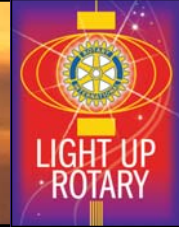


Rotary



Leave a Legacy District 6840 Newsletter March, 2015



Governor Brian Hall's Message

"All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them." – Walt Disney



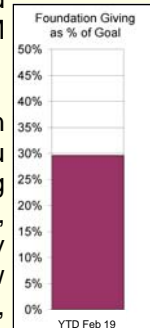
We've got some fantastic times yet to come this Rotary year. As I write this, we are less than two weeks away from Ole Man River PETS. If your club's President Elect has not registered, please make sure they do. Attendance as a President Elect is required by Rotary International, but more importantly it is the springboard to a fantastic year. Don't miss it.

Just one week later, on March 14, we'll gather to celebrate our Million Dollar Dinner. To date we've raised \$800,000 from our district for the Rotary Foundation's Endowment Fund. We have at least another \$75,000 committed. District 6200, covering southwest Louisiana, is participating with us and has raised \$300,000. In total, we've raised \$1.1M so far. That's truly a fantastic accomplishment.

On April 10-12 we'll meet at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi for our District Conference. I can't tell you how excited I am about this conference. It's going to be fun, informative, fun, relaxed, fun, inspiring, and FUN! Don't miss this chance to see Rotary outside your club and community, get to know other Rotarians, learn how to strengthen your club, and have a great time. Check the district website (www.rotary6840.org) for registration and hotel info. Available rooms are dwindling, so don't wait!



Keep up the great work. Encourage your fellow Rotarians to bring a guest and give to the Rotary Foundation. Let's finish strong.



Upcoming Events

- March 6-7, 2015
Ole Man River PETS
Jackson Convention Complex
Jackson, MS
- March 14, 2015
Million Dollar Dinner
Antoine's Restaurant
New Orleans, LA
- April 10-12, 2015
Rotary Rivage 2015
Joint District 6820 & 6840 Conference
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino
Biloxi, MS
- May 2, 2015
District Assembly
Pearl River Community College
Poplarville, MS
- June 6-9, 2015
Rotary International Convention
Sao Paulo, Brazil
- July 19-24, 2015
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
Solomon Retreat Center
Robert, Louisiana

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- Page 8, Rotary Rivage 2015
- Page 9, Annual Fund Giving

www.rotary6840.org



Club & District News



Friendship Exchange with District 7850 - five Rotarians and guests from District 7850 visited District 6840 during the Mardi Gras season (Feb. 11-20). Shown with Slidell Club President Rene Arcemont (far left) and PDG Karen Babin (far right) are PDG Marilyn Bedell, PDG Ron Bedell, Chris Pingert, Jean Anderson, and Ray Jacoby.

In addition to numerous Mardi Gras parades, the visitors enjoyed various French Quarter attractions, the Whitney Plantation, the National WW II Museum, the New Orleans Museum of Art and other museums, the Global Wildlife Center, and the Infinity Space Center. In October, District 7850 will reciprocate, hosting District 6840 Rotarians during the fall foliage season in Vermont and New Hampshire. See page 4 for more details about the fall trip.



Slidell Northshore Rotarian John Case was named the winner of the Real Man of St. Tammany Gala on Sunday night, Jan. 25 at the Northshore Harbor Center in Slidell.

The Real Man of St. Tammany Gala is the annual fundraiser for Safe Harbor, which is the non-profit domestic violence survivors support program and temporary housing center for all of St. Tammany and Washington Parishes. Each year we have done this fundraiser, we nominate around 10 men from St. Tammany Parish who compete to become the Real Man of St. Tammany. Our nominees are business owners, local politicians, local entertainers and any men who are outstanding community leaders.

The winner is determined by which candidate raises the most money for Safe Harbor. They do this through soliciting donations from friends and business associates, asking for sponsorships for our gala, as well as other terrific ideas they come up with on their own to raise funds. The nominations occurred in July, and the winner was announced at our Gala on January 25.

Through his hard work and dedication, John Case raised well over \$30,000 for this great cause. John and his wife Brenda Case, a member of the Slidell Rotary Club, are Rotary Foundation Major Donors.



The location for the 2015 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) has been selected and dates set. RYLA will return to the Solomon Retreat Center near Robert, Louisiana, where it had previously been held, from July 19 to 24, 2015. The fee is \$500. Application forms can be downloaded from the district website under the tab District Programs > Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.

Only high school students who have completed their junior year, but have not started their senior year, are eligible. Each student must be sponsored by a Rotary club. Applications must be submitted to the sponsoring Rotary club by May 15, 2015. Rotary clubs should forward the completed forms to RYLA coordinator Mike Sigler by May 21. The program can only accommodate a maximum of 65 participants; slots are filled on a first come, first served basis.

Club & District News (cont)



The **Rotary Leadership Institute** held its second session of the year on Jan. 31 with a record turnout. Six district officers facilitated two breakouts, with 10 students participating in the Part I series, and 7 students participating in the Part II series. Graduation requires participation in all three sessions: Part I, Part II, and Part III.



For the first time, a segment was included reviewing the Strategic Planning Initiative and Long Range Plan, facilitated by District Governor Elect Randy Feldman. Key sessions on membership, The Rotary Foundation, public relations, leadership, and ethics were also part of the program. Also facilitating were District Governor Brian Hall, Past District Governors Greg Lier and Don Bryan, Trainer Janice McKellar and Assistant Governor Elizabeth Van Sant.



The RLI participants represent a wide range of Rotary experience, from over ten years experience as Rotarians, to first-year members. The feedback we were getting was that RLI is an excellent new member orientation for those clubs looking for a way to engage their new members quickly.



During the Feb. 13-15 weekend, 55 Rotarians and guests from 24 Rotary Clubs (CA, AZ, LA) ventured via bus to Caborca, MX, to immunize children under age 5 against the dreaded Polio disease. Ken Thompson represented the Rotary Club of Slidell and District 6840. To kick off Mexico's **National Immunization Day** on Saturday, participants traveled to three *ejidos* (agriculture communities-asparagus region-10,000 workers) east of Caborca, plus El Desemboque, a fishing village on the west coast overlooking the Sea of Cortez. We immunized nearly 200 children. Making the world a better place to live via a Rotary hands-on weekend!!!



During the evening reception at the Caborca club meeting hall, over \$4,000 was raised for the Caborca Children's Medical Fund by passing the hat. The young girl in the photo was a fund beneficiary, receiving expensive medical treatment paid for by the fund.



Among many Caborca trip highlights was the dedication of a Rotary \$53,700 Global Grant project providing two communities with 24/7 drinking water from 10,500 gallon (39.7 cubic meters) water tanks. Installation of the Morelos *ejido* water tank residing on a trailer (right) was completed Feb. 16. The tank at El Desemboque (left) was completed a week earlier.



A second Global Grant is in the works to install a 20,000 gallon water tank in the fishing village of Puerto Lobos, located just south of El Desemboque. The \$65,000 project will provide safe drinking water to a community of 500. The sponsoring Rotary clubs, host partner Caborca (MX) and international partner Villa Park (CA) are seeking partners to fund the grant. **If your club is interested in participating, please contact Ken Thompson, District 6840 International Service Director, at kdthomps461@att.net**



Club & District News (cont)



“FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE” – VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE!

September 29 to October 7, 2015, or September 30 to October 10, 2015, D6840 Rotarians are invited to a special part of New England to enjoy Vermont’s renowned **Fall Foliage**, New Hampshire, and other activities! Montreal is a terrific spot for coming and going! D7850 includes Sherbrook in Canada, and Burlington, VT, featuring the University of Vermont & Middlebury Colleges, in a charming and picturesque town. The Shelburne Museum is near Burlington – a fascinating destination that could take a whole day. There are local and historical sites in the Upper Valley (near Dartmouth College), Montpelier (capital of VT), Waterbury area (home of Ben and Jerry’s ice cream).

The plans are basically home-stays with Rotarians, “Bed & Breakfast style.” Guests will have their own rental cars/vans (probably for 4 or more passengers each) and will be responsible for their personal expenses and meals when they are on their own. Every effort will be made to make sure that the planned itinerary suits the interests and needs of the participating folks. Contact Karen Babin ASAP if interested.

South Central Rotary Youth Exchange Conference, Tulsa, Jan. 16-18 - Over 200 Rotary Youth Exchange Students from around the world are hosted in the SCRYE member districts. Our students were hosted by Tulsa Rotarians on Friday night in groups of 4-10. Tulsa Rotarians showed the students around Tulsa and treated them to behind-the-scenes access to the City of Tulsa. On Saturday, the students presented skits by country and our own Joara was selected to carry the flag of her country, Brazil, at the flag ceremony prior to the gala. After the banquet, all 200+ students attended an all-night lock-in with a DJ and were treated to a homemade pancake breakfast provided by the Tulsa Rotarians.



Rotarians Terry King and Elizabeth Van Sant received training in all aspects of Youth Exchange, from the SCRYE database for tracking all aspects of



compliance with RI and DOS regulations, to how to assist students with adapting to their local cultures and families. D6840 students and Rotarians attend this conference every January. Our RYE Program was built based on experience gained at SCRYE conferences and other Youth Exchange meetings and conversations over the years. D6840’s program continues to get stronger as more Rotarians attend these events and receive training.

Elizabeth Van Sant, Houston Costolo, and Bertha Page attended the North American Youth Exchange Conference (NAYEN) in Little Rock, AR, Feb. 19-22, with presentations from the US State Department, Rotary International, and people from Canada, Mexico, and US Rotary Youth Exchange programs (from Alaska to Maine to Florida to Louisiana and Mississippi to California). There are over 400 people at this conference -- no students. This is the 16th NAYEN Conference (nayen.org). D6840 sends representatives to this conference every other year. At our own District Conference April 10-12, D6840 and D6820 Youth Exchange Committees will hold training sessions for all those who wish to learn more



Interact Conference Feb. 28 - the Interact District 6840 Conference will be held on Saturday, February 28, from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm at Salmen High School, Slidell, LA. Also, this is a reminder that our Interact Clubs are encouraged to qualify for the 2014-2015 Presidential Citation Award from Rotary International. Please download the application form EN-(414). The completed forms must be received by our District Governor by March 31, 2015.



Shoes for Orphan Souls

Rotary District 6840 Rotarians are Collecting New Shoes for Vulnerable Children.

A simple pair of children's shoes may not look powerful, but they can make a big difference in the lives of vulnerable children and orphans around the world.



Rotary District 6840 is teaming up with Buckner International to ask **all Rotarians in the district** to collect new shoes for children in need. The annual nationwide Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls® shoe drive is seeking to collect more than 200,000 pairs of new shoes and socks in 2015. Since 1999, Buckner has collected more than 3 million pairs of new shoes and has served vulnerable children in 80 countries around the globe, including the United States. The young girl from Guatemala in the photograph is getting the 3 millionth pair of shoes distributed under the program.

PDG Barbara Mauldin says, "Last year at Rotary District Conference we collected more than 1500 pairs of new shoes, 800 pairs of new socks and more than \$1500.00 in cash donations. We hope that with the support of area businesses, churches and retailers through Rotary, we can help Buckner reach their goal and make life better for children."

"We have seen the difference that a new pair of shoes makes in the lives of children in orphanages and impoverished communities, and we want to extend that same joy to others like them," said Ashley Williamson, manager of Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls.

"Our team is so grateful for the partnership of **Rotary District 6840** in providing for the needs of the children we serve. Because of their commitment to this program, we can continue to increase the number of children who will benefit from a pair of new shoes and socks."

The shoes that are collected during the drive will provide hope for children living in orphanages and impoverished communities where Buckner offers a variety of holistic services. Through foster care, empowerment programs, transitional care, and humanitarian aid, Buckner supports children and families in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, and Russia.

"Most Americans take shoes for granted, but for many children around the world, they are a luxury. Shoes protect feet from diseases such as hookworm, which can lead to physical and cognitive development issues," said Williamson.

Donated items should be for children and teens, and due to customs regulations, shoes and socks need to be brand new. The greatest need is for new athletic shoes, sizes Youth 4-Adult 9. Cash donations are also accepted and will help provide new shoes as well as cover distribution costs. Williamson emphasized that no donation is too small. "Most donations come from families who give one or two pairs of shoes. Every pair of shoes given makes a big difference to the boy or girl who receives them." You can drop shoes off at **the District Conference April 9-12, 2015 at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, MS**

For more information about the drive and volunteer opportunities, call toll-free 866-774-SHOE or visit Buckner.org/shoes.

District Committee Reports- Rotary Youth Exchange



The Inbound Students, Anna, Joara, and Lily, would like to thank all of the Rotarians of D6840 who helped make their Mardi Gras incredible! The group was hosted by members of the RCs of Carrollton, Covington, and Metairie, and got plenty of beads from Rotarians riding in the parades from the RCs of New Orleans, Covington, Mandeville, Metairie, and St. Charles Parish. If your club has members riding in Mardi Gras parades or who host events along the parade routes, please let us know for next year.

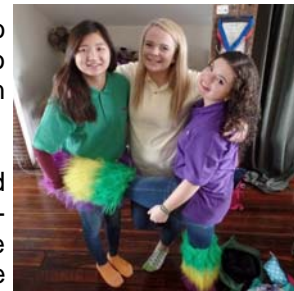


During the month of February, all of our students gave presentations to clubs other than their own -- Anna was at Metairie Sunrise, Joara was at Pass Christian, and Lily was at Picayune. We have Hattiesburg and Carrollton scheduled for March and have room for more. Contact Elizabeth at rye6840@gmail.com with invitations and open dates.

On March 14, our Inbound and Outbound Students will assist with the RC of Hammond's Shamrock Run. The Inbound students will be hosted overnight by Hammond Rotarians and all morning they and the Outbound students will be engaged in Service Above Self -- helping at water stations and with food and registration and wherever else they are needed. Following the event, there will be a training session for the Outbound Students on what to expect during their year abroad. Needless to say, Bradley, Dana, and Zoe are getting pretty excited!

Look for Rotary Youth Exchange at District Conference; all Rotarians who would like to get involved individually or who would like to bring a student to their clubs, please attend our presentation and also our training session on Saturday, April 11.

Several members of the incoming GSE Team from Australia have indicated an interest in attending a major sporting event while they are here. The details are still being negotiated. ALL ROTARIANS, friends, and families are invited to purchase NBA tickets in the Rotary Block for Friday, March 27. The Pelicans will be playing the Sacramento Kings.



Heads-Up: all of our students will be through with classes in May but will not be returning home until June; they will be very happy to accept invitations to go fishing or to the beach or to work with you for the day to see and appreciate even more of what D6840 has to offer. Contact their host club Youth Exchange Officers for ideas on their interests and "bucket lists" before they go home.



District Committee Reports- ShelterBox Response to the Flooding in Madagascar



In January, Tropical Storm Chedza hit the central and southern regions of Madagascar and caused intense flooding in central and southern regions of the country.

The island, which features diverse landscapes of highlands, desert-like plains, rainforests and sandy beaches, often suffers from a number of natural disasters such as storms, cyclones, flood, drought and locust infestations.

Of these environmental disasters, cyclones and floods have proven to be the most threatening. From November to May, the cyclone season lingers on the world's fourth largest island, as widespread flooding damages infrastructure, destroys crops and threatens local food security.

Following Tropical Storm Chedza, a team of ShelterBox response volunteers, comprising Mark Boeck and Harry Roberts, were sent to Madagascar to assess the extent of the flood damage and the need for shelter.



The storm, which followed weeks of bad weather and heavy rains, is reported to have left more than 45,000 people without homes and has affected more than 134,000 people and their crops in total.

ShelterBox already had prepositioned supplies in Madagascar, so the team worked with the Madagascar National Bureau of Risk and Disaster Management (known by the French acronym BNGRC) to contribute to their response.

In total, 40 ShelterBox tents were distributed in the western region of Menabe and 90 tents were distributed in the Madagascar capital of Antananarivo.

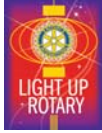


One of those recipients was Ernestine Lravaomalala, who lives with her family in Antananarivo. Ernestine (center of photo) is shown with her mother and daughter.

She said: "The rains started at the end of December and because of the heavy rainfall, the flooding was intensified by the Tropical Storm Chedza. The water came into the house and soon we were up to our knees.

"Even though the water was getting dangerously higher, we stayed in our home until a ShelterBox tent arrived. At the time, the children were very sick; they all had headaches, sore throats and coughs. The tent has enabled us to keep dry and warm."

Now that the water is beginning to recede and the soil is starting to dry out, Ernestine and her family hope to return to their home soon. However, for now, three generations of this family can keep warm and dry thanks to a ShelterBox tent.



Rotary Rivage 2015



Rotary
District 6840



Rotary Rivage 2015 will be a joint District 6820 | 6840 Conference held at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi, MS on April 10-12, 2015.

Online registration is open at rotaryrivage2015.com.

The traditional **Friday night FoodFest** will be at Point Cadet Pavilion in Biloxi.

Rotary Rivage

Rotary Rivage 2015

Welcome to Rotary Rivage 2015! Our District Conference this year will be held at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi April 10-12 in conjunction with Rotary District 6820. Over the next few weeks we'll be showing you the fun, service, and friendship you can expect at the conference. We've got an amazing time planned for you... all you have to do is come join us. Don't miss it!

- Come for fun!
- Come for service!
- Come to learn about Rotary!
- Come to meet Rotary leaders!
- Come for business networking!
- Come for family!

On Saturday afternoon, everyone is invited (including children as young as 5!) to participate in a service project - **"Stop Hunger Now"!!!** In assembly line fashion, we will be assembling packets containing a nutritious meal for 6 people! Our target is 40,000 meals at \$.29 each - cost \$11,600 – just 24 clubs in each district contributing \$250 will achieve our goal of \$5,800 per district!

District 6840 Giving - Annual Fund

Club	Actual APF Giving	Actual APF per mem	Club	Actual APF Giving	Actual APF per mem
North Bay Biloxi	\$4,321	\$ 720.10	La Place	\$280	\$ 12.73
Northlake Mandeville	\$14,035	\$ 246.23	Slidell North Shore	\$430	\$ 10.00
Amite	\$5,810	\$ 223.46	Gulfport Orange Grove	\$350	\$ 9.46
New Orleans Riverbend	\$3,040	\$ 202.67	Hammond	\$513	\$ 8.69
Slidell	\$9,595	\$ 195.82	Stennis	\$100	\$ 7.14
Covington	\$4,615	\$ 164.82	Richton	\$100	\$ 5.56
Kenner	\$2,240	\$ 149.33	Westwego	\$130	\$ 5.42
Algiers	\$2,125	\$ 141.67	West Bank	\$364	\$ 5.28
Pass Christian	\$2,012	\$ 83.83	Tylertown	\$130	\$ 5.00
McComb	\$7,197	\$ 78.22	Gulfport	\$510	\$ 3.83
Ocean Springs	\$4,425	\$ 66.04	Hattiesburg Sunrise	\$130	\$ 3.82
Plaquemines Parish	\$900	\$ 64.29	Petal	\$175	\$ 3.57
Central Hancock	\$1,345	\$ 53.80	Poplarville	\$100	\$ 3.57
Bogalusa	\$1,260	\$ 52.50	Edgewater	\$130	\$ 3.02
Biloxi	\$3,100	\$ 47.69	Bay St. Louis	\$175	\$ 2.50
Long Beach	\$566	\$ 43.56	Ponchatoula	\$100	\$ 2.22
Gautier	\$1,925	\$ 36.32	Pascagoula	\$150	\$ 1.20
Carrollton	\$780	\$ 32.50	Hammond Ponchatoula Sunrisers	\$25	\$ 0.44
Metairie	\$1,780	\$ 31.23	Columbia	\$0	\$ -
Lucedale	\$1,000	\$ 27.03	Franklinton	\$0	\$ -
Picayune	\$1,000	\$ 22.22	Greene County	\$0	\$ -
New Orleans	\$2,720	\$ 21.76	Harahan	\$0	\$ -
Belle Chasse	\$730	\$ 21.47	Kentwood	\$0	\$ -
Metairie Sunrise	\$370	\$ 17.62	Moss Point	\$0	\$ -
St. Charles	\$1,325	\$ 16.36	St. Bernard	\$0	\$ -
East New Orleans	\$190	\$ 15.83	Summit	\$0	\$ -
Hattiesburg	\$1,270	\$ 14.43			
			District Totals	\$83,567	\$ 38.60