

R. I. District 5340 Newsletter



THE COMMUNICATOR APRIL 2004



Lend a Hand

“APRIL – District Conference 2004”



WELCOME TO D-5340

Here to Serve

Mike Stelman

Governor 2003-2004

**April 23-25, 2004
Barona Valley Ranch**

Conference Program



District 5340

California USA

Governor Mike wants to know: ARE YOU IN?

District 5340 is honored to have as the Rotary International Representatives to the Conference Past President Cliff and Mary Elena Dochterman. Emcee extraordinaire Steve Hamann will lead the Conference with a fast paced program of Domestic and International Rotary activities. Come to learn, to be inspired, to have fun and be infected with the Rotary Spirit. Watch the website in coming weeks for the program agenda. The Conference Chairmen promise that you will leave the Conference thinking that 'This was a good use of my time'. **SEE YOU AT CONFERENCE 2004!**

Presidents,

Our outstanding "Thousand Smiles" project is looking to strengthen their project in the days ahead.

Please, we need a Rotarian who would be available to become Chair of this District Committee. They need not be a Dentist or have Medical background, but who would be an organizer, and willing to direct this program.

Announce to your club, and sent in prospective names to the District Office, or call Dale at 619-299-5341 for more information.

Thank you for your help.

Mike Stelman, District Governor, 2003-2004

U.S. club efforts revitalize education in Afghanistan

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga

Rotarians are often the first volunteers to venture into corners of the earth where few private and public agencies have been working to make a difference in the lives of the poor. In Afghanistan, Rotary club efforts are helping to bring change to a country devastated by more than 20 years of war and neglect. Co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, California, USA, a brand new grade school and a computer lab at a University in Jalalabad are just two examples of such initiatives helping Afghans to lay the foundations of a brighter future.

"It is clear that in the area in Afghanistan where we are working, Rotary is making a measurable difference in lives. We are doing things on the same or greater magnitude as [national] governments," says Past District 5340 Governor Steve Brown, one of several volunteers from the club involved in the country. "I have never felt more appreciated for our efforts. No one has helped these people in the past - let alone a small group of volunteers. Individuals who look rather rugged give you the warmest of smiles and provide a sincere thank you for your efforts. It doesn't get much better than that."

Most recently, Brown led a delegation of four District 5340 Rotarians to the inauguration of the grade school and the computer center at the University of Nangarhar. On 11 March, at a ceremony attended by some 350 guests, the visiting Rotarians handed over the US\$60,000 computer center to the university administration, now charged with the responsibility of running the facility that includes a satellite hookup to the Internet. To complement the computer center, the club has undertaken a project to teach English as a second language and distribute 12,000 dictionaries.

Two days later, the grade school was inaugurated at a colorful event attended by more

than 600 male and female students in uniform; a deputy minister and other senior government officials from the Afghan capital, Kabul; the governor of Nangarhar province; U.S. military personnel; representatives from local and foreign nongovernmental organizations; local media; and parents.

So far, phase one of the grade school project has been completed at a cost of \$155,000, with facilities ready for the first six classes. According to Brown, it will take \$30,000 to equip the school and a further \$60,000 to fund work on the second phase of the project, building middle- and high-school sections.

The La Jolla club is also involved with health initiatives in Afghanistan. Fary Moini, a club member and registered nurse, has been doing medical work with the support of Rotary Foundation grants. The club is also co-sponsoring a project to donate an ultrasound machine to a Jalalabad hospital and to establish an eye care and surgery center through an Avoidable Blindness Donor Advised Fund.

Two other District 3450 Rotarians, Steve Spencer and Farid Saydee, are teaching in Afghanistan with the support of a Steve Brown Donor Advised Fund, also through the Foundation. Another initiative, the \$33,250 Afghan Women's Development Center, is funded primarily by the Rotary Club of Encinitas La Costa, California, with a Matching Grant contribution from the Foundation.

As in many Rotarian efforts, the Afghanistan projects are yielding results beyond the original objectives. Later this year, Afghan professionals will travel to the United States on a Group Study Exchange (GSE). The La Jolla Rotarians are at an advanced stage in forging a Sister Cities relationship between San Diego, California, and Jalalabad. And a group of prospective Rotarians is already working to establish the first Rotary club in Jalalabad.

"If we can get a club chartered in Jalalabad, that would have more potential than the projects we are involved in," says Brown. "[With a new club, the] doors will be further opened for expanding world understanding and peace within Afghanistan."

For more information about the La Jolla Golden Triangle club efforts in Afghanistan, contact Steve Brown via e-mail or visit his Web site.

Source: R I Newsroom

INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL

"If there is any one of the many things in Rotary that seems to me to be appropriate at this moment, it is the promotion of international goodwill..."

It is quite natural that we should think of our nations as THE nations...and think that the culture and educational processes of the other countries are essentially wrong if they differ from our own...

If we cannot encourage that feeling of tolerance in our own country and in every country, only God can save the world".

Paul Harris speaking to the Rotary Club of Elgin, Scotland, *June 2, 1934 as reported in the local press.*

ROTARY WEEKLY QUICKBITS

Keep Informed of District 5340 Events, Changes, Etc. Sign Up To Receive the Weekly Rotary Quickbits by email. More information: www.rotary5340.org/quickbits

District 5340 Rotary Club Highlights

Each month, an Assistant Governor will highlight items of interest from each of his or her clubs. If there is anything you would like to share with your fellow District 5340 Rotarians, please contact your club's Assistant Governor for that recognition.

We want to hear from our clubs Rotarians...

Is there something going in your club that you would like to share with your fellow clubs in District 5340? To get your news into the district newsletter and/or onto the district web site: Send your text items (150 words or less) to **Julie Walker** at julie@wc-ms.com Be sure to include Rotary in the email subject line!

Send photos (jpg only) to **Bob England** at englandb@cox.net

To post items on the web site calendar: go to rotary5340.org and click on the calendar. At the bottom of that page, there is a line regarding submitting items. Click on **Dale Bailey's** name.