

New Generations Month: Our Youth

My wife Bev and I have had the good fortune of raising four wonderful children. (No pride here) Throughout those years we had opportunities to volunteer as room parents, Bev as the picture lady, me the math tutor, coaching, reading classes, PTA, and youth sports support. I think since we now have grandchildren, we see more than ever that our future in this country and in our world are resting on our youth.

In Rotary, we have endless opportunities to be involved with youth. Dictionary programs, reading programs, mentoring, scholarships, and the list goes on. Let me ask this, how is your club doing when it comes to expanding youth involvement in Rotary? I have asked each club in my official visit, "Who will be

sitting in these seats when we are gone?" We have four wonderful programs that can and will directly impact our clubs and the future of Rotary itself: RYLA, Interact, Rotaract, and Youth Exchange. Clubs that have embraced one or more of these programs have an energy, purpose, and focus that pays great dividends.

RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, is that one weekend a month in the spring where sophomore-level high school students learn team-building and leadership skills. RYLA is primarily put on by the Bradley University Rotaract club, Rotaract is the college-level version of Rotary, and held in Peoria. This past spring our attendance was down to 25, normally we have 35-40. Despite

that, we added a breakout segment on starting an Interact club. Interact is the high-school version of Rotary. Of the 25, at least 7 students left that weekend with a desire to begin Interact in their community. Powerful stuff.

I am happy to report that the Youth Exchange (YE) Inbound and Outbound students will attend RYLA this year, at district expense. Our YE program is a powerful program in cultural, social, educational, and vocational interaction. We, as Rotarians owe a lot to those who for years have guided, nurtured, and led YE in our district. One of the best programs your club can have is one put on by a YE student.

That leads me to this: I am convinced our four primary youth focuses,

working together and feeding to and from each other, can create a powerful youth presence and force in Rotary District 6460. And that's why we are having a Youth Conference on Saturday, October 27th of the District Conference. Our goal is to discover and find ways to create synergies among the programs. The formation of an Interact District Council will be discussed and moved forward. Rotaractors from Bradley and hopefully the forming clubs at Knox College and Quincy, IL will join with us for leadership insight and team-building exercises. Our YE will be on hand for input, learning, and idea exchange. And best of all, we as adults will get an opportunity to be with them, eat with them, and at the end of the day hear their

experiences.

Don't miss District Conference 2007 on October 26-27 at the Crowne Plaza Springfield. It could be among the most exciting adventure in your Rotary Year. For a registration form: see your club president or go to rotarydistrict6460.org and download all the info. See you there!!



Rotary Shares!
 District Governor
 Ron Riggins
 and his wife Beverly

ILLINOIS CLOSE TO CREATING A ROTARY COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE PLATE! SIGN UP TODAY!

It appears that the Governor of Illinois will sign HB133 shortly. It is VERY important that we all [Rotarians & friends] send a request to the Secretary of State

Jesse White stating that you want to order a "ROTARY" license plate. The creating and manufacturing of the plate will not begin until the Secretary of State has

orders for 850 Rotary plates.

This has taken many years to move through the House and Senate and to the Governor's desk for signing. It is now in our

[Rotarians] hands to make it happen and get the ROTARY license plate on the road.

There will be a \$25.00 surcharge over your normal plate fee.

The first year:
 \$ 15.00 goes to the State for the "new" plate
 \$ 10.00 goes to the

PLATE

■ From page 1

Rotary Foundation
Thereafter when the plate registration is renewed:

\$ 2.00 goes to the State for a new sticker

\$ 23.00 goes to the Rotary Foundation

This is what we have been looking forward to for years.

The Secretary of State will collect the requests and when the total reaches 850, WE WIN!

TO Request your plate, talk to your club president. He or she should have recently received a letter template in the mail that you can complete and mail. Otherwise just send your name, address, license plate number(s) and phone number and a

brief message asking him to send you an application to purchase the Rotary License Plates, sign it and then send it to Secretary of State Jesse White's office at :Secretary of State Jesse White, 520 South 2nd Street Room 312, Springfield, IL 62756 Attn: Carla

The phone numbers for Secretary of

States office are

217-524-0581

217-785-4727 fax

In your letter, make sure you say "Thank You for your support of Rotary" -- it'll build goodwill and better friendships.

Thanks to Art Davis, District Governor 6450 for your efforts in getting this done!! You can reach Art at rotarart@sbcglobal.net.



Rotary District 6460 website
www.rotarydistrict6460.org

District Conference coming next month!

The purpose of the district conference is 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 Rotary International in general. The conference gives consideration to special matters submitted to it by the Rotary International Board or matters originating within the district. The district conference showcases the programs of Rotary and successful club and district activities. The conference encourages interaction and dialogue among clubs. Recognizing that the district is an opportunity for the district to sustain and grow the membership base, the information is

presented in an inspirational fashion and in an atmosphere of fellowship.

A representative of the Rotary International President is assigned to attend each district conference. The representatives are generally accompanied by their spouses. The representative is required to give at least two addresses during the district conference, one of which must be a major address of 20-25 minutes at the conference session with the maximum attendance, including spouses. In addition representatives must be given an opportunity to make remarks at the conclusion of the conference to demonstrate appreciation to the host district.

At the district conference district business is

conducted. Financial statements for the previous Rotary are discussed and adopted, representatives to the Council on Legislation are elected, and District Nominating Committee Members are elected.

All club members of district Rotary clubs and their spouses are encouraged to attend district conference. It is an opportunity for all those attending to meet Rotarians from all over the district and learn about Rotary International programs as well as activities occurring in our own district.

See you on Springfield on October 26 and 27.

Material paraphrased from the RI Manual of Procedure by Richard w. Passmore, DGE District 6460

GSE Team Leader John Power Available for Club Programs

John Power, leader of District 6460's Group Study Exchange Team to Bangalore, India in January 2007 is available to give programs about his experiences during the GSE exchange. If you are interested in having

John present a program to your club, contact him at johnrpower@mchsi.com.



ROTARY EVENT CALENDAR

2007

September 18-22
GETS/Zone Institute, Springfield, Missouri

October 26 & 27
District Conference
Crowne Plaza, Springfield

2008

January 13-20
International Assembly, San Diego

February 15 & 16
Rotary Leadership Institute, Decatur

February 11-22
Pre-PETS By Areas

February 23
District Team Training Seminar, Crowne Plaza

March 18
90th Anniversary Jacksonville Jacksonville Rotary Club

April 4 & 5
PETS Crowne Plaza

April 26
District Assembly, Crowne Plaza

May 17
District Leadership Seminar Crowne Plaza

June 30
DG Installation Macomb

September/October
District Foundation and By Areas

Membership Seminars



6460 Today

Rotary International District #6460 **Ron Riggins** District Governor 20067-2008
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Rachel Rogers' Final Report

This article is excerpted from the final report sent by Rachel Rogers, our Ambassadorial Scholar from our district to Wales from '06-'07.

Looking back over my time as an Ambassadorial Scholar in District #1180 of the United Kingdom, it is personally evident that my final report submitted to Rotary Headquarters, regardless of the time and work I put into it, can only begin to describe my experience as an Ambassadorial Scholar. Additionally, it is clear to me that this report will only graze the surface of the incomparable nature of The Rotary Foundation's Ambassadorial Scholarship program. My time in District #1180 and at the University of Wales, Bangor, has been indescribably life-changing; and though I find it excruciatingly difficult to select and only a few specific events and aspects of my life during this year abroad, I know it is both necessary and fitting for The Rotary Foundation to receive a final report. The essay that follows, detailing aspects of my life requested by Rotary headquarters, will, I hope, adequately describe a year of experiences that will only ever be limited by words.

As a student at the University of Wales, Bangor, I enrolled in courses that would help me study Wales and Welsh culture, as well as gain credits for an undergraduate degree in English Literature (secondary school education certification) with a minor in American Sign Language interpreting from MacMurray College

in the United States. My literary studies in Bangor focused primarily on Anglo-Welsh literature from 1930 to the present, an experience few other universities offer and, fewer still, can rival. To study Anglo-Welsh literature, I was offered a directed study of postgraduate level by the Head of Department, whose expertise lies in the field. My study included a variety of prose and poetry writers from Wales with simultaneous investigation into the socio-cultural pressures present between Wales and England, with particular consideration of the history of the Welsh language. By the end of the course, I produced an essay exploring the theme of isolation as it appears in Anglo-Welsh literature, an area I plan to research in more depth; the study has also peaked my interest of isolation as a theme in the literature of other minority cultures, which I also plan to research in due time.

My secondary focus in literature at the university was Arthurian literature. While it is always rewarding for a student to study King Arthur, I believe it is particularly rewarding in North Wales, where places mentioned in The Mabinogion, such as Harlech Castle, are only a short distance away. And outside of my literary studies, I enrolled in courses that encouraged my ambassadorial role. Courses on the history and culture of Wales as well as a beginner's Welsh language course exposed me to important cultural aspects of Wales, while other courses, such as an American drama course,

allowed me to see how Americans are sometimes perceived and answer questions my classmates asked during seminars.

During my year in Bangor I have lived in private accommodation and shared a house with two Welsh women and two English men, all students at the university. Living in such accommodation gave me the invaluable opportunity to make lasting friendships by sharing conversation as we went about the everyday tasks of cooking, cleaning, and doing laundry. Developing cherished friendships with my Welsh and English housemates also led me to be exposed to cultural aspects of Wales, England, and the greater United Kingdom that a student living in single-room campus housing may not have encountered so easily. My Welsh housemates, for instance, showed me their hometowns on Anglesey, an island just off the northern coast, in ways a tourist is not able to experience. And my English housemates involved me in discussions and debates ranging from Tony Blair and Parliament to boys' public schools. At the same time friendships were being formed, I was also being exposed to a cultural practice common for students of the United Kingdom: co-ed living in a private home, an experience I am glad to have had during my year abroad.

To further involve myself with the University and the larger Bangor community, I decided to become involved in three organizations. CathSoc, the Catholic society of the University, involved me in supporting social justice

movements such as LiveSimply and Unearth Justice, which support living a simple, sustainable lifestyle and ethical gold mining, respectively. Being involved with these movements and attending the events hosted by CathSoc helped me to create local and international friendships while at the same time raise awareness in the community about social needs and injustices worldwide. Another organization, Intermind, an interdisciplinary discussion and debate group, met weekly in a pub to explore a predetermined topic such as the war in Iraq, nuclear arms, and religious tolerance. At these meetings, I had a wonderful ambassadorial opportunity because I was the only American present. I could answer questions regarding our government's policy when discussions were concerned with political

issues; and I could express my personal views that have been shaped by American culture on non-government subjects. The third group, the St. Ignatius of Loyola Spiritual Exercise Group, met fortnightly and enabled me to interact with mature members of the Bangor community, with whom students oftentimes do not become acquainted. Involvement in this group not only exposed me to new people and spiritual practices, but also allowed me to visit the seminary where the famous English poet Gerard Manley Hopkins invented sprung rhythm, studied Welsh, and became a priest.

In my spare time during the week, I additionally became involved with the Conway Centre, an outdoor pursuits center based

See **Report** on page 4

District Governor Visit Schedule

Club	Official Visit
Cambridge	9/5/2007
Athens	9/6/2007
Carlinville	9/6/2007
Quincy-East	9/7/2007
Alton-Godfrey	9/10/2007
Jerseyville	9/10/2007
Collinsville	9/11/2007
Manito-Forest City	9/11/2007
East Alton	9/27/2007
Rushville	9/27/2007
Jacksonville	9/28/2007
Galesburg-Sunrise	10/2/2007
Macomb	10/2/2007
Macomb-Centennial	10/4/2007
Monmouth	10/8/2007
Washington	10/9/2007
Land of Goshen	10/10/2007
Springfield-South	10/11/2007
Wood River	10/15/2007
Benld	10/16/2007
Pittsfield	10/17/2007
Mason City	10/23/2007
Granite City	10/30/2007
Highland	11/6/2007
Peoria-North	11/15/2007

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Gary Goodwin

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Rotary District 6460

Membership & Attendance: August 2007

Ordered by: Club Name



Printed 9/14/2007

Rotary Club of...	Meetings Held	Attendance			Membership			
		This Month %	Rank	Year to Date %	Rank	Start of Year	Present	Change
Abingdon	5 of 5	87.40	=3	85.35	2	24	24	-
Aledo	4 of 5	82.00	=6	83.85	3	7	7	-
Alton-Godfrey	4 of 4	60.70	29	58.05	31	114	111	-3
Athens	5 of 5	56.00	=35	59.50	28	11	11	-
Benld	4 of 4	39.25	42	41.13	42	27	26	-1
Bushnell	4 of 4	89.00	2	79.50	7	22	21	-1
Cambridge	5 of 5	76.36	11	66.97	20	22	22	-
Carlinville	5 of 5	56.00	=35	57.00	=33	32	33	+1
Chillicothe	4 of 5	87.00	=3	82.00	5	18	20	+2
Collinsville	4 of 4	60.00	30	57.30	=33	-	28	-
Delavan	4 of 4	70.00	15	73.50	13	-	22	-
East Alton, IL	5 of 5	67.59	19	64.83	23	35	35	-
East Peoria	4 of 4	58.49	32	55.64	37	37	37	-
Edwardsville	5 of 5	79.16	=9	76.97	9	138	134	-4
Farmington	4 of 4	58.25	33	55.33	38	33	34	+1
Galesburg Sunrise	4 of 4	65.00	22	67.78	19	46	45	-1
Galesburg, IL	5 of 5	72.57	13	71.85	15	77	78	+1
Galva	4 of 4	59.00	31	59.00	29	15	14	-1
Granite City	4 of 4	53.02	38	49.92	40	70	67	-3
Highland	4 of 4	67.72	18	75.61	10	77	77	-
Jacksonville	5 of 5	52.51	39	58.79	30	100	104	+4
Jacksonville Sunrise	4 of 4	50.39	40	51.70	39	16	15	-1
Jerseyville	4 of 4	61.00	26	61.50	26	44	45	+1
Kewanee	4 of 4	74.40	12	72.60	14	47	47	-
Land of Goshen	5 of 5	91.88	1	88.37	1	66	64	-2
Macomb Centennial Morning	5 of 5	82.30	=6	83.03	4	41	38	-3
Mason City	4 of 4	46.43	41	46.79	41	14	14	-
Monmouth	4 of 4	65.67	21	66.57	21	-	76	-
Morton	5 of 5	69.77	16	70.90	16	126	128	+2
Pekin	5 of 5	83.25	5	80.13	6	-	54	-
Peoria North	5 of 5	55.06	37	57.55	32	184	184	-
Peoria Sunrise	5 of 5	57.33	34	56.45	35	-	15	-
Petersburg	4 of 4	63.00	=24	68.50	17	20	17	-3
Pittsfield	5 of 5	68.78	17	67.80	18	52	52	-
Quincy	4 of 4	63.75	23	63.96	24	95	95	-
Quincy East	5 of 5	60.90	27	65.10	22	22	23	+1
Rushville	5 of 5	81.00	8	78.00	8	29	30	+1
Springfield - Midtown	4 of 4	66.00	20	61.50	25	29	27	-2
Springfield South, IL	5 of 5	60.77	28	56.35	36	-	36	-
Springfield Sunrise	5 of 5	71.00	14	73.50	12	25	25	-
Washington	4 of 4	63.00	=24	60.50	27	52	52	-
Wood River	4 of 4	79.00	=9	75.50	11	36	35	-1
Totals						1803	2022	-12

No report received from:

Rotary Club of Bethalto Illinois
Rotary Club of Havana
Rotary Club of Manito-Forest City
Rotary Club of Springfield

Rotary Club of Canton
Rotary Club of Macomb
Rotary Club of Peoria

"...we should look at the Foundation as being something not of today or tomorrow, but think of it in terms of the years and generations to come. Rotary is a movement for the centuries."

Arch Klumph
Visionary of The Rotary Foundation

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A Thank Note from Argentina

Pedro Zanini

ROTARY CLUB
LAS PAREJAS ARGENTINA

ter is written exactly as it was received. I thought the spelling and grammar would be more genuine so you know this came from a non-English speaking country.)

Good morning gentlemen.

Here we're sending the latest pictures of the ambulance finally in our firefighters hands.

As you can see, we had two representatives of the American Embassy. They came to Las Parejas on Saturday and stayed for the

"WINSTON CHURCHILL once said, *"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give. That's why Rotary Shares.*

lunch on Sunday. We had a very good time together.

We can't explain how excited and grateful the firefighters are. They went to the lunch with their families and had a great time.

We would like to thank you all once again for all your work and help in this wonderful project.

Hope to work with you some time again.

Thanks for everything.

Pedro Zanini.

Rotary Club Las Parejas.

Argentina.



Pedro Zanini explaining how we got the donation. He's showing a picture of Jamie Johnson, the firefighter from Illinois that started all this.



(from left to right) Pedro Zanini of Las Parejas Rotary Club, Rosa Avalis, wife of Rotary Club president, Cosme Aalis, President of Rotary Club Las Parejas, Dan Ammons and Robert Ing from the American Embassy, Guillermo Brignoni, chief of the Firefighters of Las Parejas, Javier Gaillard from Rotary Club Las Parejas.



All the same people as in the first picture and some of the firefighters during the blessing of the ambulance.

REPORT

From page 3

on Anglesey. My involvement with the Conway Centre stemmed from a desire to meet more local individuals and also to become exposed to the outdoor sports and activities popular in North Wales. Once per week, for a period of twelve weeks, I tried a different outdoor sport, participating in activities including

gorge scrambling, mountain scrambling, sea level traversing, coastering, surfing, sailing, and thrutching. My experiences with the Conway Centre were beneficial on physical, mental, and social levels, because I challenged my body and mind through the activities, and at the same time became acquainted with people passionate about Wales and learned about the activities its landscape has to offer. On weekends and holidays, I tried to expand my experience of Wales by trav-

eling; and indeed, I was fortunate that one of my courses included the option to participate in fieldtrips to various locations in Wales. And in addition to my individual and group travels in Wales, I had the opportunity to travel in Scotland, England, Ireland, Iceland, and Spain. The reception I have received as an American during my time abroad been as varied as the people I have met. In the United Kingdom, I have generally been privilege to a warm welcome and open conver-

sation, though on some occasions I have met with aggressive statements and questions regarding American culture and the current administration in Washington D.C., with particular emphasis on the United States's foreign relations. While the individuals delivering the aggressive words and questions were often rebuked by others present, I appreciate the individuals' convictions and found those moments to be some of the best opportunities to serve overtly as a cul-

tural ambassador. Being an Ambassadorial Scholar is about sharing information and in those situations my answers have produced a greater understanding of (though not necessarily agreement with) the United States; those are moments I have cherished, because they provide concrete examples of achievement of an Ambassadorial Scholarship goal: to increase respect for cultural differences. During my time as an Ambassadorial Scholar, my involvement with Rotary

Districts #1180 in North and Mid-Wales and Northwest England and #6460 in central Illinois has been not only a delightful experience but also personally enriching. During my conversations, correspondence, presentations, and attendance at meetings, I have learned invaluable information about myself, mine and others' perceptions, and the world in which we all live.



Photos by WarmowskiPhotography.com
 District 6360 Rotary Youth Exchange students introduce themselves to District 6460 YEOs, host parents and board members Saturday morning, Sept. 8, 2007, during a day of meetings and fun at Illinois College in Jacksonville.

Photos by WarmowskiPhotography.com
 District 6360 Rotary Youth Exchange students gather for a group photo at the Sherwood Eddy Memorial YMCA in Jacksonville Saturday evening during their overnight. The students spent the night at the Y playing soccer, basketball and rolling around the gym floor on small scooters as well as swimming and watching movies.



“This I Believe”

Earlier this year, the Springfield Sunrise Club partnered with WUIS Radio, Springfield's National Public Radio station, to sponsor an essay writing contest. "This I Believe" was inspired by a broadcast series originated by Edward R Murrow in the 1950's. Local High School Students from the three Springfield Public High Schools and Rochester High School wrote essays with that theme, and created some stunning messages. The finalists received cash awards and were invited to come to the Sunrise Club's meeting with their families. In the next few months, we'll reprint the essays from some of the finalists.

Caitlyn Barnes - Southeast High School

I believe in the laughable hypocrisy of our educational system, and the wonders it works on the malleable minds of

teenaged boys and girls. In place where gleaming technology matters more than the sixty-four percent of the students body that cannot read at fifth grade level, minds are apparently cultivated to the full potential of intelligent, American citizens. "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways..."

In the American system, education is always behind pace. While Germany, Japan, and France begin learning English as early as second grade, our students are hard-pressed to find many foreign languages in high-school. This is not always for the lack of want- many schools have highly cultured students and faculty who ache for the chance to break through the boundaries of the English language- but generally for lack of budget. While most United States grants are sent to the ever-expanding joys of

war and construction, what money the schools do receive are sent to new computers, rather than the need for new textbooks.

I would pose the question, "Why is this so?" but the answer is blatantly obvious. Our students cannot read! Why, whatever would a student body do with textbooks, if they could not read them? Thus, the ingenious process to solve this matter is to fill their jolly faces with greater and greater numbers of shiny computers, to appease their need for simpler methods. This stunning technique is truly amazing, for as the students' smiles grow larger with glee-"Oh frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"-their ACT and SAT scores sink joylessly into the muck of despair.

Oh my, and what of the teachers? The brilliant mentors, whom these despicable scores are pinned on at the end of each day

with governmental warning that should actually be stamped into the skulls of the glorious politicians who caused such a mess to begin with? The women and men who attempt to pick up the pieces of a lost capacity for intelligence? What of Them?

Those man and women...they are just underpaid, in all of their glory. From the smiling ones who want nothing more than to pass down every drop of information their mind contains to the ones whose hope for the future has been burned away by this system we call 'education,' they are all equally underpaid and under-respected. In fact, they are underpaid by so great a number that the future that they have attempted to save would prefer to become greasy lawyers and those same, ruthless politicians than to struggle in the middle class for the rest of their

life. These men and women are the only remaining beacon of this destructive system, and above all, I believe they are due a long, loud, and beautiful round of applause for remaining courageous and sane.

The system teaches that America is a land of freedom and opportunity, and for the most part, I believe that I would agree. I have been lucky enough to go through schools where talent is found, displayed, and improved, and I am thankful to be given the chances that I have been given. However, while my talents were cultivated and blessed, I was given the freedom to question... and thus, I sit before this page, and question. I believe in the hypocrisy of our system, and I challenge the system to change.

Ambassadorial Scholar Rachel Rogers Available for Club Programs

Rachel Rogers, District 6460's Ambassadorial Scholar to Wales for 2006-07 has returned from her year in Wales. She will return to MacMurray College in Jacksonville this fall to complete her undergraduate degree. Rachel is available to give programs about her experiences as an Ambassadorial Scholar to Rotary Clubs in District 6460. If you are interested in having Rachel present a program to your club, please contact her at rachelmarie_34@hotmail.com or (309) 221-9629

District 6460 now HAS AN OFFICE!

We have finally moved into our Central District Office! All general district correspondence should now be sent through the following channels:

By Mail:

Rotary District 6460
 123 S. 7th St., P.O. Box 311
 Springfield, IL 62705-0311

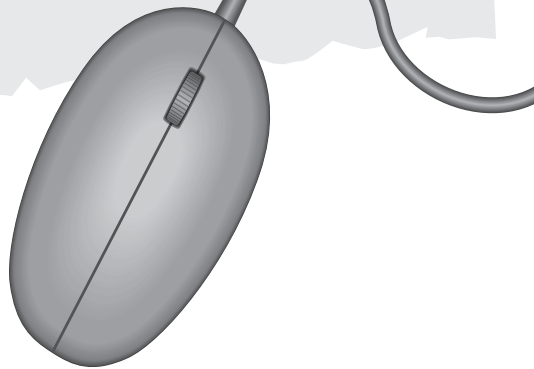
E-Mail:

district6460@sbcglobal.net

Telephone:

217-789-6460

District 6460 Newspaper Going Paperless in October



In response to costs, waste and the increasing power of the Internet, we've decided that this edition will be the final paper version of the *4-Way Today*. Starting in October, the newspaper will be available through two ways--

- Each Month, a link for the completed version will be emailed to the Presidents and Secretaries of each club. They, in turn, can print as many copies as they would like for their club meetings, membership and they can forward the electronic version to their club email list or post the newsletter to their individual club websites as they wish.
- You can also access the district newsletter, as well as past issues, on the district website at www.rotarydistrict6460.org.

It's been fun to print a newspaper for you for the past 15 issues. A special thanks to our newspaper production and printing team at the Springfield IL State Journal-Register, who have done a magnificent job of creating and delivering our papers each month. If you need printing of anything of this sort, I am happy to give you my recommendation to use their services.

Sincerely,

Brian Barstead
Editor -- *4-Way Today*



REPORT

■ From page 5

Throughout the year, my Rotarian host and sponsor counselors, as well as additional Rotarians, have been attentive to my needs and ready to provide assistance upon request; at the same time they have also permitted me the independence and freedom to immerse myself in my surroundings, for which I am grateful.

Rotary encourages community service and it is through Rotary I felt it best for me to volunteer. During the course of the year I volunteered my time to attend local fundraising events, as well as to go out into the community with Rotarians and other Ambassadorial Scholars to raise awareness of and funds for Rotary. For instance, at the RIBI conference in Bournemouth I, along with other Ambassadorial Scholars, walked the city's community beach talking to people about Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, the Ambassadorial Scholarship, and Rotaract, to raise funds while the local Rotaract club and members of the Bournemouth community attempted to break and obtained the world record for the most kites in the air at one time. In another instance, I provided community service by giving a tour of the University of

Wales, Bangor, to the leader of a Group Study Exchange Team from West Virginia, who has a career in university administration at Davis & Elkins College.

The Rotary Foundation's Ambassadorial Scholarship program provides a challenging year for scholars, during which they question their personal and cultural values while experiencing a new culture. Through it all, the Ambassadorial Scholar's exposure to Rotary ideals through the everyday life of Rotarians is what enhances the Ambassadorial Scholarship gives it an incomparable distinction. Through the Ambassadorial Scholarship's design of engaging scholars and Rotarians, the scholar is privilege to interact and, indeed, form friendships with articulate and motivated business men and women from a vast range of professions, all of whom are dedicated to ethical conduct in their personal and personal lives. It is this interaction with Rotarians on a local level that serves as a catalyst for scholars as the scholarship ends and they make decisions regarding their futures.

I found that reflection on and questioning of my future has increased during my time as Ambassadorial Scholar. I have considered at length the three Rotary

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Thank you for supporting Springfield-Sunrise Rotary by parking with us during the Illinois State Fair. See you in 2007!

Just the facts ma'am, just the facts

Larry Thompson
ROTARY CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD

"This is the city. Los Angeles, California. I work here... I'm a cop." Dun ta dun ta "Tuesday, February 12. It was cold in Los Angeles. We were working the day watch out of robbery division. My partner's Frank Smith. My name's Friday."

Many Rotarians remember watching episodes of Dragnet growing up and some of us even remember listening to the radio version. Most of us remember Sergeant Joe Friday's badge number. Well this story is about membership in Rotary and not how old we are, but first the facts ma'am.

Worldwide Rotary looks like this:

- 85% of the members are men**
- 40% have been members for more than ten years**
- 66% are over the age of 50**
- 78% are still working**

In North America, Rotary is nearly identical with:
78% of the members are men
40% have been members for more than ten years
67% are over the age of 50
78% are still working

There are still several concerns regarding membership with the most important concern being the number of Rotarians in North America decreasing in recent years after the Centennial year. Other concerns include diversity, young members and the number of women members.

When we look around at Rotary meetings, we suspect the new theme color for Rotary is gray. This could be simply a reflection of our baby boomer group aging, but why are we not introducing the children of these boomers into Rotary?

While Rotary was an all men organization until

the 80's, why is it taking so long to involve more women into our organization? Also, we need to look at our communities and determine whether our club reflects the diversity our population area includes.

The August issue of the Rotarian magazine was devoted to membership. A big reason for this content theme is August is membership month in Rotary, but the biggest reason is a challenge issued from our Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson. He is asking each Rotarian to invite a new member into Rotary sometime during this year.

All of us remember how we became members of Rotary. Someone asked us to come to a meeting and consider joining. How can you meet the challenge of President Wilf Wilkinson? Well, that

is easy. JUST ASK.

Also, read the August issue of the Rotarian. It contains many articles that will help you explain Rotary to your prospective member. When you are finished with the issue,

perhaps you could give it to your prospective member. Better yet, give them the July issue and use the August issue as your toolbox for making our membership grow.



District 6460 Governor Elect Richard Passmore and District Governor Nominee Larry Thompson with RI President Wilf Wilkinson at the Zone 29-30 Membership Conference, held in Franklin, Tennessee on July 19th and 20th.

REPORT

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emphases surrounding my scholarship period: "Service Above Self," under which I applied, "Lead the Way", under which I have served, and "Humanity in Motion" under which I will return home. All of these slogans have developed great meaning for me, as they have and will continue

to influence my choices. Upon my return to central Illinois, I plan not only to deliver presentations to interested clubs in District #6460, but also to volunteer with clubs while I complete the last year of my undergraduate degree. And, because my time as an Ambassadorial Scholar has created a fascination in me for governmental policies, humanitarian efforts, and cultural understanding, I will be researching professional

positions in government agencies and humanitarian organizations; at the same time I will also be investigating postgraduate programs concerning foreign relations, cultural diversity, social justice, and peace studies and volunteer opportunities such as the Peace Corps.

It will be with a deep and profound bittersweet feeling that I leave Wales to return to Illinois. My experience as an Ambassadorial

Scholar in District #1180 and as a student at the University of Wales, Bangor, has been life-changing in ways for which I am inexpressibly and eternally grateful. During this year, a deep love for Wales and its people has developed; Wales is my second home, a place for which I am sure I will always experience a certain sense of hiraeth. So, for this unforgettable year, for an experience I that will carry with me wherever I

go but find impossible to justly describe, for making me a better world citizen, for everything--I would like to offer my most sincere, humble and deepest thanks to the Rotarians of District #6460 in central Illinois, District#1180 in North and Mid-Wales and Northwest England, and The Rotary Foundation. Diolch yn fawr! Thank you very much!



Send information and pictures for the newsletter to: **Brian Barstead, 700 South Grand Avenue West, Springfield, IL 62704**

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