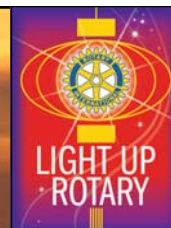




Leave a Legacy District 6840 Newsletter January, 2015



Governor Brian Hall's Message

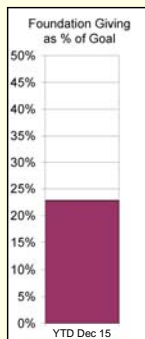
"Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas." – Dale Evans Rogers



Here in the midst of the holiday season, I find myself considering what it all means. We have all been told from the time we were children that it is better to give than receive. I have been thinking a good bit about this lately and it drove me to consider the idea of joy. It's likely most of us remember some fantastic present we received in the past. It was something that we wanted badly, incredibly badly, and was perhaps out of our reach without it being a gift. For me it was a floppy drive for my Commodore 64. (You all know I'm a geek. You shouldn't be surprised.)

But the difference between giving and receiving is that the giving I've done still brings me joy. The floppy drive was a great gift. As I think back I can still recall how excited I was to receive it. But the feelings are muted by time and distance. The memory of putting shoes on a child in a Russian orphanage still evokes incredible joy in me. The memory of delivering Christmas dinner to a needy family, of sharing food in Cambodia, of helping a girl carry water to her house in Honduras – all these memories continue to bring me great joy.

You, as a Rotarian, know these feelings. You know that giving brings greater, longer-lasting joy than any gift you may receive. This season, take some time not only to give but to receive the joy that comes from giving. Reflect on the service we have individually and jointly rendered, and take joy in the good you've done.



I pray each of you has a safe, happy holiday season. It is a great day – and a great time – to be a Rotarian.



"It was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Time observed, God Bless Us, Every One!" – Charles Dickens

Upcoming Events

- January 10, 2015
Mid-Year Checkup
Bay Waveland Yacht Club
Bay St. Louis, MS
- February 7, 2015
District 6840 Team Training
First Pentecostal Church
Slidell, LA
- 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
- June 6-9, 2015
Rotary International Convention
Sao Paulo, Brazil

- Page 1, Governor's Message
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- Page 7, Paul Harris Society Gala
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www.rotary6840.org



**Serving Southeast Louisiana and
the Mississippi Gulf Coast**

Club & District News



The Pike County (MS) Jail Library is in need of books. All books must be paperback; no magnifiers are allowed. Dictionaries, devotionals, and Bibles are always needed. Each inmate receives his own Bible and devotional; other books are loaned out by the library. The following is a list of requested authors:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Stuart Wood | John Sanford | Michael Connelly |
| Baldacci | J.A. Janice | All Westerns |
| John Grisham | Lee Child | Jonathan Kellerman |
| Greg Isles | James Patterson | |

Bring your paperbacks to the Mid-Year Checkup on January 10, or Rotary Leadership Institute on January 31. Or contact Janice S. McKellar, District Trainer, directly to make other arrangements. Janice can be reached at (601)276-3842 or jmckellar@smcc.edu.



Rotary District 9800 selected its talented Group Study Exchange Team to travel to District 6840 next March. The members are Jacqueline Dickenson (events manager) Tom Mitchell (building estimator), Joni Pirovich (corporate tax lawyer) and Latasha Slocombe (science teacher). The team leader will be Peter Frueh from the Rotary Club of Balwyn Inc. GSE District Chair John McCaskill is pictured briefing the candidates at the International House of the University of Melbourne.



2015 Outgoing GSE Team Leader Carl Michel met with his team December 13 at the house of Bill and Sharron Newton to prepare for their trip to Melbourne, Australia, and Rotary District 9800, on February 19, 2015. They will return on March 22.

Team members are Alex Michael (Account Executive for LeSEA Broadcasting Corp.), Matthew Winterkorn (Meteorologist, Stennis Space Center), Kait Sukiennik (Office Manager, Home Instead Senior Care), and Chris Vignes (Public Information Officer, City of Gulfport).

Through the Feeding the Needy Program sponsored by the Rotary Club of Covington, over 300 volunteers show up each Christmas morning at the St. Paul's School cafeteria to deliver more than 1,500 Christmas meals to students and families in the area who are in need. Last year 1,565 dinners were delivered. The program addresses the needs of local students who are reliant on the food supplied by free school meal programs, which is not available during the Christmas holidays.

In November the Rotary club hosted its annual Feeding the Needy fundraiser lunch at the Clarion Inn in Covington. This event is the main fundraiser for the Feeding the Needy program. Over 100 community members and supporters of the program attended the fundraiser luncheon, which featured a presentation titled "No Bad Days, No Bad Service" by motivational speaker Bruce Hamilton.



The Rotary Club of Bay St. Louis is raffling off a new street ready electric golf cart. Each ticket is \$25; you can purchase five tickets for \$100. The drawing will be held on Jan. 29, 2015.

The proceeds support the service projects of the Bay St. Louis Rotary club in Waveland, Bay St. Louis, and Hancock County, Mississippi.

Club & District News (cont)



The Northlake-Mandeville Rotary Club is celebrating Christmas with a multi-faceted series of events over the holiday season. Entitled "Tis the Season of Joy and Giving", the plans include three projects:

The Rotary club, City of Mandeville, and other key sponsors are presenting a large, one-of-a-kind model train display in the windows of Aquarius Pools near the Old Mandeville Trailhead. The snow village and train display is reminiscent of the Christmas window scenes in downtown New Orleans at Maison Blanche and D. H. Holmes.



The second project involves raising funds to provide gifts for children enrolled in the Mandeville-Lecombe Head Start program. The project assists 115 pre-school children from low-income families, many of whom cannot afford Christmas presents for their kids. The Rotary club has set up a tree at the Farmers Market at the Trailhead and is working a table to secure additional funds. Club members at the table will also be introducing Rotary to passersby, the third project. This Rotary Day will introduce the community to Mandeville Rotary and its mission of service and fellowship. Members will talk about what it means to be a Rotarian, their personal experiences of the club, and what Rotary is doing to make a difference in the community.

Friendship Exchange - Vermont and Russia

Vermont - Feb. 11 to 21, 2015, a group of Rotarians from Vermont District 7850 will join us for some of the **Mardi Gras** festivities, and other features of our Gulf Coast Region! If you are interested in participating as a "host" for some of our visitors, please let me know. "Hosts" will have some priority if the September-October trip gets over-subscribed!



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**, 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. Let me know ASAP if you are interested.

Karen Babin, 2015 Friendship Exchange Coordinator for D6840
504-875-4342, 518-588-9096 (mobile) ksbabin@gmail.com

Russia - May 8 to 24, 2015, Rotarians have an opportunity to visit Russia as part of the 25th anniversary of "Rotary in Russia"! Two groups, of 6-8 people each, will travel to several cities, including Moscow and St. Petersburg, as part of a "Rotary US-Russia Intercountry Committee" program. For the smaller cities, there will be home-stays arranged by 6 Rotary clubs. In Moscow and St. Petersburg, hotels will be utilized.



Roughly, the arrangements will be along the lines of a traditional "Friendship Exchange" as noted above. This trip is being offered to Rotarians nationwide, so the 2 groups are likely to fill up fast! If you are interested, please contact George Mahl ASAP!

George Mahl, D6840 Representative to the Rotary US-Russia ICC
504-737-4375 (home), 504-733-8050 (office) gmahl@aol.com

District Committee Reports- ShelterBox Response to the Philippines



Thanks to the overwhelming support of our donors, ShelterBox has been able to help more than 130,000 families around the world since our inception in 2000. In 2014, we have already sent aid to more than 25 different disasters and throughout the holidays we will be looking back at how these responses have made a difference to families in need as a direct result of the support of our donors.

2014 began with our response team volunteers working in revolving shifts to deliver assistance to families across the Philippines who had lost their homes and livelihoods as a result of Typhoon Haiyan. In the first few months of the year, we had already sent more than 100 volunteers to help in the region and our commitment to the people of the Philippines has continued throughout the year with the launch of our projects to deliver **"Core Transitional"** shelters – resilient temporary structures that allow people to move on from living in emergency shelter.



These shelters are designed to house a single family, constructed wherever possible using locally sourced materials and applying "build back safer" standards. They will not only provide more than 8,000 vulnerable people with a safe, durable home but will also contribute to generating work in the region and in helping to galvanize communities.

Toby Ash is the Philippines country coordinator for ShelterBox and has been working in the Philippines throughout the year to help deliver the implementation of our projects work. Ash said: "By April the basic needs of those affected had been largely met – most had access to some basic shelter to protect them from the elements. But traveling through the great swathe of the country that was affected, it was clear that the future of many of Haiyan's survivors remained precarious - the road to recovery would be long and difficult, and many would not be able to get there without further assistance. In many disasters, the provision of a tent and other household items are all that is required for those affected to start rebuilding their lives. But the scale of the damage has made the process of recovery much more difficult.

"The typhoon destroyed millions of coconut trees, rice fields and thousands of fishing boats, leaving those who depend on them for their living without any income. And with no income there can be no rebuilding. Even those able to eke out a living are faced with the stark choice of having to put food on the table and sending their children to school or buying building materials. Then, of course there are society's most vulnerable. How does a frail, elderly woman rebuild her home by herself?

"Over the course of the summer, we signed partnership agreements with four large international aid organizations – ACTED, Handicap International, Islamic Relief and Catholic Relief Services. In total, we will be building almost 1,700 transitional shelters built mainly of locally sourced materials in four separate locations badly affected by the typhoon. Although not permanent, they are designed and built to be resilient. Each will meet the "build back safer" guidelines as recommended by the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) shelter technical team here.

"But in many ways these projects are bigger than the individual shelters themselves. We are working with our partners to create shelters that can serve as examples of safe building practice in the communities. Moreover, we are directly training carpenters and engaging the wide community in safer building practices, with the goal of leaving them better prepared for natural disasters in the future."

We would like to thank everyone who donated to our Typhoon Haiyan appeal and allowed us to work to assist families in the Philippines.

District Committee Reports- Rotary Youth Exchange and Interact



THANK YOU to the fantastic Rotarians, former Rotary Youth Exchange Students, current RYE Students, former GSE Team members, and friends of Rotary who participated in the first D6840 Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange interviews in recorded history!



Very competitive applicants from both Mississippi and Louisiana (and their parents) were interviewed over three hours to see if they have what it takes to represent us as Goodwill Ambassadors in the 2015-2016 school year. Come meet them at District Conference at Beau Rivage April 10-12 -- they'll participate in the Service Project on Saturday afternoon.



Our program is really taking off -- to get your club involved, join us on January 10 at Mid-Year Check-Up in Bay St. Louis. We hope to expand upon the number of clubs that will host next year. In other words, we need YOU!



The Interact District 6840 Conference, will be held on Saturday Feb. 28th from 9 AM to 5 PM at Salmen High School, Slidell, LA. All Interact Clubs are invited. We need each school who will attend to RSVP to Vicky Magas, Rotary Club of Slidell, at vickym16@hotmail, or Angelica Braaten, Salmen Interact Sponsor at angelica.braaten@stpsb.org. We need to get a head count for the food.

We have 4 awesome speakers: WWL Morning News Host----Sally Ann Roberts (graduate of Biloxi HS), Judge Jim Lamz (Judge of Slidell City Court Youth Program), Mary Zar (Interact and Salmen Graduate with a great story to share) and our own Past District Governor Don Bryan. There will be a Talent Show, Best Scrap Book, and Mr. & Ms. Interact Club.

Please contact your Interact Club and have them attend. It is fun, they get to meet the other Interact Clubs in the District, and they can learn more about joint projects etc. We also invite any Rotary Club members who would like to join us. Please help us support the Interact District 6840 Conference. These young people are our future Rotarians.

We are also looking for items to be used in Ditty Bags for all the students who attend. If your company has any items that would like us to include, please send at least 300 to me at Vicky Magas Insurance Agency, 2208 Second St., Slidell, LA 70458. My telephone number is (985)646-1006. If you send coupons for free food or services, be sure the coupons can be redeemed in both Louisiana and Mississippi.

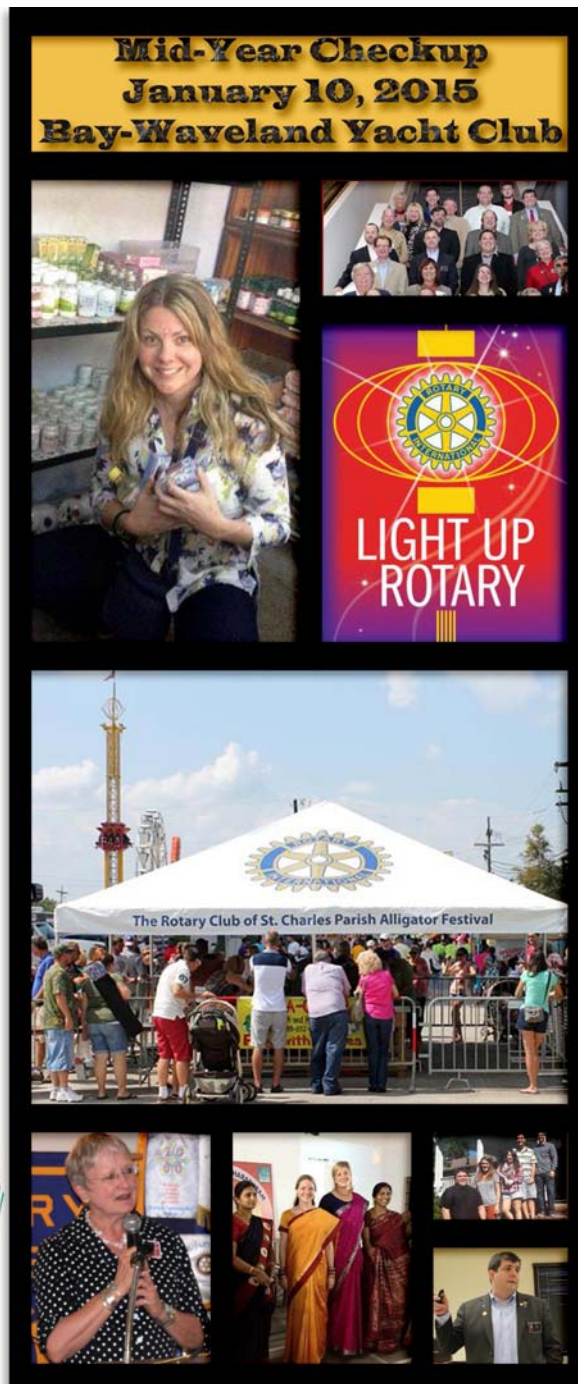
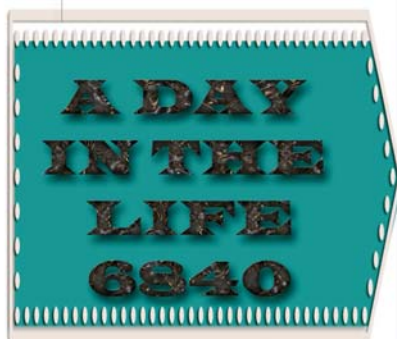


Officers of Slidell HS Interact Club

Mid Year Checkup

Rotarians of District 6840, you are being called to present a two minute update on your club at our annual midyear check-up, titled "A day in the life.....Rotary 6840" Each club will have 2 minutes to present their own club update. The choice of presentation is up to you, whether it is a song, a dance, a commentator----you choose. Please be creative.

Take two minutes to brag on your club to the districts. We know we have lots of talent in our district, so now is the time to let it shine. Register on our website today for the upcoming midyear check-up to be held in Bay St. Louis, MS



The final version of the Long Range Plan will be rolled out at the Mid-Year Checkup. It is posted on the district website www.rotary6840.org under Governing Documents.

Paul Harris Society Gala - Dec 4, 2014



District 6840 held its 3rd Annual Paul Harris Society - Foundation Gala at the Great Southern Club in the Hancock Bank Building in Gulfport, MS, on Thursday, December 4th. Our keynote speaker was Floyd Lancia, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator for Zone 30, and an Arch C. Klumph Society member.

PDG Ace Necaise opened the gala and welcomed the attendees. Rev. Jan Goff gave the invocation, DGE John Cornwell the pledge, and DG Brian Hall opening remarks. District Youth Exchange Officer Elizabeth Van Sant presented Paul Harris Fellowships to our three inbound Rotary Youth Exchange students: Joara C. from Brazil, Lily H. from Taiwan, and Anna L. from Denmark. Elizabeth is herself a former Rotary Youth Exchange student, and her son Ethan is a RYE student in Taiwan.



After dinner and donor group photographs, PDG Greg Lier described our progress toward achieving one million dollars in commitments to the Endowment Fund before our Million Dollar Dinner on March 14, 2015, at Antoine's Restaurant in New Orleans. Almost \$500,000 in commitments in writing have been received by RI, not including the verbal commitments that we have also received. Greg introduced Mr. Lancia, who gave many examples of the impact contributions to The Rotary Foundation make worldwide.



Group photos below are Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors, Dayton Robinson Society members, Paul Harris Society members, Major Donors, and Bequest Society members from left to right, top to bottom.



District 6840 Giving - Annual Fund

| Club | Actual APF Giving | Actual APF per member |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Northlake Mandeville | \$12,855 | \$ 225.53 |
| Amite | \$5,810 | \$ 223.46 |
| Slidell | \$9,595 | \$ 195.82 |
| Kenner | \$2,240 | \$ 149.33 |
| Covington | \$3,800 | \$ 135.71 |
| Algiers | \$1,950 | \$ 130.00 |
| McComb | \$7,197 | \$ 78.22 |
| New Orleans Riverbend | \$1,040 | \$ 69.33 |
| Plaquemines Parish | \$900 | \$ 64.29 |
| Pass Christian | \$1,512 | \$ 63.00 |
| Ocean Springs | \$3,925 | \$ 58.58 |
| Central Hancock | \$1,345 | \$ 53.80 |
| Biloxi | \$3,100 | \$ 47.69 |
| Metairie | \$1,780 | \$ 31.23 |
| Picayune | \$1,000 | \$ 22.22 |
| Carrollton | \$530 | \$ 22.08 |
| Belle Chasse | \$730 | \$ 21.47 |
| Metairie Sunrise | \$370 | \$ 17.62 |
| East New Orleans | \$190 | \$ 15.83 |
| Long Beach | \$200 | \$ 15.38 |
| St. Charles | \$1,200 | \$ 14.81 |
| Bogalusa | \$260 | \$ 10.83 |
| La Place | \$230 | \$ 10.45 |
| Gautier | \$550 | \$ 10.38 |
| Hattiesburg | \$850 | \$ 9.66 |
| Stennis Space Center | \$100 | \$ 7.14 |

| Club | Actual APF Giving | Actual APF per member |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Hammond | \$333 | \$ 5.64 |
| Richton | \$100 | \$ 5.56 |
| Westwego | \$130 | \$ 5.42 |
| West Bank | \$364 | \$ 5.28 |
| New Orleans | \$655 | \$ 5.24 |
| Tylertown | \$130 | \$ 5.00 |
| Poplarville | \$100 | \$ 3.57 |
| Slidell North Shore | \$130 | \$ 3.02 |
| Ponchatoula | \$100 | \$ 2.22 |
| Bay St. Louis | \$150 | \$ 2.14 |
| Gulfport | \$250 | \$ 1.88 |
| Gulfport - Orange Grove | \$50 | \$ 1.35 |
| Pascagoula | \$150 | \$ 1.20 |
| Hammond Ponchatoula Sunrisers | \$25 | \$ 0.44 |
| Columbia | \$0 | \$ - |
| Edgewater | \$0 | \$ - |
| Franklinton | \$0 | \$ - |
| Greene County | \$0 | \$ - |
| Harahan | \$0 | \$ - |
| Hattiesburg Sunrise | \$0 | \$ - |
| Kentwood | \$0 | \$ - |
| Lucedale | \$0 | \$ - |
| Moss Point | \$0 | \$ - |
| North Bay Biloxi | \$0 | \$ - |
| Petal | \$0 | \$ - |
| St. Bernard | \$0 | \$ - |
| Summit | \$0 | \$ - |
| | | |
| District Totals | \$65,926 | \$ 30.45 |