



Annual Reunion of Rotary International Past Officers San Diego, 19-21 February 2006

San Diego Rotary International Assembly - 16-23 February 2006

MONDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2006

THE DAILY WHEEL



Plenary Session III

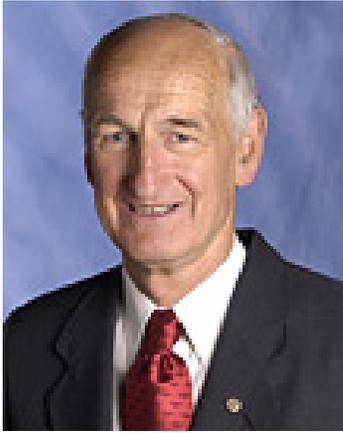
TRF CHAIRMAN FRANK DEVLIN, PRIP

The Rotary Foundation-Future Visions Committee

Noting that past officers are “passionate Rotarians” who continue to serve our organization in many ways, Frank quickly outlined the changes our organization has seen from the creation of Carl Miller grants in 1963 to the PolioPlus effort, the addition of Rotary Themes, the distinctive jackets, the addition of women and the evolution of the world wide web with its corresponding web sites including District and Club web addresses. He pointed out the challenges to our organization today are bringing qualified people into Rotary, needing to think like “headhunters,” and realize that donors to the Foundation **do trust** the Foundation.¹

Frank introduced Duane Sterling, RF past General Manager, who reported on the status of the FVC, noting that the committee’s work is not as yet complete. He stated that TRF created the FVC to consider better use of limited resources, create a definition of purpose, consider simplification of programs, develop a direction of giving and an appeal for more donors. The committee has been charged with constructing a ten-year vision with a three-year plan that moves TRF toward its vision for its second century of service. Following a strict time line, goals to be realized are the eradication of polio, recognition that Rotary is a “first-choice” partner NGO for global humanitarian projects and worldwide recognition of TRF as a “premier” Foundation. (www.Rotary-Srilanka.org and www.matchinggrants.org)

¹ [Ed. note: go to http://www.rotary.org/cgi-bin/printablePage.cgi?file=newsroom/features/0511_devlyn.html for a complete description of the Foundation’s new committee along with Frank’s thoughts in an interview given last November]



Plenary Session IV

WILLIAM BOYD, RIPE

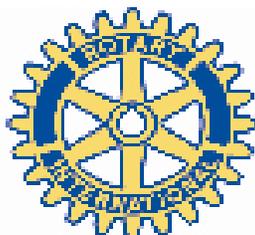
Following an introduction by Director David Hossler, President-elect Bill shared his recent experiences in post-tsunami Southeast Asia. He described how Rotarians are quietly making a difference in Phuket with the creation of fish farms; on Bataan beach the RI Club has established a non-formal educational center on the second floor of the Holiday Inn. Having installed 10 computers, there are 1,000 pupils learning to use these computers; and 18 fishing boats have been provided to a village in that area.

While desolation is rife in the region north of Phuket on the mainland, a tourist dependent economy, 351 homes have been completed to date.

In Malaysia, Rotarians have been there from the beginning, helping out in the post-tsunami recovery process.

In Sri-Lanka the force of the tsunami was still devastating even thousands of miles away from the epicenter in Indonesia. Rotarians there have built 20 "model" schools. A retired Reuters news agent volunteered to help pro bono where cost concerns otherwise would have been prohibitive. The government had to provide the land, the Red Cross provided for sanitation and potable water needs, there has been a room to read and Microsoft has contributed a computer room for each school. One additional requirement is that each school needs to identify a lead Rotary Club which will donate the services of an architect. A complete and accurate progress report every two weeks is available via the newly created web-site: www.rotary-srilanka.org.

Bill concluded his remarks by underscoring what we as Rotary volunteers do; we are hands-on and we remain with those we serve, living with them and working with them side by side...without remuneration as may be required by so-called "professional" volunteers.



SERVICE Above Self



Plenary Session V

CHUCK KELLER, PRIP

Past-President Chuck presented an updated report on the PolioPlus effort as an added program element today. Aside from the millions of US dollars raised and our continued partnerships with WHO and CDC and individual country's local health agencies, there have been significant changes of interest to us Rotarians.

First, we now have two more effective vaccines to use. In the past we have given a trivalent (Types I, II and III) combined oral vaccine. We no longer need to give Type II. As a result Type I and Type III are administered as monovalent vaccines. These monovalent vaccines are more effective than the single Trivalent vaccine. As a result of their use, Egypt and Niger are now clear of polio and 13 countries have been removed from the list of reinfected countries.

Now only four countries remain on the endemic list: Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The challenge is to clear polio from India, Pakistan and Afghanistan by the end of this year; and to finish the campaign in Nigeria by mid-2007. We must remain vigilant. The need for NIDs remains. We need to continue to volunteer. We need to raise monies for "social mobilization" efforts, the process of convincing mothers to bring their children to immunization centers. We can help, Chuck concluded, by districts donating up to twenty percent of their unused DDF. It is estimated that there is nearly \$50 million USD available from DDF as of December '05.

Ed Futa, General Secretary

noted that Public Relation Image is the single most important factor identified by grass root Rotarians and Rotary Clubs worldwide. We need to take advantage of centennial project success and the Polio-Plus Eradication success since the world spotlight is focused on our organization now more than ever. The public image needs to be set in the 32,000+ communities represented by the clubs. "One size fits all" does not work. RI headquarters in Evanston can provide the "tools" via DVD's, but if the "tool" doesn't work, disregard it or manipulate it to create an effective public image. He requested that we all should participate in the survey on the RI web site if we have not done that already.

A second concern is that the RI web site needs to be improved. A more powerful and user friendly, intuitive search engine needs to be installed, offering portals that will take any Rotarian anywhere he/she is authorized to go.

Lastly is the Future Visions Strategic Plan, a work in progress which will guide TRF over the next decade.

Following a Q & A session, Ed concluded by reminding us that a net membership growth of only one member/club next year will grow our organization by 32,000+ new members.

Plenary Session VI

PANEL DISCUSSION: EXTENSION

MODERATOR: SAM GREENE, PRID

PRID Ron Beaubien reviewed where our organizational efforts are with regards to developing new clubs in China, Viet Nam and other Southeast Asian countries. He reported that the Chinese realize the importance of NGO's and that outreach efforts will be geared to having more face-to-face meetings.

RIDE Orscelik Balkan presented a candid discussion concerning Rotary extension into so-called "Muslim" Countries. He began his presentation saying "Ladies and Gentlemen: Although I am a Muslim Rotarian, it has always been difficult for me to justify why we have an ad hoc committee for the Development of Rotary in Muslim Areas....Surely, fundamental religious behavior is one of the factors that we have to tackle as we work on Rotary extension and development. But this applies for all extension and development areas regardless of the religions existing there.....what do we mean when we talk about Muslim countries?... Is population the identification point?"

Evaluations of countries where Muslim communities exist indicate the difficulty in creating "benchmarks" for the practices of extension, retention and development in these communities. There are, nevertheless some common obstacles which work against RI extension in these communities. They are:

- 1) Perception of Rotary's being a Zionist organization
- 2) Perception of Rotary's association with Freemasonry
- 3) Perception of Rotary being an American Organization

Additional barriers are:

- 1) Fundamentalist religious movements
- 2) Radical political disputes that divide the community into "camps"
- 3) Lack of democratic concepts and practices
- 4) Strong nationalist ideologies which in essence close doors to international communication and world understanding

Orscelik concluded by suggesting we:

- 1) Remove the Muslim adjective from our extension and development efforts
- 2) Identify extension areas as to specific geographical, historical and cultural backgrounds rather than religious ones
- 3) Avoid spending our resources, energy, time and funds for the sake of entering communities that are not ready to sustain Rotary extension efforts
- 4) Identify extension areas in manageable geographical sizes that include communities with common denominators
- 5) Give special recognition and support to outstanding clubs, eg. the Rotary Club of Khartoum
- 6) Be sensitive to the need to comply with the Rotary Code of Policies for extension

PDG Phyllis Nusz described her experiences as a GSE Team Leader to Romania and Moldova. She reported that this region is one of the fastest growing membership areas. Rotaract clubs abound but there are few Interact Clubs. There are similar concerns about Rotary as listed by Orscelik, but there are also opportunities for fostering future membership growth via GSE experiences, Youth Exchange (long and

short term), Ambassadorial Scholars, friendship exchanges and with matching grants.

PDG Jesse Devlin reviewed RI's history in Cuba and plans for returning there in the near future. The problem, however, still remains for US citizens — prohibition on travel to Cuba.

PDG Charlie Clemmons then entertained questions from the audience.

Plenary Session VII

ROTARY ALUMNI

PDG Jeff Cadorette and **PDG Elliot Lowenstein** spent a few minutes discussing the challenges of maintaining contact with Foundation Alumni. The plan is to maintain a more updated alumni membership base working with the Alumni office personnel at RI headquarters in Evanston. This will need continual monitoring to assure changes in contact information are kept current.

Plenary Session VII concluded the afternoon session with a presentation and promotion of the upcoming International Convention in Malmo-Copenhagen by **PDG Carol Wylie** and **PDG Grethe Christensen**.



The evening's banquet was a sold-out affair. Attendees were treated to a presentation by **RIPN Wilford Wilkinson**, who concluded his remarks by thanking all Rotarians for giving of their service and their support.

