

The New Centurion



Newsletter of
Bob Lankin
District Governor



SERVICE Above Self

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District 7450

June 2006

Marty Phillips Set to “Lead the Way” in the new Rotary Year

Dr. Marty Phillips of the Rotary Club of Ardmore will take the reigns of Rotary District 7450 as Governor on July 1, 2006. Marty and his leadership team have been working diligently to serve our district and they are well prepared to lead us to great successes in the coming year.

Joel Chesney Elected Governor 2008-09

Joel E. Chesney, PAG, of the Rotary Club of Kennett at Longwood was elected by a majority of votes on the first ballot to serve as the District Governor Nominee for 2008-2009. Joel is a long time Rotarian, having been a Rotarian for over 30 years. .

Having spent over 48 years in business, Joel is well qualified to run the everyday challenge of District 7450. Joel has an advantage in his wife, Joyce. Her abilities and commitment to Rotary aid Joel in everyday decision making. Joel is retired and devotes his time to Rotary and other charitable causes. Currently, Joel is President of the Kennett Square Senior Center Board. In past years he has held positions with the Masonic & Shriners organizations.

Joel attended the old N.E. high school and Temple University. After college, Joel worked for his father in the family restaurant business. He purchased his first business at 21 years old. I believe his personality and demeanor will provide us with a fine DG. Please support him and the district for our future. I wish him luck and good health.

38 District Rotarians Attend the Copenhagen Convention

Thirty Eight District Rotarians attended the 97th Rotary International convention in Copenhagen Denmark and Malmo Sweden. The weather and fellowship was outstanding. Due to the timing and latitude, conventioners were blessed with nearly twenty hours a day of daylight. Members were treated by home hospitality experiences, outstanding opening and closing session entertainment, fine restaurants, free transportation, and numerous and wonderful convention and host city activities including a wonderful “Swedish Night and a “Day at Tivoli Gardens.” Rotarians are already looking for to the next RI convention in Salt Lake City in June 2007.

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District 7450 Youth Programs Achieve Great Success in 2005-06 Year

This being the final week of the 2005-06 SERVICE above self year, it is appropriate to reflect on the progress we made as a district during the current year. None of the progress was made by your Governor. All I did is ask...the Rotarians in the District delivered.

No doubt, the single most important success in Rotary District 7450 this year was the great success of our Youth programs. Our Rotaract program of service for 18-30 year olds was down to around three clubs. When Jane Williams PAG was appointed chair of that committee, the previous committee members gave her discouraging reports and told her that it was a very difficult job. For the most part, the committee had to be reconstituted. Jane and her committee of intrepid Rotarians did their thing and added five new clubs this year. Of course the work of adding each club was done by the individual Rotary clubs themselves. Four of the clubs were started at colleges, but the latest club was started in the community, in the Main Line.

Our Interact Committee, led by Bob Edge, who was completing his sixth and final term as chair of the Interact committee, was successful promoting Interact, starting six new clubs giving us around 24 district Interact clubs. Again, the work starting the clubs was performed by club members who recognized the importance of adding to our Rotary family. I have no doubt that this committee will achieve great success going forward, being led by Dawn deFuria, the wife of our District Governor nominee Russ deFuria.

Our RYLA committee, also had to be reconstituted. Louise Vitiello Burroughs of the Chester club picked up the ball and ran one of the largest conferences in recent memory at the Valley Forge Freedoms foundation, nearly 50% larger than in the previous year, achieving the goal set. The successful RYLA program bodes well not only for the RYLA, but for all the other Youth programs such as Interact, Youth Exchange and even Rotaract. Once the young people get service in their blood, they continue the need to participate.

Our Youth Exchange program under John Lotz, ably assisted by BJ Barrett and a great committee, which had a limited number of inbound and outbound students this year, took up the district goals with great enthusiasm and at last reports is within a hairs breath of achieving a district goal of fifteen outbound and fifteen inbound students this coming year. John and his committee have a work intensive and important job in promoting and supervising a very complicated program and will continue to need your support in the coming year.

Mark Michelman and his Literacy Committee did a terrific job in supporting the efforts of our President and in promoting literacy projects throughout the district. Most notably the committee promoted the Dictionary Project in which clubs gave thousands of dictionaries to third graders in local schools. Mark also set the record for club visits, personally delivering programs to over sixteen clubs in the district. Next year he will be serving as Vice President of the Northeast Sunrisers.

District 7450 International Service Takes Great Strides in 2005-06 Year

Not only the International Service committee, ably led by Doug Blazey of the Wayne Club, but the Rotaplast Committee, led by Jack and Faith Holefelder, the GSE committee under Jack Grant PDG and numerous clubs such as Broomall, Conshohocken Plymouth Whitmarsh and Bristol demonstrated SERVICE above self in promoting some outstanding International Service projects during the current year.

Certainly, the ongoing Rotaplast program, which supports the operations and the transportation for the doctors and volunteers who go to Peru to perform over one hundred surgeries to correct the disfiguring conditions known as cleft lip and palates is the most popular International service project in our district. The committee continues to do a terrific job year after year.

The Water Project, led by Russ Kehler and Stan Madson of the Broomall club also raised over \$50,000 to provide clean water in a number of countries and was a great success. There were other great successes notably the Wheelchair project of the Conshohocken Plymouth Whitmarsh club, which provided thousands of wheelchairs in South America, and the shoe project of the Bristol club, providing hundreds of shoes to needy people in India.

The Group Study Exchange committee, under Jack Grant PDG performed double duty by running a program for two exchanges this year. It may have been the first time our district was involved with two exchanges in one year. The work was supported by ten clubs who hosted the Inbound Teams from Mexico and Israel and by numerous Rotarians who found people to apply for the outbound spots. Every year we have great difficulty finding four clubs to host and team members for one exchange. This year, it took an intensive effort to do two exchanges to the great credit of the committee and many clubs in the district. The two teams that just returned are available to the clubs for programs. Why not call Jack and set one up?

The International Service committee, reconstituted under Doug Blazey did an especially fine job in presenting the projects to the district at the Mid-Year Assembly and the District Conference. The committee under his leadership is expected to make even greater strides in the coming year by promoting many club projects going forward.

The Gundaker Foundation and Rotary Foundation, through their matching grant programs, assisted numerous clubs with International projects. In addition, two district Rotarians went on a Polio Plus mission to India and Rebecca Anwar of the Chestnut Hill club continues to make her annual one month visit to assist the orphanage in Guyana.

Thirty eight district Rotarians learned more about International Fellowship by attending the Rotary International convention on Copenhagen Denmark and Malmo Sweden this past month.

District 7450 Conducts the First Election for Governor since 1998 Successfully

It may not seem that the conducting of an election for an organization would be that big a deal, but that is not the case in Rotary. Due to some very strict requirements, the contested and balloted elections for a District Governor in a Rotary District is quite a project. The elections process started in November with an invitation to clubs to recommend candidates and did not end until May when the results were tabulated.

What makes this year's election (the third in the history of the district) so fraught with peril is that the powers in Evanston were on the warpath with campaigning. The Rotary International Nominee for President for the 2007-08 year, from our very next door district, was discharged in a commotion that started with an e-mail, which some say demonstrated that campaigning was going on. Certainly, if they would discharge a President Nominee over an E-Mail, they would have no hesitation in discharging a District Governor designate, whose overzealous friends started sending out e-mails.

In any case, the procedure for conducting an election for Governor is so difficult that it took hours of time for me as your Governor, to learn them. I then had to train everyone else - and fast! Meanwhile, the shenanigans in our district were just starting. Fortunately, most of the Rotarians in the district followed the rules, and in the end, we elected our 2008-09 Governor accordingly.

Internationally, the lawsuit by the first selected President nominee of this election year was thrown out by a Federal judge, and a challenge at the Rotary International convention passed by with hardly a whimper. And just as I predicted, a Governor designate, in a Brazil district, was discharged, with his opponent put in office, over a charge of campaigning.

I thank all the Rotarians in the district for their observance of the rules of Rotary elections and consider it one of our successes as a district this year.

Governor's Notes on recognition – Thank you to every Rotarian in the district who demonstrated SERVICE above self during the 2005-06 year. This was a big year for recognition with Lynmar Brock PRID winning the SERVICE above self award, Jeff Cadorette PDG winning the highest award from the Rotary Foundation, John Schott winning the Global Service to Humanity award for Foundation Alumni. Jay Childress was given the first Rotarian of the Year Award. A couple of dozen district Committee chairs and Club Presidents were recognized for an outstanding job. The largest contributors to the Katrina fund and a number of Rotarians were recognized by the District Rotary Foundation committee. In addition, over 75 club members received Governors citations for their work on the club level. Lastly, our district successfully recommended Gohar Gyulumian from Armenia for a Rotary Peace Scholarship. Rotarians from the Philadelphia Club, the Jenkintown Club and the Northeast Sunrisers were recognized for work on the district conference. Lastly, the outstanding work of the ten Assistant Governors proved to be the glue that held the district together, helping the 53 clubs with tender loving care.

**Successes of the 2005-06 Year have
Origins in the preparation and training during the 2004-05 year**

Demonstrating that preparation can set the groundwork for success, the training in our district that took place during the Centennial year clearly helped the clubs and district during the 2005-06 year. My District trainer was Sandy Costanzo who performed admirably and ran some outstanding programs. Starting way back in the fall of 2004, the class of 2005-06 Assistant Governors went through two and one half days of training with absentees attending makeup sessions. This is the most that the Assistant Governors have ever gone through in our district. In January of 2005, the 2005-06 club Presidents attended the first ever Pre-PETS an event which representatives of 49 clubs participated. This event set the stage for many of our successes including the establishment of Interact and Rotaract Clubs, the establishment of ten host clubs for the two GSE teams, and earlier preparation and planning which took place in the clubs.

For the first time in 2005, Club Presidents were *required* to attend Presidents Elect training (PETS) and the district assembly, unless they were excused and a substitute attended. While most Presidents Elect cooperated, there were a few testy moments and one President Elect had to step down. The result was that all but two clubs were represented at the PETS and all but one club was represented at the District assembly. The make-up PETS had ten Presidents elect in attendance and included those who had only attended PETS for one day.

Another round of preparation took place with the Governor Elect meeting with the Presidents elect, arranged by the Assistant Governors, for ten dinners during February and March of 2005. These dinners were attended by nine Assistant Governors and nearly forty club Presidents Elect. I have no doubt that the time and effort expended on this endeavor was well worth it and helped acclimate the incoming Presidents with the offices of Governor and Assistant Governor.

The District Assembly which took place at Penn State Great Valley, set something of a record with 210 Rotarians in attendance and learning in ten individual workshops on ten different subjects. In this way, club committee chairs received training in the work of their own committee. The District committee training, held in March 2005 was likewise a great success with many new committee members in attendance as well as the individual committee chairs.

In January 2006, the Mid-year Assembly was brought back after a several year absence and was very well attended and received. It was held in conjunction with the the second Pre-PETS, run by Marty Phillips and Elizabeth Rhoads, District trainer.

Another widely promoted program, the Rotary Leadership Institute had outstanding participation from our district in the 2005-06 year and will, no doubt, help Rotary in the years going forward.

District 7450 Rotarians Responded to the Katrina Disaster

Rotary District 7450 Rotarians made an outstanding response to the disaster on the gulf coast immediately after it struck in September of this Rotary year that is now concluding. After the confusion in Rotary surrounding the proper response to the Tsunami disaster which struck in the previous Rotary year, I knew if something happened this year, it would be on our district to step up to the plate. When it struck, there was again great confusion in the Rotary world. The Rotary Foundation has said repeatedly that it is not equipped to render disaster relief. Calls to the Rotary Foundation in the immediate period after the disaster, received a response that money should be sent to the Red Cross and to the Salvation Army. The Governors in Zones 31 and 32 were all scrambling around with lots of E-mails trying to decide what to do.

In our District, I consulted with Nancy Dilibero, President of our Gundaker Foundation and a special fund was set up. Upon my request for \$25 per member contribution, our fund raised over \$58,000. I assigned Russ deFuria DGN the chair of the Community Service committee the task of identifying and delivering projects to the foundation which would enable us to make some significant impact in the affected area. After some initial bumps in the road concerning the philosophy of the program, the committee came up with some outstanding projects in the Biloxi Mississippi area, which pleased the Gundaker Directors who unanimously approved the grants.

This was not the only response in the district. Two clubs, the Media Club and the Swarthmore club actually sent truckloads of material and supplies to the affected area and in some cases were the first responders to certain towns. A number of District Rotarians actually spent time there assisting in the relief efforts. The West Chester Club arranged for housing and support of a poor family for a six month period in the West Chester community. Many clubs arranged for donations to the Salvation Army and the Red Cross including the Westtown Goshen Club which donated \$24,000 to the Red Cross.

I am proud of the large number of District Rotarians who stepped up to the plate and helped people immediately after the worst disaster in America took place.

Governors Final Notes... Thank you to all the Rotarians who sent cards, e-mails, attended the funeral, visited the house of mourning and who made contributions to the Rotary Foundation in memory of the passing of my Dad, Joseph Lankin. The kindness of the Rotarians in the district was overwhelming and deeply appreciated...Here's wishing for great success to Marty Phillips and his team who, I have no doubt, will Lead the Way for all Rotarians to great achievements in the coming Rotary Year. Thanks to Holly, who helped me in so many ways and who is a great Rotarian in her own right. Her work with technology, with the newsletter and District conference was significant and most important. Thanks to Jay Childress for doing such a great job with the website and for helping me communicate with the district. A special Thanks goes out to all the Club Presidents who supported the many initiatives of this year and demonstrated Service Above Self. Thanks to all for letting me serve as your Governor, which proved to be one of the most engaging intense and productive years of my life.

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District Attendance Figures

Club Name	# Members	Mar	Apr	May	% for Year	Club Name	# mbrs	Mar	Apr	May	%/yr	
Ardmore	99	73	75		71	Glen Riddle		0	0	0	6	
Bala-Cynwyd-Narberth	15	0	0		19	Glenside		47	0	0	20	
Bensalem	34	72	72	71	70	Greater W. Chester Sunrise		50	72	69	76	71
Bristol	42	63	64		69	Haverford Township		38	64	60		37
Broomall	0	0	0		0	Jenkintown		83	0			36
Bryn Mawr	25	69	70	72	69	Kennett at Longwood		58	0	0		15
Central Chester						Kennett Square		20	0	63	69	60
City Lionville	35	60	59	59	42	King of Prussia		28	0	0	74	21
Central Delco (formerly Media Sunrisers)	9	0	66		86	Langhorne		30	65	62	57	61
Cheltenham-Rockledge	23	0	54		56	Levittown-Fairless Hills		23	0	66		46
Chester	28	71	64	59	63	Media		0	0	0		0
Chester Pike	29	0	93		42	Newtown Square		35	72	0		62
Chesterbrook	20	91	94	88	89	Northeast Sunrisers		22	0	0		27
Chestnut Hill	0	0	0		0	Octorara		13	0	0		35
Chichester	18	0	60		66	Oxford		12	65	0	62	51
Coatesville	54	69	67	68	66	Paoli-Malvern-Berwyn		31	0	56		43
Concordville-Chadds Ford	52	0	0		21	Philadelphia		107	44	47		46
Conshohocken-Plymouth						Phoenixville		37	53	57	62	56
Whitemarsh	0	0	0		0	Springfield		24	0	0		31
Downingtown	25	60	51		58	Swarthmore		10	0	0		25
Eastwick	14	96	0		59	Thorndale		9	0	86		80
Edge Hill	13	0	60		57	Twin Valley		40	0	0		40
Elkins Park	0	0	0		0	Upper Darby-Lansdowne		43	0	0		34
Exton-Frazer	17	0	63		67	Wayne		25	0	0		46
Feasterville	22	0	67		63	West Chester		136	62	0		62
Frankford-Northeast Phila	43	0	52		39	West Grove-Avondale		25	70	60	70	71
Glen Mills	18	57	52		32	Westtown-Goshen		41	87	90	89	87

Notes on financial matters...I am very pleased to inform you that every single club has paid completely all of their District and Rotary International financial obligations as of this date. This is the first time in many years that the new Governor was able to take office without having past due receivables to deal with. I am also pleased that this year we finally eliminated all of those separate bank accounts and have consolidated all our finances under the direction of the District Treasurer. This was arranged by resolution at our District Conference and will greatly tighten up our financial reporting going forward.

