

Rotations

MAY 17, 2001 *Official Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Lafayette*

VOLUME 54

ISSUE 43



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TICKETS ARE

on sale now for the Annual Rotary night at Town Hall Theatre.

This years Rotary night will be on Thursday June 21st at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be fifteen dollars each and that price includes free wine at intermission. See me ASAP to buy your tickets. This years play is Neil Simons "Fools", and it is a

comedy. The Russian village of Kulyenchikov, a small, make-believe town is put under a curse, rendering its inhabitants completely stupid. Count Gregor, a name that makes the people of Kulyenchikov tremble in fear, cast this horrible spell. A young school teacher is sent to this town to educate Sophia, a young, beautiful, and incredibly unintelligent lady of Kulyenchikov. I am sure everyone who attends the play will enjoy it immensely.

Please return your raffle tickets for the Concert at the Res to me as soon as you can. Also the deadline for turning in adds for the Concert at the Res will be next Thursdays meeting, May 24, 2001.

TODAYS SPEAKER :

DR. JAMES WATSON M.D. PH.D.

VOLUNTEERISM

Rotarians ponder humanitarian service in Europe at Vienna conference

More than 370 Rotarians and guests from 45 countries gathered on 11-13 May in Vienna, Austria, for the European Presidential Conference — the fifth and final such RI meeting this Rotary year.

"Europe is in transition right now. Its changes are mirrored in Rotary," said RI President Frank J. Devlyn at the conference's opening session at the Hotel Inter-Continental Wien. "Vienna is part of a newly expanded district that embraces five nations — Austria (eastern part), Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, and Slovenia. Our Rotary conference provides a wonderful opportunity to discuss how this new model of administration can encourage cooperation and support Rotary growth and effectiveness, while respecting cultural autonomy."

Rita Levi-Montalcini, recipient of the 1986 Nobel Prize in medicine, spoke on "human duties and rights." She praised Rotary for its humanitarian efforts, especially in the areas of polio eradication, literacy, and improving the condition of girls and women worldwide. She said, "I commend Rotary for helping mankind. The success of the PolioPlus program is a model for how various groups can work together to achieve a common goal."

Following her remarks, President Devlyn designated her an honorary Rotarian.

Other speakers included RI President-elect Richard D. King, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chairman Herbert G. Brown and Rotary Foundation Trustee Roberto Valentin. Rudolf Horndler, chairman of the European Regional PolioPlus Committee, reported on the success of synchronized cross-border National Immunization Days (NIDs) in the region.

The Rotarians participated in various discussion groups that focused on issues of importance to the region: increasing job opportunities, exchanging views on human duties and rights, recruiting quality members, and more effective ways of implementing Rotary Foundation grants. Rotarians also had time to network and seek service opportunities at a projects fair.

The conference marked an historic milestone by conducting a successful three-hour teleconference linking delegates in Vienna to Rotarians in four cities: Cairo, Istanbul, Madrid, and Rome. The Rotarians in these cities had an opportunity to pose questions to the RI president, Foundation Trustee chairman, and RI Board members who were present during an open forum.

Many attendees were from newly established Rotary clubs in Eastern Europe. Gunter F. Ertler, governor of host District 1910, commended the clubs in his region on their achievements. "I am very proud of what these clubs have accomplished, despite many challenges. This conference gave us an opportunity to learn more about what Rotarians in this region are doing, such as helping children who are victims of landmines. They are truly making a difference."

Success plus market decline take toll on Foundation programs

Rapid growth in humanitarian grants programs coupled with a sharp drop in investment income prompted the Rotary Foundation Trustees to restrict or temporarily halt several Foundation humanitarian and educational programs at their April meeting.

The Trustees placed a moratorium on new 3-H Grants applications, as of 1 July 2001, until funds become available. Applications that have already been received are not affected. They halved the budget for Group Study Exchanges, as of the 2002-03 Rotary year, meaning districts will send a team every other year, with the exact timing agreed upon by the district governors-elect of the two paired districts so as to have each paired team travel in a different but consecutive program year. And the Trustees also restricted Grants for Rotary Volunteers to Rotarians only, effective 1 July 2001.

Matching Grants applications increased by a whopping 49 percent over the previous Rotary year, exhausting this year's budget. Some 2,300 applications that had yet to be approved will need to be resubmitted for consideration in the 2001-02 Rotary year. For the convenience of Matching Grant sponsors, a renewal form has been developed to facilitate the process and will be available for download from the Rotary Web site. Until this year, all qualifying applications were able to be approved, as a result of unusually high investment income. This income has supported an average 32 percent increase in applications the past five years.

While the Trustees are gratified to see the increased interest of clubs and districts in Foundation programs, they recognize that their ability to meet the financial demands of this expansion needs to be further examined, which

AUGUST 18, 2001 CAL EXPO ROTARY FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER.



THIS IS THE ROTARY FUN DAY AND ALL DAY EXPERIENCE AT THE STATE FAIR WITH FOOD AND PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIP OR ALL. WE NEED SILENT AUCTION IN THE \$250 - \$500 RANGE OR MORE FROM OUR CLUB, LAST YEAR WE DID NOT SUBMIT ANYTHING FROM OUR CLUB. LETS DO IT FOR OUR CLUB! ALL MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN RAFFEL TICKETS TO BUY OR SELL.

resulted in the current and temporary program changes they made. In addition, the Trustees will review the status of the operating reserve at their June meeting, and a study group has been appointed to review the structure of the Humanitarian Grants programs.

The Trustees urged Rotarians, clubs, and districts to increase their Annual Programs Fund giving in order to meet programmatic demands. They also agreed to re-examine the Foundation's Humanitarian Grants program, after a record 4,255 Avoidable Blindness and Matching grants were approved this year.

Germany, U.S. legislators receive Rotary award for polio efforts

Rotary has honored the German government and key U.S. legislators with the Polio Eradication Champion Award, in recognition of their support for the campaign to rid the world of the crippling disease. Established in 1995, the award recognizes world leaders who have made outstanding contributions toward the goal of global polio eradication. **RI** President Frank J. Devlyn and Rotary Foundation Chairman Herbert Brown presented Germany's Economic Development and Cooperation Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul with the award in Berlin on 14 May in recognition of the nearly US\$34 million in contributions made by the German government to polio eradication efforts in India. "On behalf of our 1.2 million Rotary volunteers worldwide, I am honored to give this award in recognition of Germany's ongoing commitment to polio eradication," said Devlyn. "As we stand on the brink of victory over polio, contributions like this are urgently needed as war and poverty threaten our ability to vaccinate every child." **Other** leaders who have received the award include past U.S. President Bill Clinton, former UK Prime Minister John Major, Egypt's First Lady Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Angola's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. **On** 15 May, in Washington, D.C., USA, RI President-elect Richard King presented several members of Congress with the award for their ongoing support of the initiative. First time recipients of the award include Representatives Jesse Jackson, Jr., Jim Kolbe, Nita Lowey, and Ralph Regula. Past recipients who were again honored for their continued support toward polio eradication include Senators Thad Cochran, Bill Frist, Tom Harkin, Daniel K. Inouye, Patrick J. Leahy, Mitch McConnell, Arlen Specter, and Ted Stevens, as well as Representatives Sonny Callahan, Dave Obey, Nancy Pelosi, John Edward Porter, and Roger F. Wicker.

In fiscal year 2001, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$118.9 million for the global polio eradication effort. In urging Congressional leaders to stay the course during the final and most difficult stage of the initiative, President-elect King said, "I am proud to honor members of Congress who have fought hard and gained funding for the monumental task of ridding the earth of this crippling disease. While the dream of a polio-free world is in sight, the last big push still lies ahead. U.S. leadership is crucial to ensure the threshold of victory is crossed." **The** number of polio cases has decreased from an estimated 350,000 in 1988, to no more than 3,500 reported cases in 2000, representing a 99 percent reduction. Polio cases in India have dropped from 1,934 in 1998 to just 256 cases in 2000. The polio virus now circulates in no more than 20 countries, mainly in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, down from 30 in 1999 and 125 in 1988.

In spite of this success, the remaining one percent poses the greatest challenge. Accessing all children in conflict areas, closing a US\$400 million funding gap of an estimated \$1 billion required to eradicate polio by 2005, and maintaining political commitment in the face of a disappearing disease are the major obstacles that must be overcome.

It is estimated that the world will save \$1.5 billion within two years after immunization ceases, with the European Union saving \$333 million each year, and the United States \$350 million.

**Rotary Club of Lafayette
P.O. Box 103
Lafayette, CA 94549**

Ten Day Letter for Mike Robertson:

Mike Robertson has been in Lafayette 35 years. Mike will be married 10 years in October to his wife Kelli, and has two children, Derek and Kevin. Mike is in Business Insurance, and is a Vice President with California Insurance Center. Mike has been approved by the board of directors and this will serve as the 10 day notice to the club. If anyone has any objections please let the President know prior to the expiration of 10 days in accordance with our club's bylaws.

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

May 21 Lane Chris

May 28 Harbarth Peggy



May 8 Searby Ed

May 16 Wake Ron

May 17 Hart Harrison