

March 15, 2010

This Week's Program
Outbound GSE Team to Japan
Next Week's Program
Haiti – Abby Nelson

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE –

May 13-16, 2010 **Winnipeg, Canada**

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION –

June 20-23, 2010 **Montreal, Quebec**

UPCOMING MAR/APR PROGRAMS

Mar 29	Classification Talk
Apr 5	Baseball Opener – Meeting at Boys & Girls Club
Apr 12	ODC – Marcy LaCroix
Apr 19	Meritcare Merger – Charles Gulsvig
Apr 26	Inbound Japanese GSE Team

MEETING LOCATION REMINDER:

***** APRIL 5TH** - will be held at the **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB** at our regular time for our celebration of the baseball opener.

RECENT ROTARIAN VISITORS

Jay Balistona – St Michael/Albertville
Les Bolstad, Jr. - Wayzata

BOARD REVIEW – MARCH 4TH

GRANT AWARDED – Concordia Language Village

TREASURER'S REPORT – Looks healthy.

\$2,733 was sent in for the Shelter Boxes.

MEETING PLACE – RFP's were reviewed; lunch meetings will be set up for Hungry Bear and Hampton Inn to access facilities.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE – Cost of project is \$50,000. Decision on hold.

ADVERTISING ON WEBSITE – This was discussed, and the decision was to not pursue this.

WEEKLY DRAWINGS – New game will start and projected to be more worthwhile.

DISTRICT AWARDS – Awards will be submitted.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: March 18th, 11:30 a.m., at Hampton Inn to check out facility. Contact **John Reff** if you plan to attend.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY

There were 37 Rotarians with perfect attendance in February. Winner of a pot of flowers is **Steve Rith-Najarian**.

RAY OF HOPE

President-elect **Ray Klinginsmith** takes office in July as RI president, capping a nearly half century connection to the organization, which sent him to the University of Cape Town, South Africa, in 1961 on a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship. The first person from his community to study abroad, **Klinginsmith** returned to Unionville, MO., USA, after traveling 16,000 miles and visiting 35 clubs in Africa. He began his Rotary service stateside by joining the Rotary Club of Unionville two weeks later. He subsequently joined the Rotary Club of Macon, MO., in 1965, when he and his wife, Judie, moved there to start his practice of law. He later moved to Kirksville to work for Northeast Missouri State University, and in 1974 he joined the Rotary Club of Kirksville, where he is now a member. **Klinginsmith** has served Rotary International in a number of capacities, including RI Council on Legislation chair, RI Convention committee vice chair in 2005 and chair in 2008, and Rotary Foundation trustee and vice chair. In 1985, he became the youngest person to serve as RI as director at the time.

What separates Rotary from other service organizations? (According to **Klinginsmith**) Several things. It was the first service club. And it quickly became a premier organization with high-level people, and it has remained in that enviable position. We have several imitators, and imitation is the most sincere form or flattery. Other service clubs do good work, but our interest in fellowship, service, and high ethical standards for top-notch business and professional people is distinct. And our internationality sets us apart as well. When Rotarians come to an international convention, usually they are awestruck by the internationality and by the spirit of Rotary.

What is Rotary's greatest strength? It's the clubs – 33,000 clubs! It's just amazing that in 200 countries and geographical areas, you can have 33,000 organizational units, all following the same rule.

*What inspired you to pick **Building Communities** – **Bridging Continents** as the theme for your presidential year?* (**Klinginsmith**) analyzed all the previous themes, and noticed that most speak only to Rotarians. So He decided to try to develop a theme that would tell non-Rotarians something about what Rotary does and, at the same time, to validate for Rotarians the importance of what we do.