

I wish I could have finished out my term as president and been here for the passing of the gavel to Dave but the chance to go to Europe with my daughter and granddaughter was an opportunity I could not pass up. My granddaughter from St. Louis sings in a choir of children ranging in age from 11 to 14. One of the choir member's mother is from Norway and she set up for the children to sing in various churches in and around Bergen and finally in a concert hall at the summer home of Edward Grieg (Norway's most famous composer) on the shore of a lake just outside of Bergen. All told we spent 10 days in Norway and saw many beautiful sights. Since we were in Europe we made a trip out of it. After Norway, we met my son-in-law in Amsterdam where we spent 3 days. We then traveled to Paris for 4 days where we were joined by my cousin from Salzburg, Austria. Her ex-husband was a Frenchman and she of course speaks French very well. We rented a car in Paris and drove to Hesse, Germany and stayed with a Rotarian who we had at our house last year during a Friendship exchange for a couple of nights. We then drove to Salzburg and stayed at my cousin's for almost a week. Also met a second cousin on my father's side I had never met before who lives in Munich. My Salzburg cousin invited him down for the day. He brought about a 3 dozen weiss wurst (bock), a case of weiss beer, the brotchen which look like our big pretzels only better, and the special mustard that goes with the sausage. Difficult to get up from the table. We did a lot of eating and drinking especially in Germany and Austria. All in all we were gone from the 10th of June and returned to St. Louis the 5th of July. It was a wonderful trip especially since we spent it with our oldest daughter and her family who we essentially left in St. Louis 26 years ago when we came to Houston. Had an interesting event on trip to Hesse.

I did attend a Rotary meeting at the Salzburg club on June 29th and it was their passing of the gavel. They are an evening meeting club and their meetings are usually a couple of hours long. This one lasted three hours but the ceremony was about a half hour. The rest of the evening was eating and drinking with wives invited. They have no women members. They did say that one of the Vienna clubs has a woman member.

The past year has been an enjoyable one for me. I can't say that I have really looked forward to stepping down as president of the club. I was told going in that the club runs itself and I believe it. Hopefully I didn't impede the club progress too much. The club was its usual active self in giving scholarship money to local high school students, various youth organizations and again presenting the teacher, policeman and school nurse of the year awards. We sponsored 3 Interact clubs this year. The Rotary National Space

Achievement Award dinner was again a smashing success and the club's own endowment fund is approaching the \$100,000 mark. Our end of the year party netted \$1000 for the endowment fund and \$2000 was also given from the Service fund. Surplus computers were installed at 3 senior citizen nursing/retirement homes and at the Bay Area Turning Point.

On the international scene we again sponsored a foreign exchange student (as we have done the past 11 years), supported the Nicaraguan kids by buying a table at the gala given by the Humble Rotary Club, raised \$7500 for Rotary International through the district raffle which our Gene Tromblee won, and we committed \$2000 towards drilling a well for a Bolivia (Cochabamba) orphanage that Stan Galanski is promoting. We also brought back six Mexican children who had been previously treated by Dr. Fustock for further plastic surgery treatment.

Our membership held around 162, i.e. we lost and gained about 15 members. Obviously one area where we can always stand improvement is getting our new members active in the clubs programs. This should be a commitment from the sponsor to get new members involved and becoming real Rotarians in the act of "Service Above Self"

I would now like to recognize the people who worked to make this another successful SC Rotary year. First my fellow officers.

-Dave Baldwin our incoming and now president and who also served as my secretary (I thought I would try something different in awards this year and give our new Rotary polo shirts which Greg Turley arranged through Lands' End. If sizes are wrong let me know and we can reorder).

-Susie Howe my treasurer who is now President elect.

-Clay Fulcher my Sergeant at Arms and now secretary. Clay is also the RNASA board chairman. We have a separate board for this function consisting of 8 Space Center Rotarians and 4 outside people. If you would like to get involved in this function see Clay.

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Next my directors.

Rick Clapp - Club Service A. Rick was also our Shrimporee co-chairman. Rick had to resign his directorship effective June 30th and his remaining two years will be taken over by Marc Schneider

Laura Hale - Club Service B. Laura is our treasurer now and her remaining two year term of director will be filled by Vissett Sun.

Marilyn Musial - Club Service C

Tamara Anderson - Club Service D whose directorship is ended this year.

Ava Lunsford - Vocational Service and also serve as chairman of the Youth Committee replacing Steve Waldner. Her term has also ended.

Claire Taylor - Community Service A. Her term has also ended. (To remind you Mike Duckworth, J.B. Fox, and Sheila Self are the new incoming replacements)

Jim McDonald - Community Service B.

Greg Turley - International Service A.

Tim Kropp - International Service B.

And then to others who made my year easy for me or served on some of our key committees.

Mike Brown - My Shrimporee co-chairman and who Dave again recruited as chairman this year.

David Taylor - My program chairman. I thought Dave and his committee did a great job. We had a good variety of programs.

Bill Taylor - My social chairman.

Jerome Bourgeois - Who leads us in song every week.

Bill Farries - Our District raffle chairman. Our Rotary International Paul Harris Award interface and who took over as Officer of the year committee chairman on short notice.

J.B Fox and Murray Epstein - who do our weekly badge administration and get our new member supplies.

Marsha Galvan - My international youth committee chairperson.

Marc Schneider - My Interact chairman.

Shirley Lindquist - My Health & Safety Com. chairperson.

Vissett Sun - Chairman of the Teacher of the year award committee chairman.

Mark Humphrey - Membership comm. chairman

Chuck Lobb - Membership Development and Retention chairman.

Bob Mitchell - Senior citizen (along with J.B) chairman

Jack Lister - Mr. Everything. RNASA, Endowment/Breakfast/dinners, Incoming Ambassadorial scholar C.P. at the district.

Charlie Hartman - World Health comm. chairman

And last but not least our Blastoff editor Sheila Self. As some of you know Sheila did so good that John Painter recruited her for his district monthly newsletter and she will also do it for Charlie Clemmons. Besides these duties she is also District chairman for the Vocational Excellence Award which she also heads up for our club and she has been the super administration person for the RNASA award dinner. She also was secretary for the RNASA board. Anything I left out? So in addition to our polo shirt I would like to present you with Space Center's Rotarian of the year award 1999 - 2000.