

DIRECTOR'S NOTES December 2005

*From the desk of Bob Stuart Jr,
Director 2005-2007*

It is hard to imagine that the Rotary year is almost halfway gone.

Tom Branum Sr. declared Director Nominee by President. Tom is the selection of the nominating committee and under our procedure since no challenges were filed by December 1, he has been certified to serve as the next director from our two zones on the RI Board in 2007-2009. Tom and Linda are from Noblesville, Indiana, District 6560. Within our Zones, he chaired the 2003 Kansas City Institute and 2001 Heart of America Breakfast. He has been a member of Avoidable Blindness and Poverty Alleviation taskforces. He coordinated Frank Devlyn's Heart of America Tour. He has received from our Foundation both the Citation for Meritorious Service and the Distinguished Service Awards. He has served as a Council on Legislation delegate. Congratulations to Tom—

New Orleans site of 2011 International Convention As a result of Hurricane Katrina, the RI Board has switched the 2007 Convention site to Salt Lake City and moved the New Orleans date to 2011.

New Orleans site of Disaster Relief and Rebuilding Workshop Pres Elect Bill Boyd and I are working on scheduling a North American Disaster Relief and Rebuilding Workshop sometime in the latter part of 2006 or 2007. This will allow us to develop a playbook to assist other Rotarians who face disasters and assist in developing Rotarian resource guides for the second century of service. By holding this in New Orleans, it will allow us to visit projects completed or in process and allow Rotarians from across North America to visit and see where their contributions are going.

Katrina Relief Fund and Website The family of Rotary has come together in amazing fashion following the disaster which hit our shores on the Gulf Coast. Assistance continues to flow into the Donor Advised Fund and district funds—Donor Advised Fund is now over 1.4 million dollars and the district 6840/6820 funds exceeded \$500,000 with District 6200 over 1.1 million dollars, this is on top of assistance from Shelterboxes (Rotary Club sponsored) of over \$720,000. District 6840's website is now up and running. I encourage you to look at the reports and forums on www.rotaryzones29-30helps.org

Clubs and Districts in the affected areas have been and should continue to communicate with each other and feel free to submit requests for funding to the different entities.

A note to those along the Coast: You have truly provided us special inspiration and motivation. Please know that as a family, we hold you in our prayers this season and look to work with you arm to arm in the bright future ahead.

Waiver of dues in disaster stricken area. I have talked with RI Gen Sec Ed Futa , who has indicated that if club presidents or district governors request, he will consider on behalf of the Board waiver of dues for a period of time due to the disaster.

Zone Website Revamped Thanks to the efforts of Todd Lindley you will find a different format on the Zone website www.rizones29-30.net You will find tabs information and newsletters on each of the resource groups together with membership and foundation. If you aren't receiving the data as a district chair or have questions , don't be surprised to find the answer on the website—everything from zone financials, recipients of citation for meritorious service, distinguished service and service above self awards, and a zone directory. Our zonewide matching grant projects are also listed together with data on next year's zone institute ,on line registration and a listing of those who have already signed up together with the Proceedings of our most recent Memphis Institute.

Memphis Zone Institute Our Rotary family hopped in our cars and got to Memphis for a great time. Congrats all around to Larry Lunsford, Jane Molloy, Lorretta Williams, Dale Elifrits, Bill Hattfield, Chuck Frazier, Duane Sterling, Janice Trawick, David Lusty and Bill Batt. One of my favorites was the Bill and Ray show on future visions, while letting Gay have closing comments to our Trustee Mark. Columbus planning is now underway and David's details are being posted on the website. Laura Bush is tentatively scheduled to speak on international literacy day- September 8, 2006. Special sessions for district trainers-council on legislation delegates are high on the agenda. Keep the dates Sept 7-10 marked for this special time.

Danish Pastry-Heart of America-Malmo/Copenhagen Holding to Tuesday breakfast tradition , chair Ken Schuppert is planning a special breakfast at the Bella Center, the site for the convention meetings. So-- no need to have to run after the breakfast because we will be right there and who do we have as our special guest and speaker but Michael Nobel, the representative of the Nobel family. You won't want to miss it. That's Tuesday June 13-Breakfast-Danish style.

Zone Leadership Institute/Academy Those in attendance at the Memphis Zone Institute had an opportunity to discuss and hear the positives of District leadership Academies. A committee is now being formed to investigate and outline a skeleton of how the various Districts that have academies operating in our Zones and the strengths of each.together with implementing a Zone-wide Institue/Academy A meeting following the February Board meeting is being arranged with Dave Linnett, director from the East Coast who established the Rotary Leadership Institute. It is contemplated that a zone-wide leadership academy will be established so that any district that does not currently have an academy and would like to participate could or could allow individuals who have gone through their district academies that don't cover certain areas could attend selected segments. DG Keith Lape of District 6460 has been spearheading this group.

Some Personal Comments- If you follow the Rotary website or read the Rotarian, you will know that this year has led to some significant decisions at the board level: from issues on the implementation of the Rotary Action Groups to extension into China and

authority to extend into Cuba; from discussing changes in the operation of the Council on Legislation to changing the site of the 2007 international convention and finally to examining a complaint on the operation of the Nominating Committee for President. For all the precious moments of joy, I must also confess that there are also points of heartache and frustration. I hope that you will continue to provide wise insight to me throughout the rest of my term on the board.

Let me leave you on a note of hope in this special season. Last year DGE John and Sue Behrendt and I went with Dave Groner to Benin where we met with a young mother and child. Benin had been polio free for at least three years. The mother took the child to Nigeria to visit her sister. The youngster returned with polio. I have just returned from Kano and Jagawa in northern Nigeria. This city of thirteen million is where our battleground is to be found. The challenge is huge. But the children are just as beautiful there as they are in every corner of the world. I pray that I may return to Nigeria within the next 18 months to find a country free from the scourge of this dread disease.

Thanks to Bruce Cook and Walter Maddocks back in about 1986, I had the opportunity to speak with Albert Sabin. I can still hear his words. "The children of the world can't wait." We have to keep our promise. The true lustre was not in setting our goal, but lies before us at this point in time as we set Rotary's path for the next 100 years. The true lustre lies in having the courage to take every step to cross that finish line.

Thanking each of you for all you continue to do for Rotary and for your communities,
Thanking each of you for your friendship and fellowship,

Wishing each of you the very best this holiday season from both Margie and myself

Yours in Rotary service,

Bob



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