



Date: April 15, 2005
To: Assistant Governors, District Leadership Team, Presidents, Secretaries, ICO's
District Committee Chairs, PDGs, District Rotarians
From: Dave Gallagher, District Governor
Subject: Weekly District Update



Rotary District 5220 "Friday Facts"

ROTARY DISTRICT 5220 FRIDAY FACTS Celebrate Rotary

[Polio and Rotary: Editorial from The Wall Street Journal](#)

April 12, 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of the Salk polio vaccine. Poliomyelitis, also known as infantile paralysis, used to be one of childhood's most feared diseases. A few years after Dr. Jonas Salk announced his vaccine on April 12, 1955, nearly every child in the U.S. was protected. Today polio has disappeared from the Americas, Europe and the Western Pacific and is nearly gone from the rest of the world.

A too-little known part of this feat is the role played by Rotary, the international businessman's club, which 20 years ago adopted the goal of wiping out the disease. Rotary understood that medical breakthroughs are worthless unless people aren't afraid to immunize their children and efficient delivery systems exist to get the vaccine to them. And so it mobilized its members in 30,100 clubs in 166 countries to make it happen. In 1985, when Rotary launched its eradication program, there were an estimated 350,000 new cases of polio in 125 countries. Last year, 1,263 cases were reported. More than one million Rotary members have volunteered their time or donated money to immunize two billion children in 122 countries. In 1988, Rotary money and its example were the catalyst for a global eradication drive joined by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. In 2000 Rotary teamed up with the United Nations Foundation to raise \$100 million in private money for the program.

By the time the world is certified as polio-free -- probably in 2008 -- Rotary will have contributed \$600 million to its eradication effort.

An economist of our acquaintance calls Rotary's effort the most successful private health-care initiative ever. A vaccine-company CEO recently volunteered to us that the work of Rotary and the Gates Foundation, both private groups, has been more effective than any government in promoting vaccines to save lives. It's become fashionable in some quarters to deride civic volunteerism, but Rotary's unsung polio effort deserves the Nobel Peace Prize.

[Polio Eradication to be highlighted at District Conference](#)

The incredible efforts of Rotary to eradicate polio from our world will be highlighted at this year's District Conference by our own Dr. Joe Serra. We should be so proud of the role that we as Rotarians have played in this fantastic program.

[PBS Interview: 50th Anniversary of the polio vaccine](#)

There is a very interesting interview on PBS The World radio about polio and Rotary with Deepak Kapur, chair of India's National PolioPlus Committee for Rotary International. You can hear the interview by going to www.theworld.org and going to the archives from April 11 and click on the Polio In India interview.

[The Presidential Citation Goes To](#)

Several more clubs in District 5220 have qualified for the prestigious Presidential Citation from Rotary International. Congratulations to these fantastic clubs:

Chowchilla

Dos Palos

Gustine

Lodi Sunrise

Los Banos

Madera Sunrise

Merced

Merced Sunrise

Modesto Gateway

Modesto Sunrise

Newman

Oakdale

Sonora 49er

Stockton East

Turlock

The deadline for your club to qualify for this award is today – April 15.

[The Romanian GSE team arrives this week](#)

Our guests from Romania will be hosted in Stockton for their first week of the exchange. You can see their full program Monday April 18 at the Lodi Tokay meeting at noon. The team will also attend the North Stockton meeting at noon on Tuesday April 19, and the Stockton Rotary club meeting at noon on Wednesday April 20, where you will have the opportunity to meet the team members. A special thank you to Rotarians Bill Wagner and Dave

Tygett, members of Stockton Rotary, for organizing the week's hosts and activities.

Project 100 Update

Thanks to the clubs for your incredible support of Project 100. We will not be collecting the items at the District Conference as we had originally planned. Please contact Kelly McNulty-Adjetey at Kelly@spwg.com to arrange for pick-up or if you have any questions.

Welcome New Rotarians

Please welcome the newest Rotarians in District 5220:

- Sean Colt - Merced (Cyril Lawrence)
- Pat Friesen - Atwater (Kory Billings)
- Frank Eisner - Lodi Sunrise (Michael Phillips)
- Jeff Prag - Stockton East (Chris Weed)
- Steve Ward - Modesto (Allen Layman)
- Beth Hirsch - Angels Camp Provisional (Bob Henkel)
- Anthony Silva - Stockton (CP Riddle)

David Gallagher

District Governor