LINKED THROUGH STRUCTURE, LINKED THROUGH SERVICE

By Governor Anna-Mae Kobbe

Now and then someone will say, “Help me understand Rotary’s structure.” Or, they will ask, “What is the purpose of the district?”

With over 1.2 million members in over 200 countries, the need for coordinated communication is evident. It is mind boggling to think of trying to inform all members or tackle major issues without the structure of Rotary. We would not be close to eradicating Polio if it weren’t for our ability to set bold goals, to organize ourselves, to raise money, and to actually coordinate National Immunization Days.

Our district, zone (multiple districts), and international structure makes “doing good in the world” possible. It is one of the reasons we have been so successful for more than 100 years.

(Governor’s Report continued on page 3)

FIRST UNIVERSITY-BASED ROTARACT CLUB IN WASHINGTON D.C. CHARTERED AT AMERICAN UNIV. WITH 101 MEMBERS

By Navin Valliappan

Almost 140 Rotarians, Rotaractors, and guests recently gathered at the Embassy of Pakistan for the Charter Night Celebration for the newly established Rotaract Club of American University. This Rotaract Club, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Federal City (Washington, DC), is the first university-based Rotaract Club in the Washington area. The venue of the Charter Night was special as this is where the Rotary Club of Federal City (Washington, DC) had its Charter Night Celebration back in February 2014.

The Rotaract Club of American University was chartered with 101 charter members, 78 of whom attended the Charter Night Celebration. The event, organized by the Rotaract Club and its sponsoring Rotary Club, had Rotarians and guests from throughout our District. The entire District 7620 leadership was in attendance; District Governor Dr. Anna-Mae Kobbe, District Governor-Elect Greg Wims, District Governor-Nominee Rich Glover, District Governor Designate Barton Goldenberg together with several Past District Governors; PDG Peter Kyle, PDG Rich Carson and PDG Ray Streib as well as District Governor Janet Brown from Rotary District 7610. Celebrants (continued on page 2)
NEW ROTARACT CLUB CHARtered AT AU

(continued from page 1)

started arriving as early as 5pm and enjoyed the traditional Pakistani cuisine catered by Shaheen Restaurant of Baltimore.

The event began with a welcome by Navin Valliappan from the sponsoring Rotary Club and Alana Persson from the new Rotaract Club. Their remarks were followed by introductions of the two Masters of Ceremonies, Ryan Barto and Star Dahl-Thurston from the American University Rotaract Club, whose comments and antics brought everyone to laughter as the evening progressed. Different Rotaractors from the new club shared a brief overview of Rotaract, some fun facts about the new Club, and a video highlighting the different events and activities the members have participated in since the Club’s formation back in October 2016.

A feature of the evening was remarks by His Excellency Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States. The Ambassador who is new to the embassy enjoyed the evening and meeting with the Rotaractors.

The highlight of the evening was the official presentation of the Rotaract Club Charter by District Governor Dr. Anna-Mae Kobbe to President Mark Rokow of the Club. Among those receiving recognition was the leadership team of the sponsoring Rotary Club, President Elizabeth Vipond (2016-2017), Immediate Past President Rebecca Pandolph (2015-2016), President-Elect Patrick DeLeonibus (2017-2018), President-Nominee Nic Granum (2018-2019), and Past President Navin Valliappan (2014-2015). This was followed by the official initiation and pinning ceremony of all charter members. With the large group, a total of twenty Rotarians from District 7620 and District 7610 assisted with the ceremonies. The club’s ten officers were then inducted and received their officer pins, followed by the official oath taking by President Mark Rokow.

President Mark gave a passionate and inspiring speech regarding how he got involved with Interact and shared with us a personal story related to his experience. He later thanked Rotarians and guests for attending their important Charter Night. Rotaractor, Andrew DeCarolis, from the new club ended the evening with the Rotary Four Way Test, along with the ringing of the bell by President Mark.

The new Club is the largest university-based Rotaract Club to be chartered in
the United States. It is interesting to note that the group is very young, with a long and productive future before them. Ninety-nine of their members are freshmen, one is a sophomore, and one is a junior. Almost 30 of their members have been previously involved with Interact, RYLA, or Rotary Youth Exchange.

The Rotaract Club of American University meets every Tuesday at 8:15pm on campus. For further information, please contact Mark Rokow at mr0790a@student.american.edu or Navin Valliappan, Club Advisor at rotaractryla@yahoo.com.

MEMBERSHIP TOOLBOX

By Ronnie Teitler Davis, District 7620 Membership and Engagement Chair

As the 2016-2017 Rotary year comes to a close, have you set up your membership plan for the coming year? Has your club done the following:

* create a formal recruitment plan?
* set recruitment goals?
* develop strategies?
* make it a friendly competition between members and/or committees
* set specific dates for a prospective members’ forums to communicate the benefits of joining Rotary.
* follow up with prospective members!
* communicate the plan to club members? This is a very important step!

GOVERNOR’S REPORT

(continued from page 1)

As we celebrate the Centennial of The Rotary Foundation, we are reminded of the value of structure in being able to carry out our mission. Without the Foundation, it is doubtful that Rotarians could have accomplished so many amazing things in 100 years. In 1917, sixth RI President Arch Klumph suggested the need for an endowment. His vision, supported by our organizational structure, has become the highly-rated foundation it is today. By bringing together both human and financial capital from throughout the Rotary world, sustainable impact is possible in addressing some of the world’s greatest challenges.

As we prepare for the 2017 District Conference, the value of the district comes into play. The very reasons for holding a conference bring to mind a number of the key reasons that districts are in place and the roles they play in a vibrant organization.

We value the fellowship of Rotary and believe the Rotary experience is more rewarding if we are engaged with members beyond the club level. For those who travel or conduct humanitarian efforts throughout the world, the fellowship of Rotary is often found to be even more significant. Participation in district trainings and events helps build lasting relationships.

A district conference facilitates communication, fosters fellowship, provides venues for networking with one another, and makes possible the exchange of great ideas. That’s why Rotarians build in golf tournaments, forums/breakout sessions, hospitality, tours, music; the things that provide a platform for us to get better acquainted on a personal level. Today, many clubs add the 5th test to the Four-Way Test, “Is it fun?” A district conference is a place to have fun.

Rotary’s humanitarian work frequently includes partnerships and collaborations. Often these partnerships are forged between clubs. In fact, international projects require an in-country club to be

(continued on page 5)
By Bill Cords

The Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall and the Rotary Club of Lexington Park partnered recently in the construction of Six new Handicap Access Ramps at the Camp Maria Retreat Center in Leonardtown. Sponsored by the Charlotte Hall Rotary Club (Stephen’s Fund) and the Lexington Park Rotary Club together with a District 7620 Grant, much needed assistance was provided in support of the Retreat Facilities at Camp Maria that will allow access for the physically disabled making the Center accessible to all for many years to come.

The group demolished old ramps and then constructed new ones completing the project on April 1, 2017. The Clubs also enlisted the help of our Youth by including the Interact Club of St. Mary’s Ryken High School providing the students not only with a community service opportunity but also exposure to Rotary International and local Rotary Clubs and Rotarians and being a positive force for good in the community.

Camp Maria serves individuals from the Region including Washington DC, Virginia, and Maryland. Camp Maria strives to reach out to individuals with physical, psychological, and economic challenges and includes supporting diverse groups to include foster children, veterans and their families, individuals with muscular dystrophy, brothers and sisters of children with cancer, and those in grief over loss of a loved ones as well as many others such as those in recovery, women’s and men’s retreats, and many church and school programs. The friends of Camp Maria estimate that the Ramps constructed with the District Grant will serve as many as 250,000 people over the expected lifetime of the ramps. The project was well received by the Camp Maria Retreat Center and they offered sincere thanks to Rotary for all the support the upgrade provided and in helping to ensure that Camp Maria continues its mission, and providing equal accessibility to all who visit.

PANCAKES FOR POLIO FUNDRAISER IN BEL AIR

By Ronnie Teitler Davis

On April 22, 2017, the four Area One Rotary Clubs held a “Pancakes for Polio” morning at the Green Turtle in Bel Air. This fundraiser was the third time the quad-clubs got together to raise money to send to the Foundation to fight Polio. Last year they held a Chili Cook-off! When clubs and Rotarians get together, good things happen!

Mary’s Ryken High School on the project providing the students not only with a community service opportunity but also exposure to Rotary International and local Rotary Clubs and Rotarians and being a positive force for good in the community.
GOVERNOR’S REPORT: WHY DO WE HAVE STRUCTURE IN ROTARY?

Structure creates a manageable way to give every member an opportunity to be involved in the process of recommending changes and/or providing feedback to proposed resolutions.

I encourage you to tap into the many ways to get the most from your Rotary membership. That includes attending events beyond the club level such as the district conference, Rotary Leadership Institute training, club leadership training for officers and committee chairs, and topical seminars on membership or public relations. These are member benefits that allow you to hone your leadership development skills, one of the great benefits of being in a dynamic organization.

It is imperative that every Rotarian utilize DaCdb, the district database and Rotary Club Central within the RI web site. You have a personal vested interest; if you are a donor to The Rotary Foundation, you should monitor your donation records for accuracy. Click on the “My Rotary” tab on the RI web site and begin investigating the world of Rotary. It is the way we do Rotary business today; create your account and take advantage of the resources at your fingertips. It will take less than 5 minutes to open yourself to the virtual Rotary world.

RI President John Germ recently announced improvements to Rotary Club Central. The following message from President Germ gives a preview of the changes coming July 1.

“In July, we’ll unveil a new and improved Rotary Club Central. We’ve completely redesigned it with a fresh, modern interface. Pages load faster, navigation is more intuitive, and easy-to-read charts and graphs make past and current club data more accessible.

Members and club leaders can view trends, plan for the future, and track progress in just minutes. Plus, Rotary Club Central offers an individual user experience, allowing club leaders to plan and evaluate what is important to their own clubs, like membership activities or Rotary Citation goals. You can even enter your Rotary Foundation giving goals in local currency.

Rotary Club Central is also a great tool for succession planning. Club leaders change annually, so the historical record of goals and achievements eases the transition and ensures continuity. It’s just one way to boost trust between members and club leaders, because everyone has access to the same data and is working together to achieve the same goals.

The Rotary Club Central upgrade will happen seamlessly, which means you don’t have to do anything. All data already in the platform will automatically migrate into the new system. Additional updates about the new Rotary Club Central will be posted on My Rotary in the near future,”

reports Germ.

The virtual structure of Rotary supports the organizational structure and allows our efforts to be magnified more efficiently and effectively. Check out the new Rotary Club Central features on July 1.

So, why do we have structure? It seems to me, we have structure because we value communication, coordination, engagement, service, and success. Structure links Rotarians, one with another, into this amazing organization we call Rotary International. Enjoy the world of Rotary.
DIGITAL CLASSROOM AT MEADE HEIGHTS SCHOOL

By Tricia Baldwin

Meade Heights Elementary school 5th graders receive Chromebooks for its first “Digital Classroom.” The Digital Classroom project provides tablets and charging carts to schools so that students have increased access to hand-held technology in their classrooms. The West County Rotary Foundation, along with DISA, provided the tablets for Meade Heights Elementary School. Students will have more access to technology and teachers will be able to plan engaging lessons that maximize instructional time and provide students with the skills they need to be better prepared for college and career. President of the Rotary Club of West Anne Arundel County, Patricia Baldwin, delivered the tablets in April and was able to see first-hand how the technology is used. “The students were clearly comfortable with the technology, but more importantly, the connection it gave the teacher to her students was what impressed me most.”

ROTARIAN INITIATIVE FOR SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT

By Dick Foot

The State Farm Charitable Foundation has awarded the Rotarian Initiative for Successful Employment (RISE) program of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek a $10,000 “Good Neighbor Citizenship Grant.” This is the second grant of $10,000 from the State Farm Charitable Foundation, which the club has been awarded; the earlier grant was awarded in the Foundation’s 2014 grant cycle.

Commendation to Rotary Club of Carroll Creek Rotarian Kathy Schultze, Agent/Owner of State Farm Insurance in Frederick, for championing this grant with the State Farm Charitable Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek is grateful to Ann Ryan, Director of Family Services at the Housing Authority of Frederick County, for preparing the grant application and documenting the case for support. [Ann Ryan was honored by the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek in 2016 with a Paul Harris Fellow Award, in recognition of her sustained support for the RISE program.]

Since 2013, RISE, the Rotarian Initiative for Successful Employment (http://www.risefrederick.com), has equipped 23 qualified public housing residents with mentorships and professional training, as well as networking and job opportunities.

The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek’s RISE initiative is a component fund of the Community Foundation of Frederick County (www.frederickcountygives.org).

DC DUCK RACE ON MAY 6

The Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.’s Duck Race is a fun event and festival that will bring the community together in support of local non-profits and organizations. The event will take place May 6, 2017 from 11 AM to 3 PM at The Yards Park along the Anacostia River.

Members of the community are able to sponsor rubber ducks that will participate in a race along a contained course along the Anacostia River, with funds supporting the Rotary Club and community organizations. In addition to prizes for the winning ducks, participants will enjoy music, entertainment, a Kids Zone, food, activities and much more. More information can be found at: www.dcduckrace.org.
NEW BOOK PRAISES ROTARY’S ROLE IN FIGHT TO END POLIO

Dr. John Sever Recognized

By Sallyann Price

A new book in the field of public health highlights Rotary’s role in the global effort to wipe out polio, and places it in the context of humanity’s relentless struggle to contain the world’s epidemics.

In “The Health of Nations: The Campaign to End Polio and Eradicate Epidemic Diseases” (Oneworld Publications), British journalist and Sunday Times best-selling author Karen Bartlett surveys the global landscape of epidemics past, present, and future. Beginning with the 1980 eradication of smallpox, she guides us through more timely threats such as the Ebola and Zika viruses, and looks ahead to a future without malaria, measles, or polio.

“Who decided to rid the world of polio? Not politicians or global health organizations, as you might expect,” she writes, in one of several chapters devoted to polio. “The starting gun was fired by Rotary International, a network of businessmen more used to enjoying convivial dinners, raising money for local good causes, and organizing floats to carry Santa Claus around suburban neighborhoods at Christmas.”

Bartlett offers a comprehensive, readable account of the polio-eradication campaign’s history and Rotary’s unlikely role as its chief advocate. From epidemiologist John Sever’s early suggestion that Rotary adopt ending polio as an organizational mission to the first immunization drives in the Philippines and Central and South America, the world community doubted both the idea of a campaign targeting a single disease and Rotary’s capacity as a volunteer organization to execute it.

The narrative traces Rotary’s mission to reach all the world’s children with Albert Sabin’s polio vaccine, the formation of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), and the struggle to interrupt transmission in the world’s poorest communities, particularly in densely populated countries like India, which has not reported a new case since 2011.

“Polio eradication is a twentieth-century dream, conceived by idealists and driven by big international institutions and mass mobilizations of volunteers, working together to make a better world for all,” Bartlett writes. “It must succeed or fail, however, in a twenty-first century marked by factionalism, religious intolerance, and rising inequality.”

Aziz Memon, chair of Rotary’s National PolioPlus Committee in Pakistan, is interviewed about the challenges facing his country, one of the few where polio remains endemic and conflict has slowed progress. Carol Pandak, director of PolioPlus at Rotary headquarters, weighs in on the contributions of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, in both funding and high-profile advocacy. Other prominent voices from Rotary’s GPEI partners chime in throughout.

Based in London, Bartlett has previously worked in politics and written for Newsweek and Wired. She’s produced documentary films and written nonfiction books, including a biography of musician Dusty Springfield and a collaboration with Anne Frank’s stepsister Eva Schloss on Schloss’ memoirs.

ROTARY VEHICLE DONATIONS

By Earl Copus

Fellow Rotarians, it’s my pleasure to share up-to-date dollars raised from our District-Melwood-Clubs donated vehicle program. As of this writing, 33 vehicles have been donated, resulting in $22,000 gross sales. After Melwood management fee of $5,210.75 and Towing and Auction costs, $3,279.00, there were $12,546.95 Rotary net dollars. Rotary International Annual Fund received $2,509.39 and $2,509.39 to End Polio. Clubs received $7,528.19. Based on the other Melwood managed programs we can project that our Rotary program has great growth potential.

Remember our 2017 goal is for 62 vehicles. Many donors become repeat donors. With time our Rotary program will become a front-of-the-mind option for all District 7620 individual members, their families, friends and business associates. The District Program is not financed for the normal media (radio and tv) advertising for vehicles, thereby, relying on building a word-of-mouth base for donations. Let me resummarize the value of the program by stressing the win-win-win-win program greatness:

Win (donor gets rid of car and gets a tax donation)
Win (Melwood gets support for their great programs)
Win (RI Annual Fund and Polio Program donations increase)
Win (Club programs have extra dollars)

Have a great month. Questions contact Rotarian, Earl Copus, ecopus@live.com

To donate call 1-844-686-7620 or go on line: http://goo.gl/dL3Pji.
ANnapolis Rotary Awards
$58,500 in Community Grants

Annapolis, MD (April 1, 2017) – The Rotary Club of Annapolis has announced grants totaling $58,500 from the net proceeds of the August 2016 World’s Largest Crab Feast.

The 46 recipients are listed with the amount each received:

$3,500 – Anne Arundel County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).
$2,500 – Hospice of the Chesapeake, Partners in Care, and Pregnancy Clinic.
$2,400 – Lutheran Mission Society.
$2,000 – Homes for America, and Jacob’s Ride.
$1,750 – Asbury Church Assistance Network, and The Bernie House.
$1,500 – Annapolis Wellness House, Backpack Buddies (Georgetown Elementary School), Box of Rain, Friends of Arundel Seniors, Friends of Stanton Center, and Gigi’s Playhouse.
$1,450 – Center of Help.
$1,300 – Backpack Buddies (Heritage Baptist Church).
$1,000 – Annapolis Film Festival, Annapolis Green, Annapolis Maritime Museum, Anne Arundel County Public Library, ARC, Arundel Lodge, Bello Machre, Boys and Girls Club, Chesapeake K-9 Department, Chrysalis House, Cisco Center, Creating Communities, Eastport United Methodist Church, He Who Opens (beds for homeless), Leadership Anne Arundel, Let’s Help Kids, Light House, Maryland Hall, Meals on Wheels, PAWS (animal welfare), and Sarah’s House.
$ 800 – Building Better Days, and Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake.
$ 750 – Kunta Kinte.
$ 500 – Assistance League of the Chesapeake, Olivia Constants Foundation, Ryan’s Case for Smiles, Serenity Sistas’ Inc., and STAIR (Start the Adventure in Reading).

In memoriam: Jim Updegraaff, Former College Park Rotarian

Forwarded by Pat Cunniff


“Our boys and girls have greater freedom, exercise greater power, and have more opportunities for both good and evil, than ever before. ... How important it is that youth’s great possibilities for good be realized and developed.”

-Angus S. Mitchell, 1948-49 Rotary International President

May is Rotary’s Youth Service Month