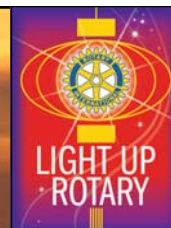




Leave a Legacy District 6840 Newsletter May, 2015



Governor Brian Hall's Message

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence."
– Vince Lombardi

I am currently sitting in the airport awaiting a flight to Guatemala. This trip is the initial site visit for a potential water well project. While looking forward to the trip I find myself also reminiscing over the past year.

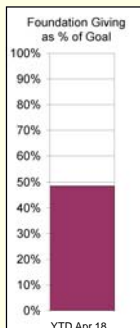
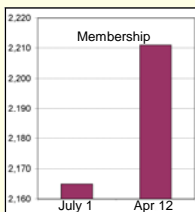


Just last weekend, we had our District Conference at the Beau Rivage. WOW! What an amazing conference. From the break-outs to the luau and food fest to the service project, the conference was everything we had hoped it would be. Our goal was to engage with our Rotarians. We wanted to give them the chance to have fun, to interact with each other, have fun, do a service project, and have fun. By all accounts it was a smashing success. I thank everyone that attended and wish to very publicly thank conference chair Karen Babin for her hard work. Well done Karen!

Looking back across the year, there is little doubt that we have achieved much. We still have work to do, but our accomplishments are breathtaking. However, as I sit and look forward to this trip I am reminded that we still have much to do. We have made great strides, but there are still those that need polio immunizations, clean water, and education.

Do not stop what you're doing. If you are currently in club leadership, encourage your incoming leadership to pick up and carry the torch forward. If we do not continue, then the year – wonderful as it has been – is not what it could have been.

Please continue to encourage your members to bring a guest and give to the Rotary Foundation. As always, let me know if I can help you in any way.



Upcoming Events

- 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
- August 29, 2015
Foundation, Membership, and Public
Relations Seminars
Pearl River Community College
Poplarville, MS

- Page 1, Governor's Message
- Pages 2, 3, 4 & 5, Club and District News
- Page 6, US - Russia ICC Friendship Exchange
- Page 7, ShelterBox
- Page 8, Rotary Youth Exchange
- Page 9, Rotary Rivage 2015
- Page 10, Interact Conference
- Page 11, Group Study Exchange
- Page 12, Annual Fund Giving

www.rotary6840.org



Club & District News



Incoming club presidents, please encourage your clubs' officers to attend the **District Assembly** May 2nd at the Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, Mississippi. Register online by April 29. There will be special breakout sessions for Club Administration, Public Relations, Foundation, Membership and Service Projects. District Governor Elect John Cornwell will present our goals for the coming year and introduce the 2015-2016 RI Theme "Be a Gift to the World."

There will be another opportunity to certify your club members to participate in 2015-2016 grants. The deadline to submit a request for a 2015-2016 district grant is May 31, 2015. Clubs will not be allowed to do so until they have met all qualification requirements:

- Final Reports for previous year grants have been submitted
- A member from your club has attended this year's Grants Management Seminar at either PETS or this District Assembly
- Club president and club president-elect have both signed the Club Memorandum of Understanding

Notices of the District Assembly have been sent by email. Including the Presidential Citation brochure for 2015-2016, and Worksheets for Incoming Club Presidents. If you did not receive a notice, please contact Lydia Alford at Lydia@alfordlegal.com for details.



Thanks to Rotarians from Shoes for Orphan Souls. We collected 1071 pairs of new shoes, 281 pairs of new socks and 12 new shoe laces at the District Conference. Barbara and Dick Mauldin drove them to the collection center in

Mesquite, TX to deliver the shoes to the distribution center for Shoes for Orphan Souls.



The 5 X 6 trailer was full, and all of the items fit into 3 pallet containers. Steve, the workman, told us that the items would be counted and prepared for shipping to the next recipient country. District 6840 will be notified when and where the shoes ultimately go. There was a shipment of other shoes ready to be loaded for the trip to Nicaragua at the back loading bay.



I want personally to thank each of you and ask that you spread the good news that Rotarians at work do amazing things. Please give my warmest regards to all of the club members who contributed so they will know what we in Districts 6840 and 6820 have done.



The Rotary Club of Hammond's annual Shamrock Run 5K/10K was held on March 14. The 706 participants were the most to register in the five-year history of the event, which raised over \$20,000 in net income.



The Shamrock Run is the Club's major fund-raiser in support of its grant program for non-profit organizations in the local community. Hammond Rotary is looking forward to an even bigger and better event in March of 2016.



Club & District News (cont)



Members of the Beach Territory Clubs; Biloxi, Edgewater, North Bay, and Ocean Springs, are pictured as they deliver Easter baskets to the residents of Tara Drive. Tara Drive is a facility for twenty mentally challenged adults who live and work together under supervised care in Harrison County. In May of 2014, the presidents and incoming presidents of the Beach Territory decided to meet about every six weeks throughout the Rotary year, with ADG Vicky Gutierrez, to discuss relevant Rotary topics.

Meetings were used to discuss ways that clubs could meet criteria for the Presidential Citation and Visionary Leader Award, inform others on individual club events and activities, discuss District topics and events, as well as ways to improve meeting attendance and giving to the Foundation.

Clubs began the year by jointly staffing a table at Edgewater Mall, during Edgewater's annual children's health fair, to educate others about Rotary and Polio Plus. In September a territory social was held for members and potential members at the Biloxi Yacht Club. This social was also used as a time that individual members could meet and talk to the District Governor as well as upcoming Governors. In October, members of the Beach Territory sponsored a dinner/social for the members of District 6840 to honor the teens visiting from Ireland and Friends Forever.



Their latest joint service project was to fund, assemble, and deliver baskets to the Tara Drive residents. A big pat on the back goes out to the presidents of the Beach Territory for their year long joint effort.



First QUACK-A-FALAYA RUBBER DUCK RACE down the Bogue Falaya River from The Chimes to Bogue Falaya Park launching at 11am on Saturday, May 9. We are selling 500 duck sponsorships @ \$20 each. Chances to win a prize are 1 in 100. Prizes are as follows:

FIRST PLACE DUCK: \$1,000 cash prize + 2-night stay at the Southern Hotel + four-some at Money Hill

SECOND PLACE DUCK: 3-night stay at a cottage in Bay St. Louis + 4 oil changes and 2 tire rotations at Rainbow Dodge + dinner at Mellow Mushroom

THIRD PLACE DUCK: 1 night stay at The Roosevelt in New Orleans + 2 Saints tickets

FOURTH PLACE DUCK: 2 oil and filter change and Multipoint Inspection from Baldwin Motors + 1 Dent Removal from Precision Dent Repair + 1 year pest control from Billiot Pest Control + dinner at Mugshots

FIFTH PLACE DUCK: 1 Blue Ray DVD player and Sage SCT Pro from Office Depot + 2 oil changes

Send an e-mail to covrotary@gmail.com with your name and phone number and the number of ducks you want us to reserve for you. Then send your check to The Covington Rotary Club PO Box 541 Covington, LA 70433. Please write "DUCKS" in the memo line!

You do not need to be present to win. We will video the race. All 5 winners will be contacted by phone and e-mail and presented with their prizes at our MAY 19 meeting at 11:45am at The Seiler Bar * 434 N Columbia Street * Covington, LA.

Club & District News (cont)



Members are reminded that student applications for this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) are due to sponsoring Rotary clubs by May 15th. Applicants must be high school juniors who will be entering their senior year next fall. They may be relatives of Rotarians.

The applications, properly endorsed by the sponsoring Rotary clubs, must be forwarded to Mike Sigler, District RYLA Chair, 5 Wickfield Drive, Covington, LA 70433, by June 1st. Sponsorship fee is \$500, due with the application.

Class size is limited to 65 students, and is filled on a first come, first served basis. Application forms can be downloaded from the district website www.rotary6840.org under District Programs > Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. Also on the website are form letters to send to high school counselors, and documents outlining club responsibilities.

Mark Sigler
District Chair, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.



Sohag Hospital (Egypt) Neo Natal Care Global Grant - I would like to propose to you a new Global Grant project in the Healthcare Area of Focus with a Vocational Training Team (VTT) component in the project. The project entails supplying 6 neonatal incubators for Sohag Hospital which is 150 KM south of Cairo, in Sohag state, serving six million people in 4 states (Sohag / Qena/ New Vally and Hurgada). The Hospital has old incubators and many babies die because of the unavailability of workable incubators. Sohag is the poorest state in Egypt and parents of new born babies have no means to save their babies outside of the Sohag hospital.

The project sustainability will be realized by the existing need of incubators by the hospital, training of staff (physicians and nurses) by Rotarian doctors and warrantee of the equipment supplier who has a major market share, and capacity building through a VTT. 3 physicians will be carefully chosen to travel for training in Germany for one month to receive training on this field of specialty and will stay at Rotarians homes or at the hospital lodging.

Total project budget is \$63,500 - as shown below. 4 Rotary clubs in Germany and their districts already pledged \$21,000 - with TRF matching, this will give total of \$37,000. It is well appreciated to receive your pledge for contribution to the project which is needed to save the lives of premature new born babies and build the experience for young physicians.

PROJECT BUDGET:

Neonatal incubators (6): \$45,000 - including warrantee and on site training

VTT (3 physicians): \$10,000 - including travel and living expenses

Contingencies: \$5,000

Measurements: \$2,000 - to measure the project results

Transportation to site: \$ 1,000

Rotary Banners: \$ 500

Total \$63,500

Respectfully, Amir Saba,
Rotary Club of Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt

Club & District News (cont)



Mid-City New Orleans Rotary Club - On March 19, 2015, members and friends volunteered at the **St. Baldrick's Day** event (<http://www.stbaldricks.org/>) at Finn McCool's Irish Pub. This annual event is one of over 400 held throughout the United States in order to raise money for the funding of childhood cancer research. These events ask participants to raise donations by shaving their heads in solidarity with cancer survivors. Mid-City Rotary provided volunteers for all parts of the event and our team raised over \$1,500 in donations for this great cause which has attracted New Orleans Saints punter Thomas Morstead and former Saints kicker Garrett Hartley.

Leadership Development Series

If we wish to ensure positive change, we must arm ourselves the tools we need to be successful as change agents in our community. This is the genesis behind Mid-City Rotary's *Leadership Development Series*. Once a month, a community leader shares his or her experiences at a meeting. To date we have had DG Brian Hall - *Rotary's International reach*, PDG Greg Lier - *Rotary Foundation 101* and next month Rotarian Michele Blanchard of Leadership Northshore will facilitate a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator session with a focus on group dynamics.

Vision Statement

Service first...it's that simple.

We are a network of young professionals committed to improving our community through the values and ideals of Rotary International. These values are expressed through Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," and the Four-Way Test of the things we think, say and do:

First, is it the truth?

Second, is it fair to all concerned?

Third, will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Fourth, will it be beneficial to all concerned?



These guiding principles are shared by a global group of leaders who want to make an impact both in the local and international community. We organize and participate in a variety of service projects based upon the needs of the community and the interests of our members and there is always room for guests to join us in service. Service first...it's who we are because it's what we do!



STAR Club update - Fifteen Rotary Clubs have donated over \$100 per capita to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund during the current year, and six have donated in excess of \$200 per capita. Congratulations!

200 Plus Clubs

North Bay Biloxi	\$720.10
New Orleans Riverbend	\$350.28
Amite	\$294.84
Northlake - Mandeville	\$291.84
Slidell	\$242.53
Pass Christian	\$206.42

100 Plus Clubs

Covington	\$184.29
St Charles Parish	\$170.68
Kenner	\$149.33
Algiers	\$141.67
Metairie	\$136.27
West Bank	\$133.39
Plaquemines Parish	\$114.29
La Place	\$110.48
Slidell Northshore	\$103.02

US-Russia Intercountry Committee

Your ICC Board of Directors is pleased to introduce you to the 2015 Friendship Exchange Team to European Russia. The team will be in Russia from May 7 - May 25, with stays in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Volgograd, Simferopol (Crimea), Krasnodar, and Rostov-on-Don, celebrating the 25 years Rotary has been in Russia..



PDG Judy Byron, District 5020

Judy served District 5020 as Governor in 2012 – 2013. Judy is currently Zone 25 ARRFC for Districts 5020 and 5030. Judy has participated in three National Immunization Days (NIDS), vaccinating children in Ethiopia and India. Judy is a member of the Rotary Club of Sidney by the Sea in Sidney, B.C. Judy is retired from the Correctional Services of Canada where she enjoyed a 25 year career delivering treatment programs for male offenders. Judy and her husband Dave live on a small acreage in North Saanich. They have 2 adult children and 3 grandchildren.

Carmen Cuneo, District 5890

Carmen has served in many District capacities and is currently the District 5890 Treasurer. Carmen participated in a NIDS in Uttar Pradesh 2007. Carmen is a multiple PHF, a member of the Paul Harris Society and Bequest Society. Carmen is currently a member of the Rotary Club of the University Area – Houston, Texas. Carmen is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and works in private practice. Her accounting firm name is The Cuneo Firm of Public Accountancy. Carmen has two daughters and six grandchildren.



Charles Heberle III, District 5020

Charles is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Lakewood, WA, District 5020. Charles enjoyed 8 years in St. Petersburg and Karelia, as guest of the Russian Government, helping the Minister of Education develop an educational program to train citizens in citizenship skills, capabilities and effectiveness. The resulting program, developed by Russian teachers, teaches students the values and attitudes required of democratic citizens. The program is the basis of a new democratic training system for the Russian Federation designed to change the Russian mindset from subject to citizen to allow democracy to work there. Charles also helped to establish a Rotary Club during his time in Russia. Charles is a retired US Army COL. He was an active participant in the Armor School, Command and General Staff College, the Pentagon, NATO and ROTC. He also enjoyed 3 years as CEO of a retail lumber and building supply firm.

Ken Thompson, District 6840

Ken has been a Rotarian since 2000, having served as Club President in 2008-2009. He was chairman of the Slidell Heritage Festival for three years, a joint venture between the Rotary Clubs of Slidell and Slidell Northshore. Ken has participated in multiple Matching and Global Grants, and traveled twice to Mexico to immunize children against polio. He is currently District 6840 International Service Director, District Newsletter Editor, and District Website Manager (www.rotary6840.org). He is also a ShelterBox Ambassador for the Louisiana and Mississippi areas. Ken is a member of the Rotary Club of Slidell, Louisiana. Ken spent most of his working career as a Petroleum Engineer, working along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana, and offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. He has also worked as a financial representative and stock broker. Ken and his wife Paula have one daughter, Kathryn.



District Committee Reports - Volunteer Service Award & ShelterBox Ambassador Field Experience



SARASOTA, Fla., April 15, 2015 – As National Volunteer Week, April 12-18, is being observed, **Ken Thompson**, a member of the **Rotary Club of Slidell** of Rotary District **6840**, has been recognized by President Obama and humanitarian organization, ShelterBox USA with the President's Volunteer Service Award for **his** efforts in 2014 to assist disaster survivors.

When disasters like Cyclone Pam in the Vanuatu and the Syrian refugee crisis strike, many want to help. **Ken** took action for [ShelterBox](#), an international disaster relief organization that delivers [emergency tented shelter and other lifesaving supplies](#) to survivors of disasters & other humanitarian crises.

Through **Ken's** efforts of raising awareness and funds for ShelterBox, the organization was able to respond to more than 23 disasters last year, providing families with disaster relief tents, cook stoves, water filters, blankets, mosquito nets, children's packs and other essential equipment. In one of the more busy years in ShelterBox history, ShelterBox has sent aid to support more than 10,500 families.

"I am incredibly honored to work alongside our volunteers, including **Ken**," said Alan Monroe, Interim Executive Director of ShelterBox USA. "It is through their continuous efforts that we are able to bring shelter, warmth and dignity to so many families displaced by disaster around the globe."

The President's Volunteer Service Award is a special recognition presented on behalf of President Barack Obama. The award is part of a national recognition program created in 2003 through the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation for individuals of all ages who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer activities.

One of the responsibilities of a ShelterBox Ambassador is to train other Ambassadors, through such events as the annual ShelterBox Ambassador Field Experience, held this year April 24-26 in Mason County, Texas, at a hunting lodge owned and operated by ShelterBox Response Team and Board member Tim Osburn, and his wife, DGE Melinda Osburn. In order to simulate a deployment in response to a real disaster, the hunting lodge is transformed for three days into a mythical South American country called Fredonia. The little country has been racked by revolution and flooding. A new nation called West Fredonia has separated from the rest of Fredonia, and entire villages have been destroyed by the constant fighting and high water.



The twelve new Ambassadors have been divided into three ShelterBox Response Teams. Each team must decide which of two displaced villages will receive their limited aid consignment. Each village chief will make a plea that his village is more desperately in need of assistance. The village chiefs - Ken Thompson and Louis Turpin - are members of the ShelterBox Ambassador Council, an advisory group assisting the ShelterBox USA staff and Board of Directors.

While Fredonia may be fictitious, the situations presented are not; they are all based on true field experiences. The teams learn patience, perseverance, communication, and cooperation; all key elements in the field.

We welcome aboard Erin Granberry, Rotary Club of Hattiesburg, and Mark Dispenza, Rotary Club of Hammond, as Rotary Club Liaisons for ShelterBox.

District Committee Reports- Rotary Youth Exchange



From the District Youth Exchange Officer - I think we can all agree that our fabulous Rotary Youth Exchange Students added a great deal to an already outstanding District Conference. They helped unload cars and trucks prior to the Food Fest, they chased down signs when the winds picked up, and a number of clubs put them to work serving crawfish, ice cream, and everything but alcohol! They didn't have much time on stage, but when they did take over the microphones, they made us all cry with their stories of growth and gratitude. As a team, our 4 Inbound students from both districts and our 3 Outbound students (to India, Denmark, and Ecuador) rolled up their sleeves and did great Service Above Self at the Stop Hunger Now! service project.



Shown in their purple blazers are our three Outbound students: Bradley Booth, Rotary Club of Picayune to India; Zoe Gassen, Rotary Club of St. Charles Parish to Ecuador; Dana Watson, Rotary Club of Metairie Sunrise to Denmark.

I think everyone who met them fell in love with the pure joy they radiated (see pictures here and on the District and RC of Covington fb pages). We are truly building international goodwill and friendship by having the students among us. ***It is clear that we need to continue to expand this program.***

Special thanks to the RC of Biloxi for home-hosting and providing transportation to and from Beau Rivage every day.

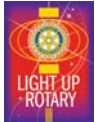
If those of you involved in the return of Rotary Youth Exchange have not heard me say it, THANK YOU!!! Without the dedication and goodwill of the host families and host clubs and host RYE Committees, these wonderful teenagers would not be here.

The District RYE Committee needs to expand our membership. Two years ago, we had no students at all. Last year, we hosted 2 (Belgium, Ecuador) and selected 1 (currently in Taiwan). This year, we are hosting 3 (Brazil, Taiwan, Denmark) and selected 3 (Ecuador, Denmark, India). Next year we hope to host 4 (India, Denmark, Ecuador, Hungary) and send at least that many (countries to be determined). ***We need more Rotarians engaged at the District level to sustain this growth.***

If you were moved at all by our students this weekend, you have the only qualification you need to serve on the District Committee! We are creating experts as we go. Please contact me at rye6840@gmail.com and we will find a way for you to be involved.

The application for the 2016-2017 school year is on-line and every club and parent and Rotarian is encouraged to direct students to our page on the District website. ***Our capacity to select students from D6840 as Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange Students is limited by the number of clubs who are willing to host.*** This is critical.

Elizabeth Van Sant
District Youth Exchange Officer

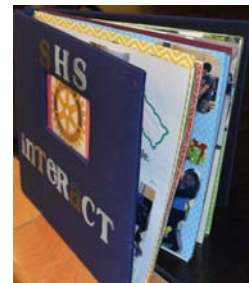


Rotary Rivage 2015, April 10-12





Interact Conference, Feb. 28





Group Study Exchange - March 22 - April 17



District 6840 Giving - Annual Fund

<u>Club</u>	<u>Actual APF Giving</u>	<u>Actual APF per mem</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Actual APF Giving</u>	<u>Actual APF per mem</u>
North Bay Biloxi	\$4,321	\$ 720.10	Belle Chasse	\$730	\$ 21.47
New Orleans Riverbend	\$5,254	\$ 350.28	Metairie Sunrise	\$370	\$ 17.62
Amite	\$7,666	\$ 294.84	East New Orleans	\$190	\$ 15.83
Northlake Mandeville	\$16,635	\$ 291.84	Richton	\$200	\$ 11.11
Slidell	\$11,884	\$ 242.53	Hammond	\$563	\$ 9.54
Pass Christian	\$4,954	\$ 206.42	Gulfport Orange Grove	\$350	\$ 9.46
Covington	\$5,160	\$ 184.29	Stennis	\$100	\$ 7.14
St. Charles	\$13,825	\$ 170.68	Westwego	\$130	\$ 5.42
Kenner	\$2,240	\$ 149.33	Tylertown	\$130	\$ 5.00
Algiers	\$2,125	\$ 141.67	Gulfport	\$510	\$ 3.83
Metairie	\$7,768	\$ 136.27	Hattiesburg Sunrise	\$130	\$ 3.82
West Bank	\$9,204	\$ 133.39	Petal	\$175	\$ 3.57
Plaquemines Parish	\$1,600	\$ 114.29	Poplarville	\$100	\$ 3.57
La Place	\$2,431	\$ 110.48	Edgewater	\$160	\$ 3.37
Slidell North Shore	\$4,430	\$ 103.02	Bay St. Louis	\$175	\$ 2.50
McComb	\$7,197	\$ 78.22	Ponchatoula	\$100	\$ 2.22
Ocean Springs	\$4,425	\$ 66.04	Pascagoula	\$150	\$ 1.20
Central Hancock	\$1,345	\$ 53.80	Hammond Ponchatoula	\$25	\$ 0.44
Bogalusa	\$1,260	\$ 52.50	Columbia	\$0	\$ -
New Orleans	\$6,270	\$ 50.16	Franklinton	\$0	\$ -
Biloxi	\$3,100	\$ 47.69	Greene County	\$0	\$ -
Long Beach	\$745	\$ 45.48	Harahan	\$0	\$ -
Gautier	\$2,175	\$ 41.04	Kentwood	\$0	\$ -
Hattiesburg	\$3,333	\$ 37.87	Moss Point	\$0	\$ -
Carrollton	\$880	\$ 32.50	St. Bernard	\$0	\$ -
Lucedale	\$1,000	\$ 27.03	Summit	\$0	\$ -
Picayune	\$1,000	\$ 22.22			
			District Totals	\$136,512	\$ 63.05