



Lend a Hand

Date: May 14, 2004
To: Assistant Governors, District Leadership Team, Presidents, Secretaries, ICO's
District Committee Chairs, PDGs, District Rotarians
From: Nick Mascitelli, District Governor
Subject: Weekly District Update



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Important Dates

May 15, District Assembly – Stockton
May 23-26 Osaka, Japan
June 19, Transitional Cabinet Meeting

District Assembly – Tomorrow - Be there!

Rotary's Centennial

Frequently, Rotarians ask what they should be doing in their Club, District and as individuals to help promote the 100th Anniversary of Rotary International. The official launching of Centennial activities will be on February 23, 2005, and will continue through Rotary's Centennial Convention in Chicago from June 18 to 23, 2005. Past Rotary International President, Cliff Dochterman has written a series of 12 steps that may provide guidance for Rotarians who wish to become involved in promoting this once-in-a-lifetime Rotary event. The following are steps 4, 5 and 6. The last six will be included in the next issues of Friday Facts.

4- Centennial Displays of Rotary in your Community

Many clubs are collecting memorabilia, photographs of service activities, civic awards given to Rotary and other interesting historical items to prepare attractive centennial displays for store windows, libraries and local museums. The rich history of Rotary in your community can be portrayed on high quality displays and posters to show how Rotary has been a significant influence to the quality of life in your community. Rotary International has produced a set of three colorful Centennial posters (at a cost of \$10.00), which can be incorporated into local displays.

5- Centennial UN Day at the United Nations

Rotarians can make plans now to attend and participate in the Centennial UN Day at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City in November 2004. This daylong event will enable Rotarians to see and explore the facilities of the United Nations and join in seminars related to critical issues of peace, conflict resolution and the promotion of international goodwill and understanding. Details of Centennial Rotary-UN Day will be announced soon. Many Rotarians will wish to travel to New York to join in this special Centennial event.

6- Centennial "Service Above Self" Volunteer month

The Vocational Avenue of Rotary will be observed the month of April 2005 during Centennial Volunteer Month. All Rotarians will be encouraged to volunteer at least 10 hours of service in their vocation, profession, avocation or community service during the month. The event will demonstrate the tremendous importance and commitment, which Rotarians have given in serving their communities during the past 100 years. A special report form will be made available to record each club's volunteer contribution. Local club leaders should soon be planning community volunteer activities. A worldwide goal of 10 million hours of donated service is anticipated from the Rotarians of the world.

GSE Team Member Kent writes home

Kent's email 5-6-04 Kent van Wagtendonk

Howdy all,

Today we are to get on a boat and head down the Amazon to Belém. We leave at noon and should get there on Saturday at noon. But Santarém has been a pleasant, if not wonderful, and unexpected stop on our journey.

Things on this trip haven't been totally well planned, and this stop in Santarém wasn't on our original itinerary, but it has proved to be very interesting and educational. The director of this non-profit health care provider where we are staying is an American, but has been here for 30+ years. He has a unique perspective on Brazil. And we learned a lot from him in terms of history, government, and how things work or don't work in Brazil and why. We also had the pleasure of meeting up with a local historian. He is known as the walking library/museum of Santarém. He gave us another history lesson of the Amazon Basin, both pre and post European.

There is another interesting phenomenon here on the river. The Tapajos River is a warmer and slightly darker river and the Amazon is a bit cooler, but more muddy in color. The waters meet without mixing for a few kilometers, so for a while along the river you have a distinct line of two different colored waters. This is similar what we saw in Manaus.

Yesterday we were fortunate enough to gain passage into a state forest reserve. We had to give our passport numbers to get in. They are super protective of the forest here for obvious reasons. Most of the jungle around here has been cut down for development and agriculture. But we were finally able to walk around in the rainforest. It was amazing!!! The smell and feel of the air due to the thick vegetation. It was fantastic.

Rubber trees in the Amazon were important in the economic growth here in the 1800's. Henry Ford even built an American style town and plantation here. The town had a grid pattern for its streets and the houses looked right out of 1930 Americana, complete with front yards, porches and fire hydrants (not hooked up to any water, but there anyway).

We then went to a beach along the Tapájoes River. Another amazing place. However, the river is still pretty high because the rainy season isn't over yet. Most of the beach is still under water and will be until July. But it was great to jump in again. Ok I am sure that I have bored you all with our adventures.

Will try to fire off one more in Belém.

Later, Kent

Nick Mascitelli
District Governor