

drives early in the fall. Our net increase of 100 members is very significant when you consider that our District had been losing in excess of 100 members each year. However, I have noticed in the last two months that it seems that we have peaked in membership growth. Although your formal membership drive may be over, please keep stressing in each Club the need for new members. I would like to see a net District gain of 10% for the year. This means we need to be +360 by June 30. This is a achievable, but to accomplish it, we each must keep up the momentum.

If you want to talk to Clubs that are having successful membership growth, contact Sugar Land (+17), Pasadena South (+15), Gulfway-Hobby (+9), Houston, (+9), Brazosport (+8), Brenham (+6), and Pearland (+5). Pasadena South has a goal of +18 for the year and they appear well on their way to achievement. If your Club has not had a formal membership drive, then get after it. New members bring in new energy. As President, one of your responsibilities is to turn the Club over to next years President in as good or better shape than when you started. A smaller membership generally means that your Club is weaker.

In case you have forgotten, we do have a Membership Task Force. Please Contact it.

MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

Chairman: PDG Mike Gibson (713) 450-9300

It is suggested that you use this Committee for an open forum Club Assembly regarding Membership Growth, Rotary Information and Membership Development. The Committee is composed of members of both large and small Clubs and their ideas are varied. It is not the Committees goal to teach one particular method of growth, but to expose the Clubs to the different ideas utilized in the District and to learn from the ideas presented at the Forum. Please contact Mike in order to benefit from this Committee's experience.

PROJECT AMIGO

Have I used the word "Incredible" already too much in this newsletter? Well, then, pronounce it in Spanish and you will know exactly the results of this Project. Dr. David Taylor (Space Center) and Dr. Wanda Ellis (Baytown) led a team of non-rotarians to Mexico City (District 4170). The team consisted of Gonzalo Montoya, Senior Manager at McDonald Douglas, George Hernandez, owner of a chemical company, Mario Garza, CPA, Neil Gimenes, a quality systems consultant, Rachel San Miguel, owner of an import/export company, and Rene Sanchez, a computer specialist at Rockwell. The team gave five seminars during a one week period at various locations in Mexico City. Three were all day seminars on the basics of operating a business, a one half day seminar was for individuals thinking of starting a business, and another all day seminar was for advanced topics of interest to certain established business. Attendance was over whelming. All of the presentations were made in Spanish. In addition to our team's preparation and

excellent presentations, the Rotarians of District 4170 handled the publicity, logistics, and naturally a tremendous farewell party. This Project was a tremendous benefit for the non-Rotarian recipients. It was also an excellent International District Project in which the Rotarians of 4170 and District 5890 had the opportunity to once again work with each other, renew friendships, and make many new friendships.

DGN Ed Martin, myself, and our spouses were fortunate enough to attend the seminars and once again witness what Rotarians with a dream and a desire can accomplish. I would like to thank David Taylor and Wanda Ellis for putting on our District's 5th Rotary Seminar Team. This is not a Rotary International Project and to our knowledge we are the only District with this concept. The four previous seminar teams from District 5890 went to Eastern Europe. Mexico City has already requested that Project Amigo be continued next year and they have ideas to make it even larger. I would also like to thank the Rotary Clubs in our District that contributed funds to help make this project possible.

RESPONSE FROM CYBERSPACE

Remember my August newsletter; when I asked if there was anyone out there interested in our District being on the World Wide Web? Well not only have I received a response, the job has been done. The "Space City" District needs presence in space and we now have it. You can now locate the District Home Page on the World Wide Web "<http://www.wantabe.com/rotary>". If you don't know what this means, you are about to be left behind. Special thanks goes to Gary Kelly (Sharpstown). Gary is a co-owner of a internet provider, Wantabe, Inc. his telephone number is (713) 493-0718. The District Home Page is being donated by Wantabe, Inc. It is our desire for each Club in the District to have its own Home Page linked to the District Home Page. Wantabe, Inc. has graciously agreed to be the internet provider for the Club Home Pages, but they are asking for at least one member of the Club to subscribe to their service. It is not a bad deal, \$30.00 per month, unlimited e-mail and internet access, and the right to have a Home Page.

Juan Fahardo (Galleria) is working with Gary in translating our District Home Page to Spanish. Several Rotary Districts currently do have Home Pages, but we have not found a Home Page in Spanish. We believe that since the Home Page can be easily viewed by any Rotarian and non-rotarian throughout the world and since we do so many projects with Mexico and Central and South America, it will be easier for our southern neighbors to become more involved with District 5890.

I envision our District Home Page and our Club Home Pages giving us the ability to easily find out about each Club's projects and fundraisers. The District Newsletter could also be on the Home Page and it could be a way of establishing GSE Team applicants, Ambassadorial Scholars, new members, contacts with other Districts for GSE Exchanges, and international