the expelled members”. Beginning 1937 however, hostile articles are published in the nazi press about Rotary, comparing Rotary with freemasonry. Soon after that, the incompatibility between nazism and the international humanitarian organisation results in two decisions who will jeopardize the existence of the Rotary in Germany: in June 1937, the ministry of the interior forbids civil servants to be members of the Rotary, and in July, the NSDAP’s party court reverts its previous rulings and declares party and rotarian membership incompatible as from January 1938. Rotary’s cause was advocated before the NSDAP party court by Dr. Grill, Governor for the Rotary 73d district, arguing that the German Rotary was compliant with the goals of the Nazi government, had excluded Freemasons in 1933 and non-Aryans in 1936. Other attempts were made, also by foreign Rotarians but appeasement failed this time, and in September 1937, the 73rd district dissolved itself. Subsequently the charter of German clubs was withdrawn by the Rotary International, although some clubs continued to meet ‘privately’. Clubs were disbanded across Europe as follows:

Austria (1938)
Italy (1939)
Czechoslovakia (1940)
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Luxembourg (1941)
Hungary (1941/2)

From 1945

Rotarian clubs in Eastern Europe were also disbanded from 1947 to 1989, under the communist regimes. In 1985, Rotary launched its PolioPlus program to immunize all of the world’s children against polio. In 2005 Rotary claimed to have contributed half a billion dollars to the cause, resulting in the immunization of nearly two billion children worldwide. In 1988 Hamas labeled Rotary International a Zionist organization. Rotary started opening new clubs in former communist countries and the first Russian club was chartered in 1990. As of 2006, Rotary has more than 1.2 million members in over 32,000 clubs among 200 countries and geographical areas, making it the most widespread by branches and second largest service club by membership, behind Lions Club International. The number of Rotarians has slightly declined in recent years: Between 2002 and 2006, they went from 1,245,000 to 1,223,000 members. North America accounts for 450,000 members, Asia for 300,000, Europe for 250,000, Latin America for 100,000, Oceania for 100,000 and Africa for 30,000.

Organization and administration

In order to carry out its service programs, Rotary is structured in club, district and international levels. Rotarians are members of their clubs. The clubs are chartered by the global organization Rotary International (RI) headquartered in Evanston, a suburb of Chicago. For administration purposes, the more than 32,000 clubs worldwide are grouped into 529 districts, and the districts into 34 zones.

Club level

Each club elects its own president and officers among its active members for a one year term. The clubs enjoy considerable autonomy within the framework of the standard constitution and the constitution and bylaws of Rotary International. The governing body of the club is the board of directors, which consists of president-elect, vice president, club secretary and treasurer, chaired by club president. The immediate past president is a de facto member of the board. The club president appoints the chairmen of the four main task groups for club service, vocational service, community service and international service.

District level

A district governor, who is an officer of Rotary International and represents the RI board of directors in the field, leads Rotary districts. The governor is nominated by the clubs of the district and elected by all the clubs meeting in the annual RI Convention held in a different country each year. To assist him with his duties, the district governor appoints assistant governors from among the Rotarians of the district.

Zone level

Approximately 15 Rotary districts form a zone. A zone director, who serves as a member of the RI board of directors, heads two zones. The zone director is nominated by the clubs in the zone and elected by the convention for the terms of two consecutive years.

Rotary International

Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA. Rotary International is governed by a board of directors composed of 17 zone directors, a president-elect and an international president. The nomination and the election of the president are based on zones. The international president, the highest officer of the organization, is elected for a term of one year. The board meets quarterly to establish policies. The chief administrative officer of RI is the general secretary, who heads a staff of about 600 persons working at the headquarters and in seven international offices around the world.

Membership

According to its constitutions (“Charters”), Rotary defines itself as a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization. It is open to business and professional leaders of all ages and economic status. Its membership tends towards the middle-aged and wealthy. This is often because people who join Rotary do so for life and become wealthy and middle-aged through time and the with the help of the inter-personal skills developed as a Rotarian. The clubs have

some exclusivist membership criteria: reputation and business or professional leadership is a specific evaluation criterion for issuing invitations to join, and they limit representation from a specific profession or business to a percentage of a specific club's membership. One can contact a Rotary club to enquire about membership but can join a rotary club only if invited; there is no provision to join without an invitation as each prospective Rotarian requires a sponsor who is an existing Rotarian. In the 1980s, Rotary was the subject of lawsuits which forced it to admit women.

Active membership

Active membership is by invitation from a current Rotarian, to professionals working in diverse areas of endeavor. Each club can have up to ten per cent of its membership representing each business or profession in the area it serves. The goal of the clubs is to promote service to the community they work in, as well as to the wider world. Many projects are organized for the local community by a single club, but some are organized globally.

Honorary membership

Honorary membership is given by election of a Rotary Club to people who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals. Honorary membership is conferred only in exceptional cases. Honorary members are exempt from the payment of admission fees and dues. They have no voting privileges and are not eligible to hold any office in their club. Honorary membership is time limited and terminates automatically at the end of the term, usually one year. It may be extended for an additional period or may also be revoked at any time. Examples of honorary members are heads of state or former heads of state, famous scientists or other famous people.

Female membership


From 1905 until the 1980s, women were not allowed membership in Rotary clubs, although Rotarian spouses, including Paul Harris's wife, were often members of the similar "Inner Wheel" club. Women did play some roles and Paul Harris's wife made numerous speeches. In 1963, it was noted that the Rotary practice of involving wives in club activities had helped to break down female seclusion in some countries. Clubs such as Rotary had long been predated by women's voluntary organizations, which started in the United States as early as 1790. Interestingly, the first Irish clubs discussed admitting women in 1912 but the proposal floundered over issues of social class. Gender equity in Rotary International was first publicly raised by the Duarte Rotary Club affair. In 1976, the Duarte California club allowed three women to join. Rotary International expressed alarm but requests to terminate the women's memberships were rejected by the club. As a result, Rotary International revoked the club's charter in 1978. The Duarte club filed suit in the California courts, claiming that Rotary Clubs are business establishments subject to regulation under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act, which bans discrimination based on race, gender, religion or ethnic origin. Rotary International then appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. The RI attorney argued that "... [the decision] threatens to force us to take in everyone, like a motel!". The Duarte Club was not alone in opposing RI leadership; the Seattle-International District club unanimously voted to admit women in 1986. The United States Supreme Court, on May 4, 1987, confirmed the Californian decision and, since that time, women have been allowed to join Rotary. The Elks, the final holdout among service clubs in prohibiting female membership, voted in 1995 to allow women. By 2007, there was a female trustee of Rotary's charitable wing The Rotary Foundation while female district governors and club presidents were common. Women accounted for 15% of international membership (22% in North America). The change of the second Rotarian motto in 2004, from "He profits most who serves best" to "They profit most who serve best", 99 years after its foundation, illustrates the move to general acceptance of women members in Rotary.

Minority membership

Rotary and other service clubs in the last decade of the 20th century became open to homosexual membership. Other minorities, in the face of general changes in demographics and declining membership, are also encouraged to join. There have been efforts to reach out to minority communities, such as Oakland, California's \$10,000 scholarships for students in inner-city schools. There have been some individual exceptions; as early as 1963 a Hindu Bengali, Nitish Chandra Laharry, served as Rotary International's first Asian president. The past tendency to favor the "old boys club" has also passed; so it is no longer just legislation or membership pressures driving these trends: A study has shown that only 2% of middle aged men interested in joining a club were interested in joining exclusive male-only clubs.

Programs

PolioPlus



The most notable current global project, PolioPlus, is contributing to the global eradication of polio. Since beginning the project in 1985, Rotarians have contributed over US\$600 million and tens of thousands of volunteer-hours, leading to the inoculation of more than two billion of the world's children. Inspired by Rotary's commitment, the World Health Organization (WHO) passed a resolution in 1988 to eradicate polio by 2000. Now in partnership with WHO, UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary is recognized by the United Nations as the key private partner in the eradication effort. There has been some limited criticism concerning the Rotary International program for polio eradication, which is supported with the help of World Health Organization. There are some reservations regarding the adaptation capabilities of the virus in some of the oral vaccines, which have been reported to cause infection in populations with low vaccination coverage. As stated by Vaccine Alliance, however, in spite of the limited risk of polio vaccination, it would neither be prudent nor practicable to cease the vaccination program until there is strong evidence that "all wild poliovirus transmission [has been] stopped". In a recent speech at the Rotary International Convention, held at the Bella Center in Copenhagen, Bruce Cohick stated that polio in all its known wild forms will be eliminated by late 2008, provided efforts in Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India all proceed with their current momentum.

Exchanges and scholarships

Some of Rotary's most visible programs include Rotary Youth Exchange, a student exchange program for students in secondary education, and Rotary's oldest program, Ambassadorial Scholarships. Today, there are six different types of Rotary Scholarships. More than 38,000 men and women from 100 nations have studied abroad under the auspices of Ambassadorial Scholarship, and today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program. In 2006-07 grants totaling approximately US\$15 million were used to award some 800 scholarships to recipients from 69

countries who studied in 64 nations. The Exchange Students of Rotary Club Munich International publish their experiences on a regular basis on Rotary Youth Exchange with Germany. Rotary Fellowships, paid by the foundation launched in honor of Paul Harris in 1947, specialize in providing graduate fellowships around the world, usually in countries other than their own in order to provide international exposure and experience to the recipient.

Rotary Centers for International Studies



Starting in 2002, The Rotary Foundation partnered with eight universities around the world to create the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution. The universities include International Christian University (Japan), University of Queensland (Australia), Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) (France), University of Bradford (United Kingdom), Universidad del Salvador (Argentina), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (U.S.), Duke University (U.S.), and University of California, Berkeley (U.S.) Rotary World Peace Fellows complete two year masters level programs in conflict resolution, peace studies, and international relations. The first class graduated in 2004. In 2004, Fellows

established the Rotary World Peace Fellows Association to promote interaction among Fellows, Rotarians, and the public on issues related to peace studies.

Other Rotary sponsored organizations

Rotaract is a service club for young men and women aged 18 to 30 with around 185,000 members in 8,000 clubs in 155 countries.

Interact is a service club consisting of more than 239,000 young people aged 14–18 with over 10,700 clubs in 108 countries.

Rotary Community Corps (RCC) is a volunteer organization with an estimated 103,000 non-Rotarian men and women in over 4,400 communities in 68 countries.

Individual club efforts

While there are numerous Rotary-wide efforts, Rotary clubs are also encouraged to take part in local ventures; In a more unusual twist, Rosalie Maguire, a Batavia, New York, Rotarian, taking a cue from Calendar Girls convinced fellow members (a woman for each month and a male cover) to pose for a “nude” calendar sold as part of a \$250,000 fundraiser for a local hospital. In the past, members were assessed mock “fines” for minor infractions as a way of raising funds: these fines could in 1951 range from 10 cents to \$1,000.

Meetings

Various meetings and seminars are held regularly at all Rotary organization levels to develop Rotary leaders, to prepare and motivate incoming leaders and officers for their administrative and service responsibility roles. Assemblies and conferences are organized for conferring on the Rotary program and club activities. For legislative purposes, a council is provided.

Club Level

Club meeting

Every Rotary club holds a regular weekly meeting on a workday in a public venue, which can be a hotel, a restaurant or a clubhouse within its locality. The location is determined, so that any member of another Rotary club can also attend the meeting. The club meeting lasts one to one-and-a-half hours and is held with catering, at noon or evening hours, while -although very rare- there are also early morning meetings. The club president, assisted by the club secretary, conducts the meeting. Attendance for all active club members at the club meetings is mandatory. Guests are invited to the meetings in order to inform non-Rotarian community members about the aim and the object of the Rotary and of the club.

Club Assembly

The Club Assembly is a meeting of all club members, including the club’s officers, directors, and committee chairs, held for the purpose of conferring on the program and activities of the club or for membership education. It is held four to five appropriate times a Rotary fiscal year in place of the weekly club meeting. The club president presides at the club assembly. One club assembly is held at the governor’s annual official visit to the club. Clubs usually hold a club assembly immediately after the district assembly and the district conference in order to receive reports on the programs and activities throughout the district.

District Level

District Team Training Seminar

The District Team Training Seminar is a one-day meeting, held in February, to prepare incoming assistant governors, district committee members and chairs for their year in office and to give district governors-elect the opportunity to motivate and build their district leadership team in order to support clubs.

Presidents-elect Training Seminar (PETS)

The purpose of this one-and-a-half-day seminar, held in March, is to prepare incoming club presidents for their role.

District Assembly

The District Assembly is a one-day seminar, held in April or May, to prepare incoming Rotary club leaders and officers for their roles.

District Leadership Seminar

The District Leadership Seminar is held on a full-day immediately before or after the district conference to develop Rotarian leaders within the district, who have the necessary skills, knowledge, and motivation to serve in Rotary beyond the club level.

District Membership Seminar

The purpose of this half- or one-day seminar, preferably held after the district assembly, is to develop club and district leaders, who have the necessary skills, knowledge, and motivation to support the clubs in the district to sustain or increase the membership base.

District Rotary Foundation Seminar

The District Rotary Foundation Seminar is a one-day-seminar to educate Rotarians about the programs of The Rotary Foundation and to motivate them to be strong participants and advocates of the Foundation. The seminar is the primary means of increasing awareness of TRF at the club level.

District Conference

A conference of Rotarians is held for two to three full days once a year in each district with the purpose to further the “Object of Rotary” through fellowship, inspirational addresses, and the discussion of matters relating to the affairs of clubs in the district and RI generally. The district conference showcases Rotary programs and successful district and club activities, and encourage interaction and dialog among clubs.

Zone Level

Governors-elect Training Seminar (GETS)

The Governors-elect Training Seminar is a two-day training program for governors-elect at the zone level to be held in conjunction with Rotary institutes once a year. The training programs integrate topics approved by the RI Board and the trustees of The Rotary Foundation. Attendance at the GETS is mandatory for district governors-elect.

International Assembly

The International Assembly is a mandatory six-day training meeting for governors-elect with the purpose to provide Rotary education, instruction in administrative duties, motivation, and inspiration to governors-elect, and to afford them and other attendees an opportunity to discuss and plan how to implement Rotary’s programs and activities during the succeeding year.

Rotary Institutes

Rotary institutes are zone-level meetings designed for the attendance and participation of past, present, and incoming RI officers residing within the area the institute is to serve. Institutes are informational meetings with no administrative responsibility or authority. The purpose of a Rotary institute is to inform current and past RI officers accurately concerning the policies and programs of RI and TRF; inspire, motivate, and inform governors for leadership. The RI president and president-elect participate in some institutes each year in order to enhance their knowledge and experience of the Rotary world and to provide opportunities for zone-level Rotary leaders to gain greater knowledge and insight into the current and future directions of Rotary.

International Level

Rotary International Convention

The Rotary International Convention is an annual meeting, held in the last three months of the fiscal year (April, May, or June) each time in a different country. The primary purpose of the annual convention is to inspire and inform all Rotarians at an international level, particularly incoming club presidents, governors-elect, and other incoming club and RI officers, so that they will be motivated to further develop Rotary at club and district levels. The convention also constitutes the annual meeting and conducts the business of the association. Since the convention constitutes a worldwide gathering of the Rotary family, the celebration of fellowship with social and entertainment features is appropriate to the extent such activities do not detract from the convention’s primary purpose. It is the duty of each club to participate in the voting at each convention and to arrange to do so by having its delegates in attendance at each convention. At the worldwide event participate tens of thousands of Rotarians from hundreds of nations. At the 2005 Chicago Convention, a record was set with more than 39,460 attendees from 161 countries.

Council on Legislation

The Council on Legislation is a strenuous meeting, typically a week in length, where representatives from every Rotary district debate and vote on legislation proposed by clubs, districts, the RI Board, and the Council itself. The Council meets once every three years in April, May, or June, but preferably in April in the vicinity of RI World Headquarters, in the Chicago area. The council is the legislative body of RI, which has the authority to amend the RI constitutional documents. The voting members of the council are representatives selected by the clubs in each district in the Rotary year two years before each council.

Publications

Official and regional Rotary magazines

Rotary International’s unique communications media are the official monthly magazine named The Rotarian published in English language by the headquarters, and 30 other regional Rotary World Magazine Press periodicals that are independently produced in more than 20 different major languages and distributed in 130 countries. The first official magazine The National Rotarian, predecessor to The Rotarian, was started in January 1911.

The first regional magazine was issued 1915 in Great Britain and Ireland. The official and regional magazines are circulated to Rotarian and non-Rotarian subscribers. The combined circulation is more than 700,000 copies.

Club bulletin

Rotary clubs issue weekly a bulletin full of Rotary news from recent meetings. Aside from meeting information and the name list of club directors and officers, the club bulletin contains club president's message, a summary of guest speaker's presentation, club projects and service activities, upcoming events, announcements and reminders for the members. It is circulated to the club members in printed form, however more and more clubs go paperless by publishing the club bulletin electronically.

District governor's newsletter

District governors publish monthly a newsletter reporting service activities conducted by the clubs within the district and various district level meetings. The newsletter contains also district governor's message and lists also the membership and attendance figures of all district clubs. It is circulated to every Rotarian in the district.

Rotary Club banners.



Popular culture

Rotary International was portrayed in Steven Spielberg's film *Catch Me If You Can*. Frank Abagnale Jr.'s (played by Leonardo DiCaprio in the film) father, Frank William Abagnale (played by Christopher Walken) was a life time Rotarian in the film because he was a hero in World War II. The Italian song "Rotary Club of Malindi", which had a relative success on the world-music scene, speaks of an organization for "white people in depression". In the television show *Desperate Housewives*, Gabrielle attends Victor Lang's Rotary Club meeting in his ex-wife's couture dress. Stephen King's novel, "The Library Policeman", centers on Sam Peebles, a small town insurance agent who is called upon on short notice to give a speech to his Rotary Club on "The Importance of the Independently Owned Business in Small-town Life". In season four episode five of the Larry David show "Curb Your Enthusiasm", titled "The 5 Wood", David is trying to gain entrance into a club whose members were generally non-Jewish Republicans. In the interview David makes up many lies about himself, one of which being that he is a member of the Rotary Club.

Now you are ready for the Club Assembly next week.