



Rotary International District 5630

The District Newsletter

www.rotary5630.org


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Much work needed to eliminate the polio scourge worldwide

Courtesy of The Grand Island Independent

By Robert Pore
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As chief executive officer of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Jeff Raikes has traveled worldwide in the organization's effort to eliminate polio.

But, wherever his travels have taken him, Rotary International has been on the scene to help eradicate polio for more than 25 years.

"That is one of the things I really, really admire about Rotary -- your steadfast presence in your fight against polio," he said.

Raikes was in Grand Island on Tuesday, November 20 to speak to more than 300 Rotarians from across Nebraska at Riverside Golf Club.

An Ashland native, Raikes discussed the latest efforts in the PolioPlus Campaign, which is a major project by Rotary International, to end the scourge of polio around the world. The Bill and Melinda Gates Founda-



Jeff Raikes speaks to Rotary members from across Nebraska. Grand Island Independent photo

tion is a major partner with Rotary in eliminating polio worldwide.

"Without Rotary, the global effort would never have come this far," Raikes said. "And at the Gates Foundation, we would have never gotten involved without the leadership of Rotary."

The good news, Raikes said, is that the battle has nearly accomplished its goal.

"We are this close -- 99 percent of the way toward the eradication -- and it is the top priority of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation," he said.

Raikes called it the "next big

milestone in global health and development."

"The world is coming together to do something that is totally amazing -- to protect every single child, everyone from a horrible disease," he said.

According to the World Health Organization, polio is a highly infectious viral disease that mainly affects young children. The virus is transmitted through contaminated food and water and multiplies in the intestines, from where it can invade the nervous system. Many infected people have no symptoms but do excrete the virus in their feces, transmit-

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Raikes on polio

(Continued from page 1)

ting infection to others.

Initial symptoms include fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck and pain in the limbs. In a small proportion of cases, the disease causes paralysis, which is often permanent. Polio can only be prevented by immunization.

Because it takes a group effort to eradicate a disease that has killed millions, Raikes said, the effort against polio will motivate people worldwide to eliminate other deadly diseases, such as malaria, along with improving drinking water and sanitation to eliminate the spread of disease.

"In the next decade, I think we can create a world in which all children get the vaccines," he said.

Raikes said the World Health Organization this year announced polio as a world emergency. He said India, with the world's second-largest population behind China, has been polio-free for 21 months.

"I don't know if you realize how amazing that success is," he said. "In 2009, India had the most polio cases of any country. Everybody thought that India would be the last country that we would fully interrupt transmission."

According to the World Health Organization, so far this year, 187 cases of polio

have been reported in four countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Chad. Nigeria has reported 101 cases of polio. Last year, there were 650 cases of polio reported worldwide in 13 countries.

Raikes said polio programs are "harnessing the power of innovation to improve practices in the field."

After celebrating Thanksgiving with his family in Nebraska, Raikes said, he will be off to Nigeria to coordinate the battle to eradicate polio in Africa's most populated country.

In Nigeria, with the support of Rotary International and the Gates Foundation, he said, they have used geographic information systems to create highly accurate maps that identify entire villages of children who were missed by the old system used to make sure the polio vaccine got where it was needed.

"Technology is going to help us reach tens of thousands of additional children," Raikes said.

But still, he said, the fight to eradicate polio is "harder than we expect."

"That last 1 percent is going to be very difficult and is the hardest point typically in life," he said. "There are places where the disease was eliminated but has returned. There are places where children are repeatedly missed with vaccines. There is also a

very large and growing funding gap despite your (Rotary) great work."

Raikes said his biggest worry isn't that the world isn't moving urgently enough to eliminate polio.

"Scientists agree that, if we don't stamp out every instance of polio, the number of cases will climb into the tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands," he said.

"Then the virus will spread again into other countries where it has been eliminated," Raikes said. "We simply have to finish the job, and Rotary is a critical part of making that happen."

Both Rotary International and the Gates Foundation have pledged additional money to achieve the goal.

Tuesday's program was called "Peace Through Service" and was presented by Rotary Districts 5630 and 5650. Since Rotary instituted its goal of eradicating polio in 1985, the two districts have contributed nearly \$1.7 million. The event was hosted by the Grand Island Rotary Club and coordinated by Ken Gnadt.

Rotary International has raised more than \$1.2 billion since 1985 to combat polio.

Raikes called on Rotary members to be even more dedicated to raising more money and spreading public awareness in the battle to eradicate polio. To give up now would be "devastating,"

he said.

"We need to get this story out and make sure people know what the problem is," Raikes said. "That will take teamwork and continued belief in the cause."

To learn more about Rotary International's fight against polio, visit www.rotary.org. To learn more about the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, visit :

www.gatesfoundation.org.



Jeff Raikes speaks at Joint District 5630/5650 Meeting in Grand Island. Grand Island Independent photo



Edwards: December is for Family

I want to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt holiday greetings to each and everyone in our District 5630 Family of Rotary. I sincerely hope that you experience many blessings and joys during this month dedicated to "Family."

This is a good time for us to review who comprises our Rotary "Family" and why this is so important in the Rotary World. The Rotary Family is made up of fellow club members, spouses, children, parents, spouses of deceased Rotarians, Youth Exchange Students & Families, Interactors/Rotaractors/RYLarians, GSE Team Members, and Ambassadorial Scholars. The focus on family provides avenues for

enjoyment, retention, recruitment, and Foundation support.

I encourage you to involve your own families in Rotary throughout the year with special family oriented social events, participation at club meetings for special programs, assistance at fundraisers and community service projects, and through the hosting of Youth Exchange and GSE Team Members in your homes. These activities can enhance our relationships at home and abroad through building world understanding and "Peace Through Service."

Thank you for the important gifts you offer in support of "family" at home, in your com-



District Governor Dian Edwards

munity, and throughout the Rotary World.

In Service of Rotary,

Dian



ing your cake and eating it too. This fund gives a good return on your money. Support this fund if you can.

The Permanent Fund is Rotary's endowment. Gifts given to this fund will be there forever. Only the interest from the fund is used. The principal is never spent. This is a way for you to have your gift help for forever. We have not given very much to this fund in the past. I hope it will get more support in the future.

Now that the year is about to end I want to thank all of you for your support of Rotary. You are doing a great job of helping the needy of the world. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

"Thank you for the important gifts you offer ..."

Three Ways to Give to Foundation

By Frank Sibert
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The end of the year is upon us. November is about to close and December will go fast. The Foundation needs help and you are the one to lend the support.

You can choose from three funds. They are the Polo Plus Fund, the Annual Fund and the Permanent Fund.

I was at the meeting in Grand Island where Jeff Raikes presented a learned report on Polo Plus. He informed us that we were almost there in eradicating Polo but that now is not the time to let down. He stated that if we don't complete the job now

that Polo could be back where we started in a few years.

Rotary has done a great job in stamping out this dreaded sickness. Now is not the time to stop your support. Please give to Polo Plus. Give all you can.

The Annual Fund is the sharing fund. Money given to the Annual Fund is invested for three years, which pays the overhead. At the end of the three-year period, one-half of the gift is returned to the District and the other one-half goes to the World Fund.

The half that is returned to the District may be used by your club for grants to worthy causes of your choice. Gifts to the Annual Fund are like hav-

"Gifts to the Annual Fund are like having your cake and eating it too. "

Election Reminder

Reminder to All Rotary Clubs

Plan to hold your annual club election for officers and board members no later than December 31, 2012.

Presidents-Elect and Presidents-Elect-Nominees are reminded to mark calendars for 2013 PETS to be held at the Denver Marriott Technology Center on March 1-3, 2013. See detail on flyer coming soon by email.

Club President Elects and President Elect Nominees: Start Planning for PETS

By Jean Issler
District Administrative Assistant/PETS Registrar
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The President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) is on slate for March 1-3. This information-packed weekend is an essential part of preparing for your year as president of your club.

President Elects (PE) are required to attend by the District. President Elect Nominees (PEN) are warmly encouraged to attend.

Having been the registrar for PETS for three years, I'm getting familiar with items that trip people up during the registration process. Following are some tips that may make your registration experience go smoothly.

1. **Know what you are:** PE or PEN. PE means that you will be club president on July 1, **2013**.

PEN means that you be president on July, **2014**.

2. **Know who you are taking with you.** This sounds facetious, but people get confused and register their spouse or partner as a PE. Do your registration first, then add a person and choose the NON-PE/spouse/partner option.
3. **You can only register on line;** if using the internet site is a problem let me know and I will register you.
4. **Comp Codes** are for the PETS Planning Committee. Ignore it if you are asked for a comp code.
5. **Have your credit/debit card handy when registering.** If you must pay by check, mail it right away.
6. **Call or email me if you have any problems** with your registration.

Roommates

Rooms at PETS cost about \$100; if you share, it's \$50/person. PEs are reimbursed by the District at \$50 per person. You are encouraged to have a roommate to share the cost.

If you don't find a roommate on your own, let me know I will try to match you either with someone from our district or with someone from one of our sister districts.

If you are planning to have a roommate, tell the hotel when you make your reservation.

PETS Registration Link:

<http://www.regonline.com/2013PETS>

Call or email me for assistance. This is one of the rare times I encourage evening calls; if you're on line, call and we'll get the registration done!

PETS Flyer with complete information will be emailed to PEs and PENs within a week.



Fundraising, Training, Education and Travel: Rotarians Always Active



International Travel Stipends

The District 5630 Budget includes an allocation of \$1,000 to assist Rotarians with travel expenses associated with International Projects.

These stipends will be awarded as equitably as possible based on the number of requests received. Please submit requests for these stipends to DG Dian Edwards, by January 31, 2013.

These requests should include a description of the project as it relates to one or more of the six focus areas of humanitarian service, the international travel itinerary, and a statement of the applicant's agreement to develop and submit a program report following completion of the travel.

For more information, contact Dian Edwards, dg5630.2012@gmail.com.

DGE Duane Tappe and his wife Diana walk in the one-mile race of McCook Rotary club's Fourth Annual Race to End Polio. The event, held October 27, raised over \$1300.



Eight Rotarians participated in the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) held last month at Cabela's in Sidney. RLI is a three-part program designed to help develop Rotary leaders. Participants in the day-long session are (front, l-r) Lana Balka, Chappell; Jana Osborn, Alliance; Shaun Meyer, Grant; (back) Matt Moore, Sidney; Lynda Parson, Kimball; Kellie Soden, McCook; Ronna Morse, Valentine and Bill Bryan, Imperial.



The Youth Exchange selection team interviewed candidates and their parents for the 2013-14 program on November 17 in North Platte. These Rotarians and Rotexes (former exchange students) selected ten students. Six were accepted into the long term exchange program and four students were selected to participate in the short term exchange program. Team members are (front, l-r) Rotex Jolyn Richardson, Curtis; Diane Herman, Curtis; Rotex Dakota Bergen, Paxton; Rotex Matt Kramer, Hastings; and AG John Hales, North Platte Noon; (back, l-r) Brent Gollner, Hastings Sunrise; DGN Koby Rickertsen, Gothenburg Noon; Rotex Esther Petersen, Valentine; Steve Herman, Curtis; Dick Witt, Hastings Sunrise; Rotex Cressy Daharsh, Gothenburg Noon; Glenn Knuth, Grand Island Sunrise; and Roger Wess, Chadron.

CEO Jeff Raikes Tells Polio Story from Gates Foundation Perspective

By Delane Wycoff
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Rotary leaders from across Nebraska gathered in Grand Island November 20 for a luncheon event honoring the leadership of Jeff Raikes, CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In his keynote address, Raikes recalled his roots growing up on a Nebraska farm near Ashland and early experiences, which influenced his values and his current leadership at the helm of the world's largest transparently operated private foundation. Raikes also praised the remarkable work of Rotary International around the world and extolled the mutual efforts of Rotary and the Gates Foundation as partners and leaders in the global polio eradication initiative. In recounting the struggles and successes of the campaign against polio during the last several years, Raikes recounted personal stories which were compelling and inspirational. Several attendees said afterwards that they had gained new information and motivation to work toward the unfinished goal of eliminating polio entirely.

During his remarks, Raikes praised the persistence and determination of Rotarians in keeping on through long years of continued efforts to bring polio immunizations to even the least accessible



parts of the world. He emphasized that efforts must continue until the job is done. Failure to eliminate even just one remaining case of polio risks letting the disease spread back into the world and could infect as many as 20,000 people in as little as ten years. He said that some experts in the world polio eradication effort are now hopeful that the world could eliminate polio in about three years. Immunizations and intense monitoring would be required for another two years beyond that to check carefully for any previously undetected polio virus that may have survived. If and when polio is fully eradicated, there will be a marvelous health benefit to uncounted numbers of people who will never be afflicted with this dread disease. Furthermore there will also be a great economic benefit when polio vaccines

are no longer needed. The infrastructure put in place to accomplish polio immunization should also remain in place to provide other health services including immunizations for other diseases and nutritional supplements needed in some areas to assure healthy growth and development. However, the success of polio eradication remains at risk because of severe funding shortages in many under-immunized parts of the world. As of September 27, Rotary International has pledged \$75 million in new contributions toward the eradication effort.

Jeff Raikes, CEO of The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, speaks to Rotarians from Districts 5630 and 5650 in Grand Island.





Interact Members Join International Polio Trip

By Delane Wycoff
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Ogallala Interact Club Plans Polio Trip to India

Attending the Grand Island event with Jeff Raikes were representatives of the Ogallala Interact club. This club is raising funds to send four of their members and one adult chaperone to India in February to participate in a National Immunization Day.

They will travel with a group of Rotarians led by Dale Schultz of the Hastings Sunrise club. Dale has traveled previously to India on a similar immunization trip and will be sharing the benefit of his experience with the Rotari-

ans and Interact members representing District 5630.

The estimated costs for this trip will run approximately \$2700 per person and so far the girls have raised approximately \$4000.

In addition to fundraising, they have built an awareness campaign to end polio. Recently, a press release, which followed a letter to the editor, was featured in the local newspaper. Additionally, they were on the local radio talk show Mid-West Opinions. Other publicity and fundraising letters are planned.

India has not had a case of polio in nearly two years. However, regular vaccinations are critical to protect-

ing the younger children not previously vaccinated, especially since polio is widespread in Pakistan, which borders India.

The polio project chair, Christine Allen, says, "Our Interact Club Motto the last two years has been: 'Be the change you want to make in the world.' After four years in Interact, I found a reason to be the change and end polio."

Below: (l-r) Christine Allen, Maddie McQuillan, Brooke Robertson and Abigail Allen (not pictured) display the "This Close" symbol, showing how close the world is to being free of polio. They are members of the Ogallala Interact club planning a trip to India for a National Immunization Day in February.

*"Be the
change you
want to make
in the world.*

—Gandhi





Peace
Through Service

Rotary Districts 5440, 5450, 5470, 5630

invite you to the

Rotary International President's Dinner

Keynote Speaker and Special Guest

RI President Sakuji Tanaka

Speaking on Rotary's 2012-2013 Theme

PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

January 4, 2013

Social Hour 6:00 p.m. • Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Sheraton Denver West Hotel

360 Union Boulevard • Lakewood, CO

- NEW LOCATION • IMPROVED ACOUSTICS •
- GREAT FOOD • ROTARY FELLOWSHIP • FREE PARKING •



President tanaka's remarks will be projected on a large screen in English so you will not miss any of his message

Register for Dinner: Rotary5450.org • \$60.00 pp • \$70.00 pp after December 10

Special Room Rates for Sheraton Denver West \$89.00

Register for Hotel: www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/RotaryInternational

