



We are in the final hours of this Rotary year, and it has been a monumental year in all respects. By whatever measure you consider, this year for District 5020 has been a huge success.

**Membership:**

District-wide our membership numbers are up, perhaps not as much as any of us would have liked, but up nonetheless. In these challenging economic times clubs are finding ways to keep their members and

recruit new Rotarians. Remember, that the most important factors to consider are not quantity but quality when selecting candidates for membership.

Tonight, I will be presenting the Gig Harbor North Rotary Club with their charter, our 87 club. They became a full fledged Rotary Club on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Adding at least one new club is every District Governor's goal. My thanks go out to AG Pete Taylor, Special Representative Gary Glein and President Patrick Williams for their efforts to make sure this club got off to a great start.

**Rotary Foundation Support:**

When we began this journey in February of 2008 at PETS, I asked each club president to identify their goal for giving to The Rotary Foundation. The composite goal for all 86 clubs was US \$753 K. As we saw the economy head south, it became apparent that we would have a significant challenge to reach that ambitious goal. As of today our District shows a total of US \$687 K or 91% of our goal. When everything is considered quite a remarkable achievement! I expect that we will see that number go higher as the TRF staff continues to process club transmittals. If you haven't, you might want to remind your club Foundation Chair to make sure donations are postmarked today. I also challenged each of you to look at setting a goal for PolioPlus of US \$20 per member. That would have generated over US \$100 K for the year. Your fellow Rotarians responded with overwhelming enthusiasm and as of today we have donated more than US \$133 K, or \$26 per member, to the PolioPlus Challenge. We will, I am sure, continue to be a leader as Rotary and Rotarians around the world respond to the US \$200 M Challenge between now and December 2012.

When all the numbers are added up our District again topped US \$ 1,000,000 in total giving to The Rotary Foundation. My hat is off to District Rotary Foundation Chair PDG Joan Firkins for her dedication and leadership.

**Foundation Grants:**

In July we will begin the transition to being a Pilot District for The Rotary Foundation's Future Vision Plan. There will be changes, but the coming Rotary year will continue to function unchanged. The current financial times have had an impact on the funding available to The Rotary Foundation to support club projects. While our DDF is unaffected, we have been advised that funding for 2009-10 Matching Grants will be reduced to 30%. If your club has an international project and anticipates requesting a Matching Grant, I would strongly encourage you to get it submitted as soon as possible.

Matching Grants will be processed on a first come first served basis. The District Matching Grants Chair is Charlie Averill from the Bainbridge Island Rotary Club. His e-mail address is: [averill98110@yahoo.com](mailto:averill98110@yahoo.com).

We will have the same amount of funding available for District Simplified Grants as in past years. If you club wishes to make use of these funds the District Simplified Grants Chair is Roger Merrifield, also from the Bainbridge Island Rotary Club. His e-mail address is: [rmerri0624@aol.com](mailto:rmerri0624@aol.com). DSGs will continue to be processed on a first come first served basis with one per club until January when additional club projects may be submitted.

I want to thank outgoing Grants Chair Rand Hillier for his loyal and dedicated service. His attention to the details of each grant earned us an excellent reputation in Evanston.

#### **District Events:**

This year's District Leadership Training Assembly, under the leadership of AG Judy Byron and PDG Norm Watts was a huge success. We had more attendees that at any time in recent years. The training and workshops were well organized and attended. All the feedback I have received was positive. Thanks to the entire committee and all the presenters for their hard work.

The District Conference was both a financial and programmatic success. Attendance was excellent and each of the presenters helped us to Celebrate Our Dreams. The feedback I have seen indicated that the Conference Committee under the leadership of Silverdale Rotarian Ellen Newberg achieved it goal of putting together a memorable event that combined information and fellowship.

#### **District Leadership:**

It has been an honor to have had the privilege to work with so many dedicated Rotarians on the District Leadership Team. It never fails to amaze me to see so many individuals from across our District dedicated to serving Rotary. The bonds of friendship that have been created will remain with us forever.

#### **Club Activities:**

As Barbara and I travelled the District, we were exposed to the countless projects and programs that clubs have for making their communities a better place for all. It would be impossible to list all the meaningful activities you are supporting, so let me just say WELL DONE!

This year has been an incredible experience. One that Barbara and I will never forget. We were made to feel very welcome by every club and enjoyed very much the excellent fellowship and sharing of ideas.

We wish DGE Alex and Marnee Alexander the very best. We know they will cherish the experience and will take away many fond memories.

Remember to continue to **Make Dreams Real!**

Brian