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one positive act at a time.

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Suzi Howe, Governor
Rotary District 5890

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SERVICE Above Self

District Conference Updates

We have all used the term "Where did the year go?" April is here and our Rotary District 5890 Conference is this month! I know those of you who have not registered are thinking that maybe its too late, you will never get air fare or a room. Calm down.

Here are the simple steps to make sure that you don't get left behind here in District 5890, while the rest of the District Rotarians are living it up in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on April 26th – 29th.

- Go to www.rotary5890.org and click on District Conference. Print out the registration form and air fare information.
- Fill out the registration form and fax to Jo Yount at 979-830-8818
- Book air fare according to the directions and send flight information to rhonda@specialcattle.com I need to know what flights you are on so I can have transportation for you as well as to make sure your room reservations are correct. Make a copy of your passport and send it to Barry Humphries at barry_humphries@administaff.com. This will ensure that everyone gets the 0% Value Added Tax rate.

The only thing left to do now is enjoy Puerto Vallarta with the rest of us.

And as DG Suzi has been saying all year..."I want to look through my shades and see you there with me!"

Leadership development fuses personal growth, Rotary ethics

To foster the development of leadership skills and increase awareness about Rotary at the club level, the RI Board recently created the optional [club-level trainer position](#). RI provides basic guidelines, but how clubs and districts implement the program is limited only by their own creativity.

During the past two years, members of two Rotary clubs in El Paso, Texas, USA, have developed a unique training program called the Institute for Leadership, which focuses on cultivating individuals as leaders and fusing Rotary values with personal growth concepts. The two-day leadership development seminar was developed by a Rotarian team that includes Past RI Vice President Irving J. "Sonny" Brown and three professional leadership trainers (all past club presidents and a governor-elect). Though initially planned for Rotarians alone, the training program is now offered as a community service to other organizations or individuals. The institute can help serve the community and attract prospective members to join a Rotary club.

How does it all work? We sat down with Brown to find out.

Q: Why did you create the Institute for Leadership training program?

A: We wanted to provide Rotarians with a personal growth experience that would serve them not only in Rotary but also in their family, business, and community — without great expense and time.

Q: Who participates?

A: The program is uniquely Rotarian, but not only for Rotarians. We want to promote Rotary as an avenue for personal growth to all

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Ambassadorial Scholars



Christopher Dawkins

Things here are going just great! I could have not asked for a smoother transition and the Grahamstown Club is made up of really a stand up bunch.

I started school last week and that is going well thus far. One of my professors is a Club member. I am focusing on International Law and it is proving to be quite interesting.

Toward the end of this month I will begin my travels, first going to CapeTown.

Wholly, I will keep you all informed, but I am having problems with a steady Internet connection which will allow me to send more than a few lines without timing out.

However, the techs have promised that they are on the job and shortly after they work out the situation, I will send out an official e-mail and the method of reading about my experiences regularly.

All the best,

Christopher

Christopher LuGrand Dawkins

2008 JD Candidate

University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville
2007 Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar,
South Africa

DawkinsCL@aol.com
479.444.7353

Amy Hixon

Sawubona!!

South Africa is wonderful. Durban has beautiful rolling hills, and the people are extremely nice. I was greeted by 10 members of the Rotary Club Berea when I arrived. Everyone has been very hospitable and generous. They are an interesting and kind group of people. The club is currently working on a project at a school in Madikane. I am going to get involved. The school does not have basic necessities such as shelves or working toilets.

A few months ago, the principal received filing cabinets. I am going to make a brochure with pictures and statements from the principal and students, and I will send it.

I have finally gotten settled in Durban and

moved into a house two days ago. It is great because I have much better Internet connection now. I live about 10 minutes away from the university where I am starting research on HIV/AIDS and youth.

In South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal has the highest number of HIV infections as well as a climbing number of orphans. I am looking forward to getting involved with a

program called Children First, which is a children advocacy group. They do community projects and work to build self-esteem and empowerment in children affected by HIV/AIDS, poverty, etc.

The other day I participated in a project called Feedback. The project takes place across South Africa. Businesses and grocery stores donate extra food. The food is then delivered all over Durban and the surrounding areas to needy groups that are working to help their own communities.

I traveled through townships, the inner city, and the rural areas. It was wonderful and amazing because the people you are bringing food to are so generous.

I am also attempting to learn Zulu. It will take awhile to master the three clicks that are a part of the language. I am unable to download pictures right now, because I am missing a cord. As soon as I can I will be setting up a web site and will send pictures of the area, people, and projects.

I feel blessed with the opportunity Rotary has given me. I will do my best to be an ambassador of goodwill. I know I will say it many times in the future as well, but thank you from the bottom of my heart for this opportunity.

Have a great day!

Sahle kahle! (Stay well)

-Amy Hixon



Christopher is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Brazosport. He graduated cum laude from Morehouse College with a B. A. in Political Science. He is continuing his legal studies at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.

Amy is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook. She graduated from University of North Texas with a B. A. in Anthropology. She spent four weeks in the Dominican Republic building homes and learning about community development. She attends the University of Kwa Zulu-Natal-Howard College, Durban South Africa.

Humble and Highlands Clubs Partner for San Salvador Project

The Rotary Club of Humble Intercontinental recently partnered with the Rotary Club of the Highlands, a small Rotary Club in San Salvador, the Rotary Foundation and Engineers Without Borders to fund and drill a water well in a small community in San Salvador.

This community, located on the outskirts of San Salvador, consists primarily of people who fled the countryside during the civil war from 1979 to 1992. Because of the forced nature of their relocation, the community's infrastructure was never properly developed, including their water source. Since they could not afford a drilled well, they hand-dug one well for 70 families.



The project was born when Humble Rotary Club president Bill Davis met a representative from Engineers Without Borders last year. The partnership moved forward with the water project in Colonia Esmeralda in San Salvador, said Davis. "The two-part project will serve about 500 people residing in 88 dwellings in the community", Davis said. The first phase of the project was a deeper water well that would supply clean water to the community. The second phase is the construction of a retaining wall to protect the community from washing away during the rainy season.

Davis recently traveled to San Salvador to view the progress of the water well and the retaining wall.

Briefing his fellow Rotarians on the project at a recent luncheon, he reported "many communities in the world lack access to clean water. This causes illness and death in these communities, especially among children. The existing well is shallow and eventually became contaminated. It can only be used for washing clothes."

Other communities without a reliable source of clean water often depend upon seasonal water sources such as streams, creeks, rivers or lakes, many of which are easily contaminated by animal or human waste.

A community member has been hired to maintain the new well and turn the pump on to the three distribution points in the community. While Rotarians supplied the funding for the project, the members of the community are required to contribute their labor to the program, he said. Every male member of the community is required to donate 56 hours of time to build the retaining wall. Women without an adult male family member are expected to help provide food for the workers.

"The remnants of El Salvador's civil war and unrest are still visible on the buildings and on the mentality of the people", said Davis. "Bullet holes in buildings are easily seen and armed guards are everywhere. The civil war was just terrible for them and the big problem now is gangs."

During his trip he was warned of people being kidnapped for ransom. Homeowners are security conscious with gated and guarded homes with high concrete walls often topped with razor wire. In spite of those concerns, the welcome he received from the people of Colonia Esmeralda was warm and gratifying. The people were friendly and turned out in their best finery for a community gathering to celebrate the completion of the well.

The retaining wall is expected to be completed within the next week or two. Although the San Salvador project is complete, The Rotary Club of Humble Intercontinental's leadership voted to continue its clean water efforts. It is partnering on two more water well projects, in Bolivia and Kenya.

Gems from RG

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, "Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit."

"And why not, darling?"

"You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning "

Rotary Peace Fellowships

Do you know a non-Rotarian professional interested in pursuing a Master's Degree in peace building, conflict resolution, and mediation?

If you do, recommend him or her for a Rotary World Peace Fellowship! Each year, Rotary selects up to 60 Fellows to study peace and conflict resolution at one of the seven prestigious universities around the world. The program provides:

Rotary-funded graduate study toward a master's degree at Rotary Centers – located at seven prestigious universities worldwide;

Training in the root causes of conflict, theories of international relations, and effective models of cooperation as well as practical skills in conflict resolution and negotiation.

A growing network of committed alumni employed around the world in diplomacy, government, non-governmental organizations and private corporations.

Application process and eligibility:

http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_scho/centers/application/index.html#app2

Applications for the 2008-2010 program are being processed by Rotary clubs now.



West Houston Club President Joy Neidell reports that the Rotary Club of West Houston and the Blue Willow Book Store recently held a book drive to found a vocational section for the Sherwood Elementary School library in the Spring Branch School District. The presentation was made to the School January 24, 2007. Shown in the photo back row are members of the club Janet Juban, Phil Newsom, Steve Ratcliffe, school librarian Tanya Tullos, Van Penrod, Bette Robbins, school principal Anita Jacobs and Blue Willow owner Valerie Koehler.

Yeiter Reports on New Tax Break

In 2006 and 2007 only, donors age 70 ½ or older may annually transfer up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to The Rotary Foundation without increasing federal gross income.

This is great news for supporters of the Foundation who wish to turn retirement assets into charitable gifts during their lifetimes, but have been discouraged from doing so due to increased income taxation. Immediate action is required to take full advantage of this provision. Please call your District Permanent Fund Chairperson, Rick Shanks at 713-803-1090, for more information on how this Act can help you support the Foundation's valuable programs.



Sweeny Club's Jim Alford Gets \$15M

Sue Netherly, Executive Director of the Sweeny Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Sweeny Economic Development Council presented a check to Jim Alford to assist in the funding of a Community Center in Sweeny.

The centennial project was begun when Eric Kennedy was club president. Start of construction has been delayed due to the permitting process. The 5,000 square foot building has been purchased and site selection is still underway.

Upon completion, community organizations will have a new place to meet. Without the tireless efforts by dedicated Rotarians like John Taylor, Rhonda and Eric Kennedy, the Economic Development Committee, Regina Slayton with Chevron Phillips, and all of the other fine Sweeny Rotarians who sold Harley Raffle tickets, this building for the Community could not be built.

Ambassadorial Scholar Kristin Kruse

As a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, proposed by the Heights club, Kristin, after receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&M University in Political Science and German, studied political science in Germany for one year at the University of Heidelberg.



Prior to beginning law school, Kristin interned with the U.S. Department of State at the American Consulate General in Hamburg, Germany, in the political/economic section. Fluent in German, she also interned at law firms in Germany during both her undergraduate and law school years.

She graduated in May 2006 from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. There, she served as an associate Managing Editor for the SMU Law Review Association. Both her case notes and comments were selected for publication in the SMU Law Review. She also received the SMU Law Review Best Casenote Award, selected by Haynes and Boone, LLP, and the SMU Law Review Best Comment Award, chosen by Baker and McKenzie, LLP.

During law school, Kristin participated in the SMU Barristers, a select fifteen-member law school honorary service organization whose members are selected based on scholarship, leadership, character, and service. She also served as a Student Bar Association mentor to first-year law students and president of SMU Law School's chapter of the Texas Aggie Bar Association. As a law student, Kristin interned for U.S. District Judge Lynn N. Hughes and Texas Supreme Court Justice Nathan L. Hecht.

She now serves as Briefing Attorney to Justice Charles Seymore, Fourteenth Court of Appeals, Houston.

Heights Rotagraph, 3/7/07

Katrina with members of Rotaract in Caracas, Venezuela.



Katrina Reichwein, one of the District's Ambassadorial Scholars, is in her second year of graduate study in the political science department at the Universidad Simon Bolivar.

The Membership Minute

Vol. 3, Ed. 6 February 2007

Prospective and new member kits now available. Is your club looking for prepackaged information to give to prospective or new members? The *RI Catalog* now offers two new kits that can help.

The [Prospective Member Information Kit](#) (423-ENB) provides a general overview of Rotary's history and programs. The Rotary Foundation includes publications such as *Rotary Basics* (595-EN) and *The ABCs of Rotary* (363-EN). Both of these kits can be ordered from the [RI Catalog](#) or the [Shop](#) page at www.rotary.org.

Recognition of Membership Development Initiatives

Does your club have a unique and successful membership development strategy? Each year, district governors can choose up to three clubs per district to receive a certificate of recognition for fulfilling one of the three areas of membership growth and development:

- Retention
- Recruitment of qualified new members
- Organization of new Rotary clubs

To be considered for this award, download the [club submission form](#) from the Membership page at www.rotary.org and submit a detailed explanation of your club's strategy, initiative, or program to your district governor by **15 April**.

Get Interactive

See another side of Rotary in a new digital publication, *Rotary International Interactive*. Each month, experience the mission and fellowship of Rotarians and young adults involved in programs such as Ambassadorial Scholarships, Interact, and Rotaract.

The publication goes beyond words to tell Rotary's story using photo essays, videos, and other media. In addition, *Interactive* offers articles about some of the varied careers of Rotarians and the family of Rotary, as well as unique places Rotarians meet and a blog from a Youth Exchange student. In every issue of *Interactive*, you also can read advice from the *RI* president and send in your own questions to him, which you might see answered in upcoming issues.

(Continued from page 1)

members and prospective members. For Rotarians, we try to inspire and awaken greater passion for leading and serving through Rotary. We want Service Above Self to come alive in every Rotarian.

Q: What's on the agenda?

A: We don't deal with Rotary club management or Rotary information, but rather focus on Rotary values such as ethics and leadership. Our interactive exercises cover subjects such as collective potential, building rapport and teamwork, leadership styles, coaching and development, leadership commitment, the art of listening, and leading by example. We also incorporate essential Rotary values, such as The Four-Way Test, the Object of Rotary, and the Declaration of Rotarians in Businesses and Professions.

Q: What inspired you and your colleagues to develop this program?

A: Most of the organizers have been involved in [RYLA](#) for years. Of course, RYLA focuses on fostering youth leadership, but all Rotarians who are personally involved in RYLA find their own leadership skills become greatly enhanced at the same time. So we thought to ourselves, "Why not offer a 'RYLA for Rotarians'?" It was an exciting prospect! Since we began planning in November 2001, over 200 participants have graduated, and more than 30 have become Rotary club presidents. Other participants have become officers or board members of their clubs. We have been actively promoting the program in neighboring districts, and currently five districts have started their own program. Attending the most recent event [16-17 March] were representatives of three Rotary districts from Oklahoma, Arizona, and another Texas district. Incoming Director Phil Silvers joined this latest group as a participant.

Q: How does the program help Rotary?

A: As individual Rotarians develop their leadership skills and enhance their personal growth, they gain a deeper understanding of Rotary values. All of that serves to build Rotary's future. Rotarians who invest two days in our program gain a lifetime understanding of who they are as leaders. We help them identify skills that will enable them to perform as leaders at the highest possible level. Most importantly, the meeting helps participants discover themselves and brings out the great potential that is within each Rotarian.

Q: How can others get involved?

A: Just [contact me via an e-mail](#). We have an open invitation to any district to send representatives to

our seminars, so that they gain a personal understanding of the benefit and the challenge of starting such a program. The program has been so successful in its designed format that we are excited to share it with districts that wish to start their own event. It all starts with training facilitators who have participated in one of our seminars. To assist other districts in starting the program, we are very willing to send members of our team to assure that the training of their trainers is complete. Follow-up support is always available, as may be requested.

*Interview by Joseph Derr
Rotary International News*

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL 2006-07 CALENDAR

April - Magazine Month

June - Rotary Fellowship Month

17-20 RI Convention: Salt Lake City

The Rotary Foundation - Matching Grants

The District Grant Committee would like to remind all clubs that the cut off date for Rotary Foundation Matching Grants is March 31, 2007. We would like to encourage clubs to submit their MG applications as soon as possible. TRF receives over 3000 applications and the bulk usually comes just at the deadline which creates a longer period for approvals. If you are planning to apply for a grant, please do so NOW. D5890 has a limited amount of Grant funds, which although is generous, we encourage clubs to apply. The experienced clubs are busy applying so the funds are being used. Don't wait for the last minute and be disappointed. **SUBMIT NOW!**

Do not submit your application directly to TRF. It must come through the District Grant Committee. You can contact me at 713.665.4767 or cs@westuttravel.com.

Take advantage of this wonderful source of funding for your international and community projects. And don't forget, your annual contributions through the sale of District Raffle Tickets is what supports the big picture of TRF.

*Cecile Schutter, D5890
District Foundation Sub Committee Chair 2006-07*

District 5890 Attendance Report																							
	Members 7/1/06	Net Gain	Members 2/28/07	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb		Members 7/1/06	Net Gain	Members 2/28/07	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
288 Corridor	64	1	65	61%	73%							La Porte	42	1	43	75%	76%	84%	81%	81%	70%	77%	74%
Alvin	43	4	47	72%	81%	79%	82%	79%				Memorial Spring Branch	43	4	47	63%	59%	52%	48%	55%	48%	57%	60%
Angleton	53	5	58	66%	69%	61%	61%				65%	North Shore	98	(5)	93	75%	72%	73%	76%	71%	72%	74%	72%
Astrodome-Houston	16	1	17	100%	68%	56%		54%	67%			Champions Sunrise	24	2	26	59%	71%	76%	62%	68%	65%	67%	69%
Bay City	17	3	20	62%	69%	70%	50%	46%	48%	47%	60%	Oyster Creek	37	(1)	36	72%	65%	78%	70%	81%	80%	60%	68%
Baytown	103	3	106	85%	87%	84%	83%	85%	77%	85%	81%	Palacios	17	4	21	69%	82%	74%	75%	72%	65%	67%	70%
Bear Creek-Copperfield	17	4	21	67%	83%	79%	85%	89%	85%	86%	76%	Pasadena	145	17	162	55%	59%	61%	44%	57%	60%	67%	67%
Bellaire S.W. Houston	46	-	46	90%	81%	89%	84%	85%	74%	87%	81%	Pasadena South	44	-	44	75%	73%	83%	77%	74%	67%	76%	70%
Braes Bayou	10	-	10	81%	82%	84%	80%	81%	76%		78%	Pearland	31	(3)	28	71%	77%	92%	84%	90%	93%	78%	
Brazosport	100	3	103	65%	71%	65%	60%	59%	44%	65%	65%	Richmond	62	10	72	59%	53%	63%	63%	55%	47%	56%	51%
Brenham	100	(6)	94	60%	66%	54%	48%	60%	61%	70%	63%	River Oaks	49	(13)	36	73%	70%	70%	70%	68%	56%	55%	
Columbus	26	-	26	55%	58%	70%	64%	60%	68%	67%	63%	Rosenberg	31	(2)	29	78%	76%	77%	71%	81%	76%	72%	67%
Cypress-Fairbanks	17	2	19	82%	83%	84%	73%	82%	87%	83%	85%	Seabrook	48	4	52	71%	73%	70%	64%	73%	79%	71%	79%
Deer Park	48	2	50	70%	67%	79%	70%	75%	71%	68%	72%	Sealy	34	5	39	67%			69%	76%	69%		64%
Eagle Lake	23	-	23					70%	72%	64%	69%	Sharpstown	19	1	20	80%	85%	88%	84%	82%	82%	93%	95%
El Campo	96	(2)	94	74%	76%	84%	82%	74%	73%	82%		Space Center	120	(2)	118	66%	66%	67%	60%	60%	57%	71%	69%
Fort Bend County	18	(1)	17	74%	82%							Sugar Land	92	(1)	91	68%	73%	85%	67%	61%	74%	67%	67%
Galena Park/ Jacinto City	38	(2)	36	39%	59%	50%	49%	43%	40%	46%	47%	Sweeny	23	2	25	76%	87%	76%	80%	83%	85%	79%	77%
Galleria Area	33	2	35	77%	77%	77%	75%	75%	79%	74%	66%	Tomball	99	6	105	63%	66%	65%	72%	71%	49%		61%
Greenspoint	11	1	12		71%	56%	64%			80%		University Area	61	(7)	54	60%	59%	66%	58%	63%	62%	59%	69%
Gulfway-Hobby Airport	35	(5)	30	94%								Washington County	77	4	81	68%	77%	82%	82%	79%	63%		79%
Harrisburg	72	7	79	71%	70%	73%	78%	70%	73%	70%	74%	Weimar	25	3	28	79%	78%	83%	76%	84%	63%	82%	
Highlands	18	3	21	84%	77%	82%	71%	76%	67%		83%	West Columbia	48	3	51	63%	76%	71%	63%	58%			
Houston	305	(19)	286	37%	34%	39%	37%	38%		37%	37%	West Houston	19	5	24	83%	89%	89%	82%	80%	90%	79%	66%
Houston Heights	64	-	64	51%	54%	56%	54%	52%	49%	54%	60%	West U Place	108	5	113	84%	65%	62%	61%	54%	54%	69%	68%
Houston Westchase	15	4	19	66%	81%	82%	81%	76%	76%		75%	Wharton	57	-	57	52%	60%		55%	62%	49%		54%
Humble Intercontinental	64	13	77	79%	74%	66%	69%	69%	69%	72%		Willowbrook	47	(8)	39	71%	82%	75%	78%	76%	79%	79%	85%
Katy	25	5	30	57%	66%	61%	69%	63%	54%	60%		Total	3,014	66	3,080								
Katy Sunrise	24	3	27	100%	85%	91%	94%	62%	83%	68%													
Kingwood	13	1	14	81%	100%	83%	73%	83%	77%	100%	98%	- Clubs Not Reporting Attendance				2	2	6	5	5	8	14	13

Contribute to The Rotary Foundation



A wonderful spa trip for two people at the **Hosteria Las Quintas Eco Spa**, in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

One of the three ways to qualify for the drawing:

- \$1,000 per year as a Paul Harris Society Member
- \$10,000 Major Donor Contribution
- \$10,000 Bequest Society Member

Prize includes 4 days/3 nights with Breakfast daily, plus:

- ♦ A 30 minute Oxygen Therapy Session for two
- ♦ A 50 minute Flotation Tank session for two
- ♦ A 50 minute Deep Back Massage for 2
- ♦ A Shamanic Chakra Balancing Ritual for two

Qualified participants must complete your Rotary Foundation Contribution/Recognition Form and send to cs@westuttravel.com or fax to 713-665-8299.

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