

Rotary International District 5630

The District Newsletter

www.rotary5630.org



2012-2013 District 5630 Executive Committee

District Governor, 2012-2013

Dian Edwards
dg5630.2012@gmail.com

District Governor-Elect

Duane Tappe
dg5630.2013@gmail.com

District Governor Nominee

Koby Rickertsen
dg5630.2014@gmail.com

District Secretary

Jean Issler
rotary5630@gmail.com

District Treasurer

Todd Adams
dspring2@charter.net

District Trainer

Loraine Lawler
rololawler@charter.net

Immediate Past District Governor

Ron Bazata
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District Office

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“Literacy is a bridge to hope...”

Rotary International directs our attention to **Literacy** issues during the month of March. Basic Education and Literacy is one of the six Humanitarian Areas of Focus that Rotary International has identified as a foundation for The Rotary Foundation (TRF) grant funding model. Literacy and poverty are closely connected, and at least 1.2 billion poor people cannot read or write. Rotarians around the world partner with local schools to give children better opportunities.

Our district has embraced “The Dictionary Project” as one way for our clubs to support literacy objectives on a community level. We elevated “The Dictionary Project” as one of district goals this year in the hope that we could insure that all third graders in our district receive a dictionary of their own from Rotarians or some other resource that also supports this program. Clubs in our district also support a variety of Literacy projects on an international scale.

We would like to know more about the Literacy projects that your club is supporting in

your community or in other parts of the Rotary world. In the next few weeks, club presidents will receive a survey from our District Literacy Chair Amy Shane. Please take time to complete and return this survey so we can share ideas and collaborate in support of similar projects with one another. If you haven’t already done so, you may also want to include **all** of your club projects in the Rotary Showcase available through RI’s Member Access site.

Basic Education and Literacy is also the vocational focus area chosen for the Group Study Exchange (GSE) that our District will conduct with Brazilian District 4580 in April, May, and June this year. The inbound team of educators from Brazil will arrive in our district in mid-April. Our clubs in Broken Bow, Curtis/North Platte Sunrise, O’Neill, Chadron, and Grant will host them. These clubs are busy preparing hospitality and educational exchange opportunities for our guest GSE Team. Our outbound team of educators from our district will leave for their exchange experience in Brazil in mid-May. We are



District Governor Dian Edwards

looking forward to hearing from both of these GSE Teams at our District Conference in O’Neill on April 27, 2013.

Many of you know that PDG Bill Ballou loves books and has a burning passion for International Service Projects. During the past few weeks, Bill has been sharing his enthusiasm with me about a project that provides a way for discarded textbooks to be salvaged, stored, sorted, and loaded into sea containers bound for countries in southern Africa, Central and South America, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. This is an example of a project that falls squarely under the Basic Education and Literacy focus category. If you would like

(Continued on page 2)

Literacy...

(Continued from page 1)



more information about this project, Bill encourages you to contact him and look at the information located at this link:

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/story/StoryDetail.aspx?accountid=6721&sid=247250&stid=>

In closing, here is a quote by Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian diplomat and the seventh Secretary

-General of the United Nations and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize recipient: *“Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories. Literacy is a platform for democratization, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. Especially for girls and women, it is*

an agent of family health and nutrition. For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right...Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.”

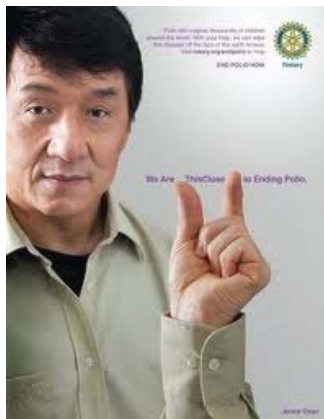
In Service of Rotary,

Dian
Dian Edwards

Polio Plus Fund Challenge

By Ron Bazata
2011-2012 District Governor
(308) 233-4093 or
(308) 236-9055

Many of you are aware that I was able to help secure a \$25,000 donation to the Polio-Plus fundraising effort from the Bowman Advised Fund in Kearney.



The Bowman family is a prominent local family who have experienced the poliovirus first hand and wanted to join Rotary in their global efforts. Since the gift was indirectly initiated from our Kearney Noon club, I was able to suggest the Paul Harris points be made available for a match with our District Rotarians contributions.

The effort started with the Kearney clubs and the opportunity to participate in the challenge is available to all

District 5630 Rotarians on a first come first serve basis. The only gifts that would be accepted but not matched are from those Rotarians who have reached Major Donor status or are with \$1,000 of Major Donor status, which means that they have personally given \$10,000 to the Rotary Foundation. For those who would like to accept this challenge, I would like to have you send your checks made payable to “The Rotary Foundation,” noting PolioPlus on the check, for any amount of a minimum of \$100 to a maximum of \$500, and send it to:

Ron Bazata
P. O. Box 175
Kearney NE 68848

I would like to have all contributions by March 31, 2013.

Obviously, anyone who gives \$500 would be receive a match

of \$500 and receive a Paul Harris Fellow. Please check the Rotary website to see how close you are to a Paul Harris and take advantage of this special opportunity to help us leverage this wonderful gift! Please call me with any questions.

The O'Neill Rotary Club is pleased to host the

2013 District 5630 Conference

April 26-28, 2013

Plan to arrive early on Friday to attend the pre-conference workshop on the new grant funding model.

- Print off, complete, and mail the registration form in this newsletter with payment to Conference Chair (mailing address on form) or register online at <https://district5630conference.eventbrite.com>.
- Make your lodging arrangements before blocks of reserved rooms are released.
- Questions? Call Conference Co-Chair Nicole Sedlacek at 402-336-1504.

Top Ten Reasons to Attend

1. Network, socialize, make new friends.
2. Meet Group Study Exchange Teams.
3. Hear our District 5630 NID Polio Team Report.
4. Meet Youth Exchange Students.
5. Learn more about New Generations in Rotary.
6. Meet winner of Four-Way Test Essay Contest.
7. Discover new avenues of humanitarian service.
8. Have a rockin' good time with The Rumbles.
9. Be entertained by comedian Jason Huneke.
10. Enjoy the hospitality of O'Neill, the Irish Capital of Nebraska!





Rotary District 5630
2012-13 District Conference
O'Neill Community Center

Registration Form

A block of rooms is reserved at the following hotels/motels:

Holiday Inn Express

(Block held until March 12th)
 1020 E. Douglas, 402-336-4500
 Rate: \$99.99 (King)

Super 8 Motel

(Block held until April 8th)
 106 E. U.S. Hwy 20, 402-336-3100
 Rate: \$65.00 (King, Queen, or Double)

Other Motels in O'Neill:

- Carriage House Motel,
929 E. Douglas, 402-336-3403
- Elms Motel
414 E. U.S. Highway 20, 402-336-3800
- Golden Hotel
406 E. Douglas, 402-336-4436

2013 Conference Program

Unless Noted Otherwise,
 All Sessions Held at

O'Neill Community Center
S. Hwy. 281 • 501 South 4th Street
O'Neill, NE

Friday, April 26

9:30-11:30 a.m. Grant Funding Workshop
12 Noon Registration Desk & House of Friendship Opens
1:00 p.m. District 5630 Business Session
2:30 p.m. Community Activities
Sign up (reverse side of form) in advance for one of the activities listed below:

Tour Garden Fresh Vegetables • Tour Shamrock Nursery • Golf at O'Neill Country Club • Blue Rock Shoot at O'Neill Gun Club

5:30 p.m. Social Hour
6:30 p.m. Dinner Event
 Speaker: John Baylor
 Topic: *Remedies for the Revitalization of Rotary in Rural Nebraska*
8:30 p.m. Dance to the RUMBLES

Saturday, April 27

7:30 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
 Speaker: Kevin Kush
 Topic: *The Eight Traits of a Quality Team*
9:15 a.m. PDG David Moyers, D5280, RI President's Representative
 Topic: *"Peace Through Service"*

Saturday, April 27 (continued)

10:15 a.m. Committee Reports
 • Membership • International Service
 • Community Service • Literacy
 • Information Technology • Public Image
 • Vocational Service

12 Noon Buffet Lunch
 Speaker: Tanner Odell

Topic: *Engaging Rotary's New Generation*
1:15 p.m. New Generations
 • Youth Exchange • RYLA
 • Interact • Rotaract

3:15 p.m. Group Study Exchanges and Humanitarian Service Projects
 Polio National Immunization Day Team
6:00 p.m. Historic Depot Building Reception Honoring
DGE Duane Tappe & Diana

7:00 p.m. Governor's Banquet
 • Parade of PEs
 • Awards
 • McCook Conference

9:00 p.m. Entertainment
 Jason Huneke, Magician/Comedian

Sunday, April 28

7:30 a.m. Memorial Service
8:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
 Speaker: Andy Hoffman

Topic: *"Team Jack"*
9:15 a.m. The Rotary Foundation
 • Future Vision
 • PolioPlus
 • TRF in D5630

11:00 a.m. *State of Rotary in the World*
 Speaker: RIP Representative David Moyers
11:30 a.m. Conference Closing Ceremony

Each registrant (Rotarians, guests, and spouses) should complete an individual form, and return with payment to :

Nicole Sedlacek, President
O'Neill Rotary Club
P. O. Box 543
O'Neill, NE 68763
Phone/Fax: 402-336-1504
Email: nicole@holtcountyn Nebraska.com

To pay with credit card, please register online.
<https://district5630conference.eventbrite.com>
(Online surcharge fees will be applied.)

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Rotary Club: _____



Full Conference Registration: \$100.00 _____

-OR-

Register By Individual Event:

Friday Dinner and Dance: \$25.00 _____

Saturday Breakfast: \$15.00 _____

Saturday Lunch: \$20.00 _____

Saturday Governor's Banquet: \$30.00 _____

Sunday Breakfast: \$15.00 _____

Total Fees to be Remitted _____

Please indicate your entrée choice if attending the Governor's Banquet

Ribeye Salmon Vegetarian

4-Cheese Bacon Wrapped Chicken

Check All That Apply:

_____ Past District Governor (Year _____)

_____ Assistant Governor

_____ Club President

_____ Club President-Elect

_____ Past Club President

_____ Paul Harris Fellow

_____ Foundation Major Donor

_____ Foundation Benefactor

_____ Foundation Bequest Society

_____ Interact

_____ Rotaract

_____ Youth Exchange Student

_____ Group Study Exchange Team

Pre-Conference Workshop

Friday, April 26, 2013 • 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Attend this workshop to insure that your club will be qualified to participate in the grant funding model.

Optional Community Activities

Sign up for these optional activities scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2013, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Tour Garden Fresh Vegetables

Tour Shamrock Nursery

Golf at O'Neill Country Club

\$27 green fee includes one round and two-man cart to be collected on site.

Shotgun start at 2:30 p.m.

Blue Rock Shoot at O'Neill Gun Club

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3. Hear our District 5630 NID Polio Team Report.
4. Meet Youth Exchange Students.
5. Learn more about New Generations in Rotary.
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10. Enjoy the hospitality of O'Neill, the Irish Capital of Nebraska!

Polio Eradication Progress Report

Submitted by Delane Wycoff
Polio Plus Chair
delanew@charter.net
308-532-4797

As the second month of 2013 draws to an end, we are getting an early idea of possible polio cases for this year. Preliminary reports for the first two months of the year show four cases in Pakistan, 1 case in Afghanistan and two cases in Nigeria. There have been, so far, no cases reported in nearby countries where breakouts have occurred in recent years.

Total world cases for 2013 now number seven compared to 20 in the same period last year. That is less than half of last year's count and almost 1/3 of last year. However, there are still 10 months remaining in the year and last year's world total was 223 cases. Perhaps 2013 will be the first year in history with fewer than 100 cases.

IMMUNIZATION EFFORTS

Immunization efforts are continuing in India, now polio free for two years. With active cases in neighboring Pakistan, immunizations must continue to avoid re-spreading the disease into India or any other country. Vaccination efforts in Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are being focused on the "hot spots" in territories where recent cases have occurred and in areas where

monitoring shows the virus to be present in the sewage (and sometimes in the local drinking water).

Violence against vaccination workers continues to keep the challenges high. On Tuesday, February 26, two women administering polio vaccine had just entered a house when they came under gunfire in the outskirts of Mardan. The women were unhurt, but their police bodyguard was killed. This brings the total deaths to 10 in Pakistan due to violence against vaccination programs.

FUNDRAISING

How does your club stand with Rotary International's TOP PRIORITY (World Polio Eradication)? Our District is asking every club to raise a MINIMUM of \$50 per member between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

We are hoping most clubs will actually exceed \$100 per member. It appears possible that as many as four clubs will exceed \$200 per member. Only four months remain to reach this goal!

Rotary depends on our members to do our fair share in helping to meet the \$75 million of additional funding that was committed in September to support the polio eradication effort. Thanks for all you do for Rotary!



Above: A fresh polio case in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Below: A polio worker travels with a police officer on his motorbike in Karachi.



PolioPlus Team Assists with Immunization Day in India

By Paul Witt
Hastings Sunrise Rotary

District 5630 representatives Dale Schultz and Paula Witt from Hastings Sunrise and Connie Francis from Kearney Dawn represented Rotary District 5630 at India's PolioPlus campaign in Delhi on February 24. This team also had Interact members from Ogallala. (See article on page 8) The Nebraska team joined representatives from Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Japan and Australia for this international effort.

Upon arriving in Delhi February 23, the Nebraska team met with Rhaman Bhatia, the head of the Polio Committee of India. Bhatia is one of the first Rotarians involved in the effort to eradicate polio in India. He briefed the team on the current state of PolioPlus, a campaign started in 1995 as an international effort. PolioPlus combines the resources of Rotary International, World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the Bill Gates Foundation, as well as the government of India.

One Sunday each month, for ten months a year, Rotary Clubs in India sponsor thousands of immunization sites to offer 172 million doses of oral polio bivalent vaccine to infants and children under the age of five years. This one-day effort receives broad government support in a highly publicized, work-intensive effort. All young children are monitored, recorded and have follow-up.

Officials have learned that many Indian children require up to as many as twenty or more doses of this vaccine in order to acquire adequate immunity to the crippling disease. Therefore, all

children are encouraged to participate in as many campaigns as possible throughout the year.

According to Bhatia, local Rotarians are renewed and encouraged by the international Rotary teams who volunteer to be part of this intensive and decades-long effort.

The 65 Rotary Clubs in Delhi sponsor more than 1100 sites in the metropolitan area of 11.7 million people. Clinic sites included schools, temples, health clinics, metro stops, and any other sites that families can easily access.

The Nebraska team was assigned to three different sites in Northwest Delhi, two in schools and one in a low-income housing complex. At each site, 200-230 doses were administered. The team also distributed 750 pairs of infant and child socks to families along with the immunizations.

Parents and older siblings brought children to the clinics for the vaccine doses that are administered by drops in the mouth. Witt said the team was impressed by the commitment of families to participate in this effort. Young children readily opened their mouths to receive their doses, without fear or intimidation.

On Monday following the Immunization Day, Rotary volunteers joined teams of nurses assigned to each neighborhood to follow-up door-to-door for children who may have been missed. These were generally families with very young infants. The Nebraska team was assigned to a housing complex with 196 homes.

Each member was profoundly influenced by the experience.

Schultz made this same trip last year by himself. He said he was pleased to return with a team this time and to be an inspiration to other local Rotary members.

Schultz is convinced that India will be declared polio-free if they are able to complete 2013 without a new polio case. He said he sees this international effort by Rotary and other partners as an awesome experience. "I feel honored to be a part of something far bigger and more important than I can imagine," he said.

Francis was inspired by the realization that we are all part of one world. "While our appearances and dress may be different, and the language may have a "foreign" sound," she said, "a smile transcends all barriers." Francis called it her privilege to meet so many Indian children and their families and to make personal connections.

Witt, who is a nurse, said she was impressed by the total buy-in at all levels for India's national effort to eradicate polio. The intensive and coordinated efforts over the past seventeen years from the government, politicians, health care providers and researchers, communities, tribal and religious leaders, and individual families was nothing short of phenomenal in her view.

Witt said she saw health care provided "differently," yet effectively and was inspired by the words of one father, "You are giving drops of life!"



Top: Connie Francis administers polio vaccine to a young boy.
Middle: Vaccine dropper bottles next to a volunteer's cap.
Bottom: A whole family arrives at the immunization clinic...on one motorcycle.



India Immunization Interact-Style

By Cindi Allen
Ogallala Interact Sponsor

Editor's Note: Dale Schultz of Hastings Sunrise went on a National Immunization Day trip to India last year. He returned this year with a team including Rotarians Connie Francis of Kearney Dawn and Paula Witt of Hastings Sunrise. Cindi Allen of Ogallala was also on the trip with four Ogallala Interact members.

Through advocacy efforts, India has adopted National Immunization Day (NID). Each year thousands of volunteers from around the world come to administer polio vaccines to children under five years old. Consequently, India is entering their third year of no reported cases of polio in the country. India last reported one case of polio in 2011, dropping from 50,000 cases in 1994.

Ogallala Interact, a youth organization under Rotary made the decision to join the effort to end polio in the world. In October, three In-

teract members, Maddie McQuillian, Brooke Robertson and Christine Allen, together with Interact Sponsor Cindi Allen and Past Interact President Abigail Allen determined to travel to India during NID to administer vaccines to children. Why? Because they saw the world as one – especially the world's children.

The cost was daunting. However, undeterred, the group decided to launch a fundraising campaign. The rest is history. February 23rd in the middle of a predicted snowstorm, the group left for India, flying out of Denver.

"The children we vaccinated will never know our names or see our faces again, but they will live a life free from the deadly disease of polio," remarked team member Abigail Allen.

After the first day with the children and fellow Rotarians from India, the team was overwhelmed. When they returned to their hotel room, they could only share emotions and cry.

The next day the team joined a door-to-door campaign and once again, a spirit

of amazement overtook them. "To have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and see their smiles," remarked team member Brooke Robertson, "makes me feel thankful for Rotarians around the world."

Christine Allen walked up a dark stairway of an apartment building to find a child – determined not to leave any behind. Maddie McQuillian, a high school junior remarked, "I can see the importance of education. Education overcame many of the fears, and misled beliefs the people had about the polio vaccine. And after seeing so much poverty, I am going to go home and tell my teachers - I'm sorry for not working harder."

Cindi Allen, Ogallala Interact Sponsor was proud of her group of young people. "We are getting old in Rotary. It's time to pass our vision onto our youth." From the children of India, and the group of five known as the Interact India Polio Team - many thanks go to the generosity of Rotarians and Rotary Clubs in District 5630. We are this close to making history - eradicating polio in the world.



NID Team Will Report at District Conference



These are pictures posted on Facebook by Dale Schultz while he and his National Immunization Day (NID) Team were in India. Our Rotarian team members are Dale Schultz, Connie Francis, Paula Witt, Cindi Allen, and four Ogallala Interact Club Members, Abigail Allen, Maddie McQuillian, Brooke Robertson, and Christine Allen.

Be sure to plan on attending the District Conference on April 27 in O'Neill to hear their full report.

DG Dian

WHAT: Rotary District 5630's District Assembly

WHEN: Saturday, March 23, 2013,

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - with possible early dismissal

WHERE: Computer Lab 254 W., West Center Building, West Campus
University of Nebraska Kearney,
Kearney, NE

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Club Presidents, Presidents Elect, Foundation Chairs, Treasurers, anyone interested in applying for District Grants during the 2013-2014 Rotary year.

COST: Free

TOPICS to be covered:

Member Access - on line with Rotary International

Foundation Grants - new, streamlined, simplified - something for every club!!

Computers will be available or bring your own.

REQUIRED: Club Memorandum of Understanding for Foundation Grant Cycle 2013-2014 signed by current Club President and President-Elect due by March 23, 2013. May be turned in at the District Assembly. CMOU may be accessed at http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/fv_club_mou_en.pdf

Remember - certification and memorandum required by RI for 2013-2014 Grants.

Network with other Rotarians as we complete the transition to the new Rotary Foundation Grant process. Go ROTARY!

RSVP: Loraine Lawler, District Trainer, rololawler@charter.net, 308.754.8195

District Assembly
March 23

District Attendance at PETS “Requirement for the Job”

By Duane Tappe
District Governor Elect
413 Seminole
McCook, NE 69001
dg5630.2013@gmail.com
308.345.7650 Home
308.737.1313 Cell

Unless we get a ton of snow again, many of us will be back in our Nebraska cities and towns recuperating from the Denver PETS (President – Elect Training Seminar). District leaders truly hope that this has been a positive experience for our incoming club presidents and that their new information and ideas will help them to hit the ground running when their

turn comes to lead their clubs.

Not all clubs had a representative at Denver for this training and that is unfortunate. Some folks had scheduling conflicts and a few chose not to respond by not registering for this event that is paid for by their club. A few are attending PETS in other locations as that is what RI requests that we do in order to get the training.

The lesson for all of us is for each Club to be very careful when choosing an incoming president and make it very clear that attending PETS is a requirement for the job. It

helps to build stronger clubs and ultimately a stronger District 5630 if we are all on the same page.

Speaking of leadership opportunities, I would like to remind you past presidents and club leaders that there are always many opportunities to serve at the District level. If you have a particular skill or interest and want to serve at the district level, please let me know.

As somebody’s grandma used to say, “Many hands make light work.”

2013 High Country PETS

District 5630’s president-elects gathered with president-elects from four other districts at the 2013 President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) held at the Denver Marriott Technology Center on March 1-3, 2013.

The purpose of this conference is to receive training and the latest information about Rotary International programs. District Governor Elect Duane Tappe, District Trainer Loraine Lawler, District Governor Koby

Rickertsen, District Governor Dian Edwards, Assistant Governors, and other district leaders provided guidance and assistance regarding district specific program planning.



Left: Assistant Governor Jerry Milner (Grand Island Rotary, noon) visits with President-Elect Tom Gaschler (Imperial Rotary) in the District hospitality suite on Friday evening, 2013 High Country PETS In Denver. Right: District Governor Nominee Koby Rickertsen, District Governor Dian Edwards, and District Governor Elect Duane Tappe at the PETS check-in desk.

Imperial Rotary Hosts Lebanese Dinner

By Cheryl Bryan
Imperial

Here in Nebraska, clean drinking water is as close as the nearest sink or water fountain. That's not the case in most of the public schools in Lebanon, where the only available water has been polluted with algae, rust, and other contaminants that gather in the school's water supply.

In cooperation with the North Platte Noon club, the Imperial Rotary Club is raising funds to install a water filtration system in one of the schools in Saida, Leba-

non (the ancient Sidon mentioned in the Old Testament). The project was initiated by Rotarians in Lebanon, who to date have installed 148 systems, representing just 11% of the 1360 Lebanese public schools in need of such filters.

On Friday, February 22, Imperial residents who donated to the project were treated to a dinner of Lebanese food prepared by members of the Imperial Rotary Club. Included on the menu were Chicken Shawarma (gyros), Fish Tagine, tabbouleh (parsley-bulgur-tomato salad), hummus (sesame

seed paste and ground garbanzo beans) with pita chips, whole wheat pita pockets, cucumber salad in yogurt dressing, and a dessert of pistachio-almond ice cream. Members of the Interact Club helped decorate the room and serve the dinners under the leadership of Rotary sponsor Annette Kasselmann and Interact President Suzy Kasselmann.

President Bill Bryan presented a slide show about the water project and the Chase County High School's show choir, the 9th Street Singers, performed.



Top: Rotary club in Lebanon with water tank. Above: Lebanese children at water taps.

Chadron Rotary Assists with Dam in India

By Chadron Rotary Club

A groundbreaking ceremony in central India this month colorfully marked a major step in a joint effort involving the Chadron Rotary Club to construct three "check dams" in central India.

Check dams are commonly used in India to raise the water level within the banks of a stream. This in turn raises the ground water level and sub-irrigates adjacent fields, which boosts crop yields.

The Chadron Rotary Club and the Amravati Rotary Club in Maharashtra, India initiated the project to build three check dams in the Melghat Tribal Area near Amravati. The two Rotary Clubs each donated \$1,000 toward the \$11,000.00 project.

Other contributions came from the Western Nebraska Rotary District and the Indian Rotary District of the Amravati Rotary Club, and from The Rotary Foundation and Rotary Foundation India, and from two Indian organizations, the Navjeevan Society, Chikhaldara, and The Late Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Polytechnic in Amravati.

The check dam project involved more than just a pooling of funds from the various groups. A signature service of Rotary International is promoting and organizing international exchanges. Members of the Chadron check dam project committee, Ron Miller, Kerry Bailey, John Parton and Roger Wess, are planning a trip to India late next summer to inspect the dam sites and hopefully be part of the dedication of one of the three completed dams. While the check dam project will bring about cultural exchange, the project also grew out of a Rotary Exchange. The groundbreaking for the first of the three check dams brought to reality the idea of Indian Rotarian Kishabhau Godbole, who suggested the Joint Club Check Dam Project to Chadron Rotarian Ron Miller while Miller was leading a Rotary Group Study Exchange in India in 2011.

(The check dam project falls within two of Rotary International's six areas of focus in service projects: economic and community development, and water and sanitation.

Other Rotary areas of focus are peace and conflict resolution,

disease prevention and treatment, maternal and child health, and basic education and literacy. Related to basic education, in early May the Chadron Rotary Club will host a Rotary Group Study Exchange Team of four teachers from Brazil. Later in May a western Nebraska GSE Team, including Ingrid Anderson and Jesse Sealey of Chadron, will travel



Top: A typical check dam. Below: This photo of the groundbreaking ceremony illustrates some of the cultural differences between the U.S. and India. A Rotary Club member spreads flower petals as an offering for success of the project. In India, prayer at public events is normal and religion and other areas of life are not separate. Busses and taxis commonly have religious pictures displayed inside. Work sites typically have altars and prayer sites and small chapels sit prominently on the grounds of factories.

Foundation Chair Shares the Good News

By Frank Sibert
District Foundation Chair
402-389-0271
fjs@rcom-ne.com

This E-mail arrived on February 22.. It tells a story that I would like to share with all Rotarians Please read it and feel good about yourself.

Frank Sibert RDFC

This past year was one of major accomplishments for Rotary and your Rotary Foundation.

Extraordinary progress was made toward the eradication of polio. We made history when India was removed from the list of polio-endemic countries — leaving just Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. A difficult road lies ahead, but thanks to the commitment and generosity of Rotarians and friends, we are confident that Rotary will lead the way toward a polio-free world.

We also expanded Rotary's reach in new and effective ways by entering into partnerships with Mercy Ships and UNESCO-IHE. And we built on our record of humanitarian service by continuing our strong relationships with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, Aga Khan University, Oikocredit and the Rotary Peace Centers.

Over half a million young people worldwide participated in our New Generations programs. Their involvement in Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotaract and Interact clubs, and RYLA events helped them develop skills that they'll need to become service-minded community and global leaders - and future Rotarians.

In 2012, The Rotary Foundation also earned top marks from several independent charity evaluators, including the American Institute of Philanthropy, Charity Navigator and the Wise Giving Alliance.

As we look ahead, we can be proud of all that Rotarians have accomplished. I am pleased to share the digital version of the [2011-12 Rotary International and Rotary Foundation Annual Report \(click here\)](#), which offers a firsthand look at how Rotarians are working to improve the lives of people in need. I encourage you to review our annual report carefully, and to share it with others who may be interested in joining, partnering with, or donating to Rotary.

Thank you for helping Rotary achieve lasting change in your community and around the world.

Sincerely,
John Hewko
General Secretary
Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation
Twitter: [@johnhewko](https://twitter.com/johnhewko)

P.S.: Through the generous financial support of individuals like you, Rotary funds sustainable projects that help address the world's greatest needs. Every gift makes a real and lasting difference!



Koby Rickertsen is presented with a crystal recognition piece in honor of his and his wife's Major Donor contributions. Dian Edwards, District Governor, and Don Peterson, Incoming District Foundation Chair made the presentation at the District 5630 Team Training on February 9. Major Donors recognition occurs when an individual or couple have combined accumulated giving of \$10,000 to the Rotary International Foundation.