

81G Boze
87-88
- Serious -
- Fun w/ Bob & Jim in Las Vegas.
- Nancy & Floyd in Munich
- Jim in San Antonio
7/20 - Official Visit
Charles
Hartman
District
Assembly

1987-88 INSTALLATION SPEECH-Space Center-6/29/87

Kissing Babies!

am
~~Barbara~~ and I ~~are~~ indeed pleased to be with you ~~in~~ *today*
~~evening~~ ... to extend our best wishes to your club's new leadership team. But before passing the management of this club to your new officers, Jim and your fine team deserve a lot of credit and many thanks for your efforts. Its been a good year for the Rotary Club of Space Center.

It is one of the miracles of Rotary, that year after year, R.I., club and District officers all change at the same time - and Rotary continues to grow, expand and prosper.

We in District 589 approach the year ahead with the best trained group of presidents ever, thanks to the first joint Presidents-Elect Training Seminar attended by the presidents of all Texas Rotary clubs.

We also have assembled and trained an outstanding District Leadership Team of some 200 of your fellow Rotarians. Singularly and collectively, they are dedicated to helping this club, its officers and committeemen realize the best year in your history.

For Rotary year 1987-88, we will need, I suggest, the most enlightened and most dedicated club leadership this District has ever seen ... if we are to successfully meet the challenges and opportunities facing us.

For the economy is a tough issue. One which we must face squarely - and conquer.

Club growth is generally based on a willingness to share the good of Rotary with those who stand ready and willing to serve.

BT
Towid
Wren
Hargrave

Women in Rotary is now a legal reality. And on this subject, I would like to take an excerpt from R.I. President M.A.T. Caparas' presentation at the recent R.I. Convention in Munich. He said: "Only time will tell whether this change that has been forced on us by the Court will be for better or worse. It may yet prove to be the best thing that happened, if only because we will be able to shed the offensive "sexist" label which has hampered Rotary growth in many places; the lobby groups will now probably leave us alone and turn to other targets, unless we foolishly try to circumvent the law; we will no longer have to debate whether or not to accept women members; and we should now be able to devote our time and energies to what we should be about in the first place -- serving others and bringing hope to those who need our help. We will abide by the law of the land. I am assured by the thought that service not gender has been the source of our strength and that women will give us more resources and greater strength to serve." Unquote.

And this is the year of Polio Plus. The greatest single humanitarian effort ever attempted by a private or service organization. Just think, working with UNICEF and the World Health Organization, Rotary's Polio Plus effort will rid the world (nearly 4 million cases a year) of polio and drastically reduce the occurrence of the other five childhood diseases.

Campaigns are undertaken all the time to "save a life." Ours - Polio Plus - will save millions of lives.

In my opinion, it is a Nobel Prize effort - and every Rotarian is being asked to support it.

But there is one more challenge - that in this day and time might be the most critical. It's the challenge of communications. Raising the awareness of Rotary above the commonplace, with our own members, and with the public.

For I sincerely believe if we found a way to tell *the public and* our membership, truly inform them of all of Rotary's programs, of the personal opportunities to serve and our collective accomplishments, that we would have *a more supportive and interested public;* a more dynamic organization; more responsive; more involved, more Rotarian - in the purest sense of the word.

Can you imagine how much stronger each club in this District would be if every member knew Rotary better. If through that knowledge, each member bit off a small bite of a Rotary program - and became involved. It would be exciting. Darn right thrilling.

As the leadership of this club - you have the challenge - and the opportunity. And you've a lot working for you.

- The tradition of Rotary - 75th Anniversary, District 589
- Its ideals - "Service Above Self"
- Its history - Great leaders, great goals, "United in Service -- Dedicated to Peace"
- And the very reason a member joined Rotary.

I propose that we rekindle that early spirit of Rotary in every one of our members. Go back to the prime objective; expand it with the knowledge of today's Rotary - the farsightedness and courage of Polio Plus, Group Study Exchange teams, Rotary Scholarships, 3-H Grants (spark the imagination of one of your members in a World Community Service project), Friendship and Youth exchanges. On and on. Your club activities; those available through the District office and through R.I.

You are about to write the latest chapter of this club's 23-year history. It's one that will be by-lined by Jim McNatt, but written by those of you here this evening - and, just as importantly, by those members who are not here.

How will it read? It is up to you. The challenges and opportunities are there to make it a most meaningful chapter.

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At a dinner party recently, Ross Perot quoted another great American when he said, "America is great because she is good. If she ceases to be good, she will cease to be great!"

In this context, our obligation - the Rotary leadership of 1987-88, is clear.

Rotary is great! Because its programs, its objectives, its accomplishments are good. If it ceases to be good in any District, in any one of the world's 23,000 clubs - members not encouraged to be involved, members allowed to be luncheon guests only, projects allowed to falter, entire memberships left unchallenged, communities untouched by the good of Rotary programs, world understanding allowed to go by the wayside - Rotary for that club will not attain its greatness.

Rotary is great! And as its leadership for the coming year, let's work together to make it better and grow stronger. Good luck!