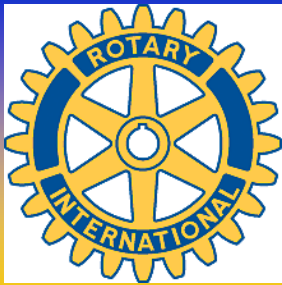


Governors' Message



2008-2009 District Governor 5580

At the outset let me express my hope that you all had a great holiday and wish you a happy New Year. For the 2008-2009 Club Presidents and District leadership, we have six months left to Make Dreams Real.

January is "Rotary Awareness" month. That was strange on first glance ... we are all aware of Rotary. However, each of us, probably even D.K. Lee, would benefit from a greater awareness of what Vice Assistant District Governor (Area 7) Mike Jacobs refers to as the "multiple layers of Rotary". Despite all of the training that Rotary puts District Governors through it always amazes me when I have time to wander around www.Rotary.org or read the Rotarian and discover facets of Rotary that I know little about. All of our time is constrained but if you have a chance do "wander around" the Rotary International website. Aside from ourselves, who else might benefit

from awareness of Rotary International and your local Rotary Club?

The answer is simple, most anybody. It always amuses me when clubs make a big deal out of members having their Rotary pin on at a meeting. Everyone in the room knows we are Rotarians so why the big deal? What is important is visibly wearing our Rotary pin and or logo every day so the public sees it. When you do that, you need to have your twenty-second "elevator speech" on Rotary ready. You will be amazed at the number of people who recognize the logo and/or pin (different speech) or ask about it. It is a great opportunity to do one on one public relations. Your little talks do need to be prepared and about twenty seconds long. If the person inquiring exhibits any interest, invite them to a meeting and certainly answer their questions. One trap is that we are all very proud of Rotary International, our clubs and our accomplishments locally and abroad and have a tendency to overwhelm the person asking with information. I am certainly guilty; however, you have lost them when you see the eyes glaze over. Possibly the person is with another organization and thus less likely to join your club. Do not leave it be ... think collaborating. Possibly, it is a university student ... think Ambassadorial Scholarship or a young professional not yet established sufficiently to be a Rotarian ... think Group Study Exchange.



There is much to be concerned about in our world today. That is something that Marcus Cicero might have said about the Roman Empire. Humans have advanced in many ways, most of them good since then. We need to see the intrinsic need of humans to help their fellow human beings and work that in a positive fashion. Being convinced that nothing can be done will make failure a certainty. Through the synergies of Rotary, we have an opportunity to solve this one little problem at a time. The person who just asked you about your pin might well be looking for an opportunity to help.

Every contact we make with another human changes both them and us. Let us make those changes positive by increasing awareness of Rotary. Let us use the awareness of Rotary, the synergies of Rotary and the strength of Rotary (you) to Make Dreams Real.

Inside this Issue:	
GSE & 4 Way Essay	2
"A Journey Through" & Goodwill Meeting	3
Rotary Training ~ District Assembly, L.E.A.D. PETS	4
District Conference	5
PHF & New Members	6
Ambassadorial Scholarship	7
Attendance and Membership Totals	8
Rotary Youth Exchange	9
Rotaract	10
Rotary International and Domestic	11
Camp RYLA & Editors Corner	12

2009 GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE (GSE)



ROTARY CLUB SEEKS AREA PROFESSIONALS FOR GOODWILL EXCHANGE TO JAPAN

The RI **Group Study Exchange** (GSE) Program is an exciting 5-week vocational and cultural exchange opportunity that can provide an invaluable life enhancing experience for young professionals in your community! GSE team members enjoy **international adventure and education** coupled with Rotary hospitality that promotes goodwill and understanding between individuals, districts and nations. Participants also gain important **leadership and diplomacy skills, enhance their cultural**

understanding, develop global linkages, learn about their vocation abroad and are provided a unique insight into all that Rotary does.

Each year, club members enjoy the vibrancy and youthful vigor of visiting GSE teams. These visitors bring enthusiasm, energy, warmth of spirit, and open-mindedness, usually giving us as much as we hope that they will receive from us. Our out-bound GSE teams experience a similar vibrant connection with their international host district that often inspires a "**Rotarian in the making**". Group Study Exchange team membership is the opportunity of a lifetime! Enhance the life of a young professional in your community! **Begin your recruiting efforts TODAY!** Give the gift of adventure, education, and an un-paralleled international experience.

Evangelize, publicize, and advertise this incredible opportunity!

Enthusiastic clubs consistently refer qualified candidates. Qualified candidates represent our district well, and are often inclined to become Rotary members as the result of their experience. It is a win-win situation!

Enthusiastic, informed and articulate young professionals are sought for a Rotary sponsored vocational visit to Japan in October/November 2009. Through Rotary's Group Study Exchange Program, local residents (non-Rotarians) have the opportunity to foster international goodwill and understanding through an exchange that involves team members sharing information about their own country while experiencing the customs, vocations and lifestyle of another.

The Group Study Exchange Program of the Rotary Foundation provides a unique opportunity for young men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 to meet with professional peers in another country to enhance occupational and cultural knowledge.

While in Japan, team members will stay with Rotarians who will provide meals, lodging and group travel in the host district. The Rotary Foundation provides a round trip air ticket. Team members pay only for personal and incidental expenses. Young professionals age 25-40, employed full time, and residing in Rotary District 5580 are encouraged to apply.

Applications are available on the Rotary District website: <http://www.bemidjirotary.org/5580-gse/>

The **District** closing date for applications & essays of interest, is **Friday, February 13th, 2009**. Japan is an island nation in the Pacific off the coasts of Korea and China. The capital of Aichi province, Nagoya, is home to roughly 2 million people, and is the fourth largest city in Japan. The country itself is home to more than 127 million people. Japan boasts finely honed traditional culture, exotic tastes, urban hustle, and the creature comforts of modernity. Ancient temples sit astride modern office towers, beautiful scenery, glorious nature, and high-speed rail. Japanese charm awaits. Apply for the GSE exchange and learn how Japan can enchant you!

4-WAY ESSAY CONTEST

ROTARY 4-WAY ESSAY CONTEST NOW UNDERWAY!!

The District 5580 4-Way Essay Contest materials are now available and ready to download from the RI Website. The essay contest is open to students in their final 2 years of high school, and the District winner will receive a \$2,000 cash award! In addition, the winning student will be asked to present his/her essay at the District Conference in Minot, ND.

Clubs are encouraged to begin contacting their schools and distributing materials as soon as possible. Your club's participation is a statement of interest in the ideas of our young people, and demonstrates our belief that it is important to reward our youth for expressing their views in a constructive and meaningful way.

Visit the HOME page of the District Website at www.clubrunner.ca/5580 to access the guidelines and criteria. Essays are to be in the hands of the District Chair, Carmen Plummer, not later than **Monday, March 16, 2009**. Carmen's address and contact information are as follows:

Carmen Plummer, Chair.....D-5580 4-Way Essay Contest
1427 7th Street North, Wahpeton, ND 58075
701.640.1040
Email: cjplum@702com.net

“A Journey Through”... by District Governor First Lady Marilyn

Can you believe that another year has gone by? And so quickly!

Since July 1st of 2008, Tully and I were so busy with club visits and zone training sessions that we just didn't take the time to realize just how quickly time was flying past us. I guess we were living the old saying that time flies when one is having fun.

The job of District Governor is not over yet. Except for one club, all club visits have taken place and all the required reports have been completed. As I have stated previously, the club visit was stimulating with each club being so different in the makeup of members, to project ideas, fund raisers and the like. So even though the miles added up, the time spent was gratifying. Now it is time to concentrate on the work that is left to do.

Each District Governor starts his or her year with a set of goals and those goals really come to the surface once the club visits are over. Yes every club has heard what those goals are, but the actual implementation is difficult when on the road. Tully now has the time to review his goals and see what is realistic, what has been fulfilled and what needs to be completed. Time just seems to slip away.

I, on the other hand, now have to put into place what is needed to start July 1st as President of the Wahpeton club. This is a difficult task, not because of the responsibilities of the “job” but honing down all the information I have gathered over the last few years. Having been trained at the international and zone levels, I now have the task of sorting through all what I've learned to place that information into a more manageable format that can be easily implemented at the club level.

My wish for all in 2009 is quite simple and that is for everyone to have a healthy, safe year. *Make Dreams Real* in your family life, club life, Rotary life.

I have placed ideas and concerns into my agenda for the year, received a “to do the task” from the District Governor was also part of my agenda. Rotary International places many hours training the partners of DG's so that there is understanding and support. There is so much to learn about Rotary and the partner sessions were and are just as important. So many ideas were taken during that time. Also, I chose to be at each board meeting this past year to see what all the clubs are doing in the hopes that I could take a few ideas into my own club.

Now I have to review my notes and sort through them to come up with suggestions that will work. Guess the New Year will be spent on Rotary. Now.....Where oh where have I parked my convertible?



The 3rd Grade Students at Pine River-Backus School were very excited when they recently received Dictionaries from Central Lakes Rotary Club as part of its Literacy Project. the Pine River-Backus Interact Club, sponsored by Central Lakes Rotary, assisted with the project. Additional Dictionaries have been presented to the Crosslake Charter School 3rd graders, and another shipment is on the way for 3rd grade students in Pequot Lakes, MN.

Rotary International: International Goodwill Meeting

On February 20 & 21, 2009, Goodwill 2009 will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. International Goodwill Meeting is one of the world's oldest continuously operating Rotary International fellowship events. Now in its 84th year, International Goodwill Meeting is a celebration of the event that made Rotary "international". On November 3, 1910, the first Rotary Club meeting outside of the United States took place at the Y.M.C.A Building, 276 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The first International Goodwill Meeting was held February 23, 1925 at the Royal Alexandra Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba, with 11 American clubs and 7 Canadian Rotary Clubs participating. The speaker at the first International Goodwill Meeting was Past International President, Dr. Leslie Pidgeon.

Presently, the 10 Rotary Clubs of Winnipeg, in cooperation with participating Rotary Districts 5550, 5580, 5950, 5960 & 7730 host Goodwill Weekend.

Continue to watch for more information on the District Website!

L.E.A.D. Training (Including P.E.T.S.) Dates/Cities for 2009:

Monday, March 9 – Best Western Doublewood Inn & Conference Center - Bismarck, ND

Tuesday, March 10 – Ramada Plaza Suites - Fargo, ND

Wednesday, March 11 – Chase on the Lake - Walker, MN

Thursday, March 12 – Radisson Harborview - Duluth, MN

Friday, March 13 – Prince Arthur Waterfront Hotel - Thunder Bay, ON

Who should attend?

P.E.T.S. (Presidents-Elect Training Seminar) –

Club Presidents 2009-2010 – Attendance is *Mandatory*.

Club President-Elects and Vice Presidents 2009-2010 – Attendance is *Highly Encouraged*.

Assistant District Governors for 2009-2010

Any Rotarian interested in learning more about Club Leadership!

Time: 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Presenters: District Trainer, Gary Puppe
District Governor-Elect, Ajoy Chatterjee
District Governor-Nominee, Roly Turner

CLUB SECRETARIES: Training Program for **Club Secretaries** will be offered this year. Session will include Reporting Procedures (emphasis using on-line reporting), Maneuvering through the District and new RI Website (including how/where to find what you need), Handling Communications, the RI Semi-Annual Report, Club Calendars, District Calendars, District Directory, and District Administration (*Who does What?*). You will learn how to access Foundation Contribution Reports for your Club and District 5580. You will become familiar with District Communications, including the District Newsletter, and will receive information on ways the District can provide support and help to your club. **We will have wireless in the training room. You will find it helpful to bring your laptop for District and RI Website training.**

Time: 9:00 A.M. – Noon

Presenter: District Administrative Secretary, Diane Collins

CLUB FOUNDATION CHAIRS: Training Program for Club Foundation Chairs will include information and power point presentations on **The Rotary Foundation New Vision Plan**, as well as the Gates Polio Challenge for our District Rotary Clubs. Foundation Chairs will receive an excellent overview of Foundation Programs, including the Group Study Exchange, Scholarships, Annual and Permanent Funds, and more. **Questions will be answered**, such as: “*What happens to your Foundation \$\$ when you donate?*” “*How does a club participate in an International Project?*” “*How does a Club get a project grant?*” “*Is there more than one type of grant?*” “*How does a club choose an International Project?*” “*What is the World Community Service Assessment on our Club’s District Dues Statement, and how is it used?*”

Time: 9:00 A.M. to Noon

Presenter: District Foundation Chair 2009-10, PDG Al Watrel

All 3 Sessions will run concurrently. A Continental Breakfast and Lunch are provided for all participants. Fees have already been paid through your club’s District Dues.

2009 Rotary District Conference



DISCOVER:
FRIENDSHIP
SHARING
CARING
TEAMWORK
COMMUNITY
FUN
ADVENTURE
LEARNING
GROWING
THE WORLD
ROTARY



2009 ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE APRIL 23-26, 2009 • MINOT ND, USA

What's In Store For The 2009 District Conference

The conference agenda will continue to be updated as speakers are finalized.

Thursday, April 23

- District Meetings
- Golf
- Registration Opens

Friday, April 24

District 5580 Institute & Training

- Opening Session
- District Meetings
- Breakout Sessions
- Spouses Event - Downtown Experience
- District Assembly Luncheon
 - Ajoy Chaterjee, District Governor Elect,
 - Thunder Bay Fort William Club
- Icebreaker Social - Scandinavian Heritage Park
- Entertainment - Dueling Pianos
- Hospitality Rooms
- Auction

Saturday, April 25

District Assembly

- General Session
- Memorial Service
- District Assembly Luncheon
 - Host – Tully Chambers, District Governor, Wahpeton Club
 - Speaker – Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer TRF Future Vision
- Annual Business Meeting
- Breakout Sessions
- Governor's Banquet, Black Tie
- Entertainment - Thunder Bay Legends
- Hospitality Rooms

Sunday, April 26

- Final Good Bye Coffee & Rolls



Breaking News

Conference website "Rotary Magic" is launched

www.rotarymagic.com has been launched as a full site. The purpose of the new site is to promote the 2009 District Conference.

The news section will be used to announce speakers and conference highlights.

Stay informed - new information regarding the conference will be updated regularly.

Register online - Conference registration forms are available on the site.

The conference takes place April 23-26, 2009.



WWW.ROTARYMAGIC.COM

NEW MEMBERS



Jennifer Mihalcin (left) was inducted into the Port Arthur club on Dec 16. Jennifer is the Advancement Officer for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and comes with the classification of Marketing and Promotion. Jennifer was proposed by Mark Sprovieri. Welcome Jennifer.

Cary Ransome was welcomed into the Port Arthur club on Dec 30 as a transfer from an Edmonton, Alberta club. Cary is the new Vice President of the Superior North District of the TD Canada Trust bank and comes with the classification of Retail Banking. Welcome Cary.



Terri Monroe welcoming new Brainerd Rotary member Marta Mersereau along with Denny Doucette from the Membership Committee. Marta's classification is librarian. Marta is Branch Manager of the Brainerd Public

Paul Harris Foundation at Work

The Trustees of the Rotary Foundation have awarded banners for the year 2007-08 in recognition of giving to the Annual Programs Fund of the Rotary Foundation. The three clubs are:

1. Central Lakes--Pequot Lakes \$740.64 per capita
2. Fergus Falls Sunrise \$365.82 per capita
3. Superior Sunrise Centennial \$267.29 per capita

Contributions represented by this special banner recognition enabled fellow Rotarians worldwide to demonstrate Rotary Shares by providing significant humanitarian and educational programs that have a sustainable impact throughout the world.

Congratulations to the Foundation Chairs and Club Presidents:

- Central Lakes Foundation Chair ..Marilyn Hobbs and
Club President ...Steve Hansen
Fergus Falls Sunrise Foundation Chair.. Guy Olson and
Club PresidentWayne Miller
Superior Sunrise Centennial Foundation Chair..... Beth Carlson and
Club PresidentKent Phillips.



Club secretary Rita Krank was recently recognized as the Dickinson Club's third Paul Harris Society member. She is pictured here with Jim Ozburn, former District Governor and current co-chair for the foundation.

Paul Harris Society members donate \$1,000 and agree to donate \$1,000 per year to the Rotary Foundation.



A surprise Paul Harris Fellow was presented at the dinner to a member of the local clergy. Pastor

Roberta Beyer was presented with the award by Community Chair Elvie Choiselat "in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world." In her thanks, Pastor Beyer informed us that "in 1953, my twin brother, Doug, contracted poliomyelitis. He was sandbagged on the back seat of the car as we sped on the gravel road between Geraldton and Nipigon. The Police escorted us to McKellar Hospital in Fort William where Doug was treated in the Iron Lung. I was immunized with the Polio vaccine and then quarantined at home. I did not contract Polio. My brother made a full recovery over time. . . I have always had a close place in my heart for the Polio Immunization Programs that work so diligently to eradicate Polio."

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE

APRIL 23 - 26, 2009

Minot North Dakota

AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

District 5580 Scholarship Subcommittee is pleased to announce that the Rotary Foundation has approved the four ambassadorial scholarship applications that were submitted by District 5580 this past Fall.

One applicant was awarded multi-year academic scholarship of \$24,000, one applicant was awarded an academic-year scholarship of \$24,000, one applicant was awarded a 6-month cultural scholarship of \$16,000, and one applicant was awarded a 3-month cultural scholarship of \$11,000. District 5580 scholars for the 2009-10 academic year are noted below:

- Britta Binek, from the Staples, MN club: 3-Month Cultural scholarship to attend the Institute for Language and Communication Skills, Agdal, Rabat, Morocco
- Alexandra Erickson, from the Thunder Bay, Ontario, Port Arthur club: Academic Year scholarship to attend Bond University, Gold Coast, Queensland Australia
- Sylvia Lorena Rodriguez, from Duluth, MN club #25: Multi-Year scholarship to attend the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Quito, Ecuador.
- Sethrena Stigen, from the Fergus Falls, MN club: 6-Month Cultural scholarship to attend the Academia de Español-Quito, Ecuador

The Ambassadorial Scholarship program is Rotary Foundation's oldest and best-known program. Since 1947 nearly 38,000 men and women from 100 nations have studied abroad under its auspices. Today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program. The purpose of the program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. The program sponsors several types of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as for qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as ambassadors of goodwill to the people of the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to greater understanding of their host countries. Generous contributions from Rotarians worldwide represent continued faith that the students who are Ambassadorial Scholars today will be tomorrow's community and world leaders.

District 5580 Scholarship Subcommittee is comprised of the following members: Jay Stoffel-Chair, Duluth Club #25, Georgina Voulgaris-Thunder Bay Lakehead, Dennis Doucette-Brainerd, Bob McLean-Central Lakes, Tom Homan-Duluth Club #25. District Officers also on the committee are Governor Tully Chambers, Governor Elect Ajoy Chatterjee, and Foundation Chair Claudette Holly.

To learn more about the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship programs, go to the following website: <http://www.rotary.org/en/StudentsAndYouth/EducationalPrograms/AmbassadorialScholarships/Pages/ridefault.aspx>



The Pequot Lakes Interact Club held a Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction Fundraiser to benefit the Scott Johnson Family of Pequot Lakes, MN. Scott recently suffered a hemorrhagic stroke and was hospitalized for almost 3 months. The students raised \$6,132.28 to help the family with expenses. Pequot Lakes Interact Club is one of the Interact Clubs sponsored by Central Lakes Rotary Club.

District 5580 November 2008 Attendance and Membership Totals

Club Name	Members	New Members	Terminations	Total Members	Number of Meetings	Gain/Loss	YTD Gain/Loss	Attendance
		This Month	This Month	This Month	This Month	This Month	This Month	Percentage
Aitkin	29	0	1	29	4	-1	0	85.00 %
Ashland	33	0	0	31	4	0	-2	55.00 %
Bagley	25	0	0	21	4	0	-4	75.00 %
Baudette	13	0	0	13	3	0	0	64.00 %
Bemidji	126	0	2	124	4	-2	-2	64.00 %
Bemidji Sunrise	19	0	0	21	4	0	2	63.10 %
Bismarck	94	0	0	93	4	0	-1	60.21 %
Bismarck Far West	38	0	0	38	4	0	0	57.00 %
Bowman	32	0	0	33	3	0	1	66.00 %
Brainerd	126	3	5	118	4	-2	-8	58.00 %
Brainerd Lakes Sunrise	26	0	1	25	4	-1	-1	84.00 %
Breckenridge	23	0	0	23	3	0	0	67.00 %
Central Lakes	24	0	0	24	4	0	0	77.00 %
Cloquet	38	1	1	40	4	0	2	74.14 %
Crookston	43	0	2	36	3	-2	-7	47.00 %
Detroit Lakes Breakfast	69	1	0	68	4	1	-1	93.98 %
Detroit Lakes Noon	89	0	0	88	3	0	-1	68.15 %
Devils Lake	62	0	0	62	4	0	0	58.00 %
Dickinson	100	2	1	96	4	1	-4	55.47 %
Duluth	273	0	6	266	0	-6	-7	76.60 %
Duluth Harbortown	83	0	0	81	4	0	-2	62.65 %
Duluth Skyline	67	1	2	65	4	-1	-2	70.00 %
Duluth Superior Eco	0	0	0	26	4	0	26	0.00 %
East Grand Forks	16	0	0	16	4	0	0	45.00 %
East Range Rotary	15	0	1	15	3	-1	0	67.00 %
Ely	26	2	0	29	4	2	3	76.11 %
Fargo Moorhead AM	57	1	0	62	3	1	5	69.00 %
Fargo Rotary Club	78	0	0	73	4	0	-5	34.46 %
Fargo West	64	0	1	66	4	-1	2	73.00 %
Fergus Falls Noon	53	0	0	51	4	0	-2	69.00 %
Fergus Falls Sunrise	38	0	0	36	4	0	-2	66.70 %
Fosston	18	0	0	18	3	0	0	49.00 %
Grand Forks Breakfast	25	1	0	25	4	1	0	50.00 %
Grand Forks Noon	54	0	0	54	4	0	0	44.00 %
Grand Rapids Centennial	37	0	1	36	3	-1	-1	64.80 %
Grand Rapids Evening	29	0	0	30	4	0	1	80.00 %
Hibbing	45	0	0	46	4	0	1	0.00 %
Hibbing - Chisholm	22	0	0	23	4	0	1	54.00 %
International Falls	38	0	0	36	4	0	-2	78.00 %
Jamestown	47	0	1	40	4	-1	-7	87.00 %
Little Falls Rotary	20	0	0	16	4	0	-4	68.00 %
Long Prairie	26	1	0	28	4	1	2	66.00 %
Mandan	19	0	0	18	3	0	-1	55.00 %
Minot Noon	111	2	0	109	4	2	-2	66.90 %
Minot Sunrise	31	0	0	30	3	0	-1	69.00 %
Moorhead	89	0	3	89	0	-3	0	52.10 %
Nipigon	33	0	0	35	4	0	2	86.43 %
North Shore	31	1	0	34	4	1	3	86.44 %
Park Rapids	47	0	2	50	4	-2	3	57.50 %
Pelican Rapids	29	0	0	27	4	0	-2	0.00 %
Perham Rotary	81	1	0	80	3	1	-1	87.40 %
Quad Cities	32	0	0	34	4	0	2	73.53 %
Staples	29	0	0	30	4	0	1	66.00 %
Superior	73	0	0	67	4	0	-6	68.66 %
Superior Sunrise	29	0	0	30	4	0	1	69.17 %
Thief River Falls	43	0	1	42	4	-1	-1	54.00 %
Thunder Bay (Ft. William)	44	0	1	43	4	-1	-1	78.49 %
Thunder Bay (Lakehead)	32	0	0	33	4	0	1	78.00 %
Thunder Bay (Port Arthur)	83	1	0	82	4	1	-1	63.92 %
Thunder Bay Rotaract	36	0	0	36	0	0	0	0.00 %
Valley City	26	0	0	28	0	0	2	46.00 %
Virginia	61	0	0	58	4	0	-3	58.31 %
Wadena	52	1	0	53	4	1	1	67.00 %
Wahpeton	37	0	1	33	4	-1	-4	83.00 %
Walker	66	2	0	69	4	2	3	53.00 %
Watford City	28	0	0	27	3	0	-1	60.49 %
Williston	61	1	1	57	4	0	-4	35.00 %
Totals	3343	22	34	3315	239	-12	-28	

Average attendance percentage

63.02 %

News from South Africa....RYE Student....Jill Muileboom...the Canadian in KZN

Sanibona bakithi (hello everyone, for those of you that have forgotten!)

I know it has been a really long time, and I won't waste your time with excuses. But I'm here now with my SA update, so get comfy...you are about to read a short novel. Hehehe

I don't even know where to begin...September was so so long ago. Well lets see. In the beginning of sept. I went to a town a bit further north up the coast from where I live, to stay in a flat that my host family owns there. It was a really good weekend...went to some nice beaches, saw hippos and crocs in the river, and went to my first game reserve! I still haven't seen all of the "big 5" (rhino, elephant, lion, buffalo, leopard), but when I go on safari with the exchange students in January ill see the rest! On the way to Mfolozi (the game reserve we went to), we stopped at this massive market on the side of the road...tons and tons of African crafts and stuff...i love going to those! And I'm getting really good at bartering as well...I actually got 2 huge paintings for 250 rand total when they were originally 300 rand each! That was with the help of my host dad of course. If anyone ever comes here on vacation, if someone at a market wants 80 rand...you can probably get it for 50 or less. hehe

My Zulu is coming along slowly. I have been insanely busy and my classes have ended, so I don't think I've studied as much as I should have in the last while, but I am still learning! My host mom actually told our maid recently that she isn't allowed to speak english to me because I need to learn Zulu, so that has been good. Her (the maid Lau) and I laugh about it a lot because she has to act things out and point when I don't understand a word...and lets just say im not that good with charades. I've also been going to Nkobongo every Thursday, so that helps the language thing as well. Nkobongo is a township, which is a poor Black area, where I work with some of the township locals in a home-based care program. We walk around from home to home caring for bed ridden patients and educating others about HIV and TB and stuff. If the patients are bed ridden we often bathe them and do their washing (I've learnt how to wash blankets/clothes in a bucket, and fetch water in huge jugs and carry it uphill and down the road from the taps), and sometimes we also clean their homes and change their linens...basically whatever needs to be done that they can't do. I've seen some really sad things there...for example a girl that couldn't have been older than me, bed ridden with HIV and TB, she had sores all over her mouth and was suffering from diarrhea and a bad cough. Also, the first young woman that I helped bathe and do washing died about 2 weeks later from TB. Seeing things like that will change you...it really makes you look at the world so differently because you realize that those things are real, and right now they are right at my doorstep. Being in the townships feels like being in a different world from the actual towns/cities here. I mean except for the crowd, who obviously look quite different here, Ballito could easily be in Canada or the USA. The second I walk into the township though, it's a completely different vibe. I love it actually...so much. There's always loud music coming from several different places, there are small children *everywhere*...and lots of them, there are chickens and goats roaming around everywhere as well, and people outside doing washing or relaxing or whatever. It feels so lively. The people are amazingly friendly, and being white I get an unusual amount of attention...especially from the boys. One of the ladies I work with there (my Zulu mommy) always tells them they can't afford me...the number of cows they would have to pay to marry me changes all the time, but it's a lot haha. It's actually really funny...all I have to do is wave and they go wild. It's not exactly common for a white person to walk around a township...especially a young white girl, and with a bunch of black people...so everyone there seems to like me. The only thing is even though the group of care givers I work with speak English, they speak zulu to each other so I have to try really hard to understand what they are talking about all the time. I like that though...makes me work to learn their language.

I've officially become South African...in my mind anyway! Around my 6 week mark I really felt a change. It was like vacation ending, real life beginning. Ever since, life has been just as amazing as it was before, but I feel less like im on holiday. I recognize things and know my way around...I know what to expect and what I'll see in different places...I've basically tried every food that is different than home (and loved almost all of it), and so on. I don't know how to explain it, but I've adjusted really, really easily into life here. I just wish time would slow down a bit, because I want to stay forever!

Oh! I almost forgot. I saw my first rugby game!! In case anyone doesn't know, rugby here is like ice hockey in Canada, except 50 times more popular...and that is saying something! Everyone pays attention to rugby...so it was cool to see my first real game. I went with to the national semi-final in Durban with a guy from Brasil and a guy from Belgium and it was really awesome...the sun was so hot that day too. After the game we met up with some other friends and went to a pub across the street to hang out. Really nice

I also gave blood for the first time, and I'm going to keep doing that every month when the blood bank people set up in Ballito. I've been working on a few projects with my Rotary club (very active club considering they only have 12 members), and next week I'm going back out to help them with a big project in a crèche in Tongaat. Really looking forward to that! They have just received matching grants from clubs in England, and are always applying for others because there are so many people in need around here.

Cont. on page 10

Cont...from page 9....

Now there are tons of other little things that have happened over the last 2.5 months, but all I want to do is talk about my trip to Cape Town!!! I just got back from a 16 day tour with 22 exchange students and it was AMAZING. We saw/did so many things and had such a blast...I miss it already and I've hardly been home 3 days. The tour started in Durban and went above Lesotho (pronounced Le-Soo-Too), through the Freestate, into the Eastern Cape, to the Western Cape (where Cape Town actually is) then back up through the Eastern Cape and the Transkei and back to Durban. We stopped in random towns along the way, stayed in Cape Town for 4 nights, then went to random other towns on the way up the coast. To break it down, I rode an ostrich and stood on ostrich eggs/ate ostrich meat, I sat with and pet cheetahs, saw the amazingly beautiful place where the Indian and Atlantic oceans meet (Cape Point/the Cape of Good Hope), stood on top of Table Mountain on a perfectly clear day and had another one of the most amazing views, I swam in the Atlantic for the first time (and it is actually colder than lake superior), saw penguins on the beach, had drum (Jambe) lessons and learnt songs from Xhosa people in Stellenbosch, went around Robben island (my first time in a boat at sea), etc. I could spend forever with other exchange students...we always have such a good time together. The hours and hours we spent on buses went by really fast because we had some seriously "interesting" conversations, and chilled at the back of the bus a bunch of times with the Brazilian boys playing guitar/harmonica and a bunch of us singing. We also went to an olive farm and got some delish samples, and went to a vineyard to go wine tasting, but they wouldn't let us taste wine (4 D's!).. instead we toured the cellars and learnt about the grape vines and stuff...and ate a million types of cheese for lunch. I bought 3 bottles of wine that I was super excited about, and when I got back home to the farm, after having carried them around for a week and a half, I dropped the box and 2 of them smashed. I almost cried! But anyway...

I would love to go back to Cape Town...it is, yet again, like a different country. I swear South Africa is built up of about 10 individual countries! It is super mountainous in the South, the beaches have fine white sand and the style of the buildings in little towns all around the Cape have so much character...so nice!!

So all in all I'm still having the best times of my life...I was talking to my host sister a while ago about exchange (she is going to Finland with Rotary in January), and I told her that even if you are sad/not having a good day, it is still amazing. Not that I have had a single day of misery, but if I ever feel even slightly upset, all I have to do is think, and excuse the language, "holy shit I'm in South Africa" and everything is ok again. I mean honestly, every second that I spend here is a second that I will never get back, and never come close to experiencing again, so I embrace all of it. I love just being here...and I have moments where I think how much I'll miss the smells and the random sights that are so different from Canada when my year is over. I love the character that this country has. I don't really think I experienced culture shock coming here, not in a problematic way at least, but I think I will definitely have some problems readjusting to life in a 1st world country. There is this vibe here...this feeling...that is so much different than anything I've ever experienced, and I can't get enough of it. I'm so happy and so grateful to be here!

Thank you Rotary...sincerely...because RYE is one of the best things that has ever happened to me.

Salani Kahle,

Te amo e se cuida!! (Ok that was portuguese...but I have to learn more than just Zulu here :P)

In other words,

Keep well, lots of love!

Jill Muileboom...the Canadian in KZN

Superior Sunrise Centennial Rotary Club

A new Rotaract club has been formed and is sponsored by the Superior Sunrise Centennial Rotary. On December 4, 2008 the club hosted a reception at the Bong Heritage Center honoring the Rotaract Club of Wisconsin Point. Members of the Wisconsin Point club are students attending the University of Wisconsin – Superior. An inspirational message titled "Maybe," was delivered by Joseph Till III of the Rotary Club of Superior, Wisconsin's first Rotary Club. District Governor, Tully Chambers, provided an eloquent address stressing the importance of participation in the charitable efforts of Rotary and especially steering young

adults to live the ideal... *Service Above Self*.

Governor Tully presented the Charter Certificate to the RCWP's President, Jenny Johnson. Some of the distinguished guests include: Assistant District Governor Mark Erickson, Marty Byrnes District Rotaract Chair, John Hoff Duluth Club #25 Rotaract Committee Chair, Kay Biga RC of WP advisor and member of Duluth's new Eco Rotary Club, Anna Clemente President of the Bemidji Rotaract and District Rotaract Representative from the Rotaract Club of Thunder Bay, Brandon Otway.



Superior Sunrise Rotary Club President, Kent Phillips, presents a bell and gavel to Jenny Johnson, President of the Rotary Club of Wisconsin Point at the charter event.



District 5580 Projects - International and Domestic

As Rotarians of Rotary District 5580, we have a lot to be proud of. The list of projects undertaken continues to grow in size and scope as well as in the number of countries in which we share our resources and talents. For the first time since *the World Community Service (WCS) Grant account* was conceived, D5580 Rotarians have managed to spend it down to virtually nothing . . . it means D5580 Rotarians are using the fund the way it was intended to be used!

The WCS account is an account devised in 1996 whereby each D5580 Rotarian is assessed \$10 per year in District dues to fund *“bricks and mortar”* type projects. The WCS account is strictly D5580 funds and as such are managed by the D5580 District Grants Subcommittee (DGS).

At the Dickinson District Conference on May 1, 2008, a motion was made and approved to raise \$10,000 for the *Shelter Box* project. D5580 Rotary clubs raised \$5,000 by *“passing the hat”* at meetings and that amount was matched by WCS funds, so D5580 now has enough to purchase 10 Shelter Boxes to help victims of natural disasters worldwide if and when they occur.

The Duluth 25 Rotary has begun work to build a new health clinic on the Amazon River in Peru for Dr. Linea Smith. The river has been steadily rising to the point where it was nearly up to the existing clinic (built by D5580 Rotarians in 1992). This new *Yanamono Clinic* will be built further back from the Amazon and on higher ground at a cost of \$53,014 (half of this funded by Duluth 25 and partners and half by the WCS account).

The Perham Rotary Club partnered with a Rotary club from the state of Virginia to furnish a *surgical center in Sacatepequez, Guatemala* with recycled surgical equipment (TRF Grant 64486). Dr. Rand Stolee of Perham traveled to Guatemala in October and performed a number of surgeries such as cleft pallets, hernias, etc. Total cost of the recycled surgical equipment amounted to \$49,000.

The Bismarck Rotary recently completed furnishing a *school in Quito, Ecuador* with books, computers and didactic materials at a cost of \$10,214. Bemidji and Breckenridge Rotary clubs are continuing to help indigenous people of Honduras build schools and bring potable water to villages so women and children won't have to walk many miles for water each day.

Duluth Harbor Town has an *irrigation reservoir project in Choquechampi, Bolivia* with a project cost of \$189,000 that is absolutely magnificent. The rainy season has stalled the project for now, but it will be completed this spring.

Fargo Moorhead Rotarians and their many partners (over 24 D5580 Rotary Clubs to date) will have completed *ten schools, eight water projects and three clinics in Guatemala* in the seven years of involvement there once they complete 2009 projects! FM Rotarians are now working in India (schools) and Tanzania (water wells) just as the Thunder Bay Rotary Clubs and Nipigon Rotary Clubs are . . . all working in Guatemala and India. Nipigon's *Malaria net project* in Tanzania has a price tag of \$534,500 and to do this, they are partnering with several Canadian Districts and many many Rotary Clubs and the CRCID.

Wahpeton & Dickinson Rotary Clubs who have partnered with the FM Rotary Clubs since beginning work in Guatemala have a follow-up and follow through program to return to the schools built in Guatemala in prior years to furnish them with library books, text books, computers, latrines, kitchens, etc. Much like this, Bemidji Rotary is furnishing *14 schools in Macedonia* with schools supplies (books, computers, etc.).

The Brainerd Rotary is *drilling two water wells near the Pignon, Haiti hospital* for the dormitories there using interest gained on the D5580 Memorial Fund (a fund created in 1996).

The Grand Rapids Rotary clubs and their many partnering Rotary Clubs (including Walker, Central Lakes, both Brainerd clubs, International Falls and Aikin) have undertaken a huge project in North Central and North Eastern Minnesota to *purchase a Second Harvest Food Shelf Van* to bring food to the needy of this area (one in eight are in need of these services right here in MN)! The total cost of the food van is \$118,700 . . . of that \$20,000 was granted from District Simplified Grants over a two-year time frame to make this project reality.

Central Lakes Rotary completed a child literacy project in August 2008 and officially became the last Community Aid Project (CAP) for D5580. D5580 has replaced the CAP with District Simplified Grants (DSG), which is well defined by The Rotary Foundation as to the humanitarian criteria. Each year, D5580 applies for \$24,000 in DSG funding and if D5580 has been timely in filing interim and final reports, the money is available for domestic and smaller international grants such as water projects less than \$12,000.

Governor Tully has sent emails to the 66 Rotary clubs of D5580 asking for support for the *New Vision Plan* being introduced by TRF on July 01, 2009. It would mean D5580 would have input as to the implementation of the New Vision Plan when it is made available to all 500+ Districts in 2013 and it means D5580 would have more funds to do more projects during the interim period (2009 through 2013) when TRF will work with 100 pilot districts before final implementation. The DGS and the D5580 Foundation urge you to vote “YES” so that D5580 can move forward as a pilot district of RI's New Vision Plan!

Governor Tully Chambers and the Wahpeton Rotary are hoping to furnish an ambulance for the Yeosu Rotary club located in Jang-Heung County, Korea. But in order to do so, they must raise \$9,300 ASAP. *If your Rotary Club could possibly help Governor Tully and the Wahpeton Club reach their objective, please send contributions to:*

Wahpeton Rotary Club
ATTN: Dick Geiselhart
PO Box 991, Wahpeton, ND 58074

So you see, District 5580 really DOES have much to be proud of and much to look forward to in years to come thanks to the efforts and dedication of D5580's Rotarians working with Rotarians throughout the world!

Happy New Year!Keith Brokke D5580 DGS Chair



Welcome to RYLA!

Rotary International District 5580

www.campRYLA.org



RYLA NEWS & INFORMATION

- 2008 Alumni Database now online!
- 2009 RYLA will be held July 12-18, 2009
- Facilitator and staff training will be held July 10-11
- 900 - 2008 photos now online!
- 2008 video clips coming soon!



- Are you interested in RYLA? Find out how to get involved.
- RYLA camper application available online.
- 2009 RYLA Chairperson's Camp Guide available online.

- Would you like to participate as a facilitator or junior facilitator?

- Apply for a RYLA facilitator or staff position!

Features of the RYLA Website!

Correspond with friends via Alumni Database
 Post your comments on the RYLA Forum
 RYLA Theme Song



Rotary Links

Rotary District 5580 - www.rotary.org
 Rotary International - www.rotary5580.org
 RYLA Webpage - www.campryla.org

Editor Corner...

*Cold....frigid....crazy....insane...down right freezing.....
Words to describe the weather living in ND, MN & Canada!*

Sun....warmth....pleasant....sand....beach.....love!

.....Words to describe what your newsletter editor will be saying in early February!

So....the story goes like this..... I am getting married and going to Cozumel on my honeymoon! Yes, I know.... you're all saying great for her...but what about the February District newsletter????

No worries.....as you're all going to help me out by getting February news to me no later than January 30th.....Thank you in advance for your help. In return I will send warm vibes your way when I am basking in the sun. I promise the newsletter will be done before I get married on the 6th of February and certainly before I board the plane on the 9th!

PIP Journal Guesses???

"Presidential Information Program" - Jim McDonald Thunder Bay (Port Arthur)

'Peace IS Possible' - Keith Brokke FM AM Rotary

People Inspiring Passion.. Projects for International Peace...Promote International Peace
 Passion for International Peace....Peace Is Possible (a favorite of mine)....Projects Involving
 Passion....Passion Involving People...Projects In Pipeline - Pam Erlandson Wahpeton Rotary

Coming soon!!!! BIG HINTS.....



Please submit items for the newsletter to kim.althoff@ndscs.edu no later than the 1st of each month. The newsletters will be sent electronically by the 15th of each month.

Visit the District Rotary Web Site at www.rotary5580.org