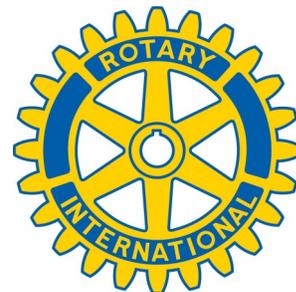




# By AG Lisa Eimers



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Rita Esterly  
District Governor

## World Understanding

BY AG LISA EIMERS

I found this article both exciting and challenging to write. That's because it's about World Understanding. Sounds nice, doesn't it? But if you were asked to define it out loud and quickly, you might pause because it's quite amorphous. It's fuzzy. It means both a lot and a blank stare at the same time. Let's be honest...when someone mentioned Rotary to you however long ago (before you joined), did you immediately snap your fingers as your eyes opened wide and say, "Oh! That organization that promotes world understanding!" Didn't think so. It's a tough concept to operationalize in an everyday, task-y, literal way. It's not like "get groceries" or "shovel the sidewalk." There isn't an immediate, shared visual image for this phrase among lots of people.

Or is there? Is it the Rotary Wheel? For many around the world, it is. Is it the three little initials G.S.E.? For me, it is. Is it friendship? A Rotary Friendship Exchange? For thousands, it is. Ambassadorial or Peace Scholars? Yes, most definitively.

While a search on Wikipedia for the phrase "world understanding" yields the disappointing result "the page 'world understanding' does not exist...", it does list a whopping 31,089 search results for the phrase. Delightfully, The Rotary Foundation is number four on the results list. Yes, 4. The concept can't be separated from the Foundation. It's that

important and illustrative.

Despite our rich cultural history in the United States, our level of knowledge and tolerance for "others" (e.g., other cultures, other religions, other borders) isn't always noteworthy in a positive sense. Perhaps due to our history, we have allowed ourselves to accept various media definitions of "others" that are less than positive or true. Or perhaps they've been exaggerated or caricatured. Or maybe for some it's been easier to simply remain in a state of ignorance... it's bliss, after all, as the saying goes.

Our Rotary Foundation, however, makes it possible to define, in myriad and tangible ways, broad concepts that comprise world understanding, such as friendship and respect and enlightenment. Rotary provides us with numerous opportunities each week, each month, each year to truly understand the hopes, motivations, processes and values of others, first hand. Working side by side with each other as Rotarians on a community service project in another country, opening your home to a Group Study Exchange team member, or participating in a Friendship Exchange are existing structures in which we can have the layers of our eyes and filters of our minds opened, leading to far greater understanding of people around the world. Bringing a friend to hear about the experi-



ences of an Ambassadorial Fellow and the work he or she is embarking upon can inspire greater things in our own lives and club efforts. Inviting exchange students into our everyday lives and routines can help us give pause to our assumptions about others. We open ourselves to greater understanding.

Although this article will appear in the February newsletter, I found in January a beautiful quote to layer directly into these thoughts, as we celebrated Martin Luther King's birthday. He reminds us that

"People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other."

I would add to that last sentence, that they have not served together. Fear can easily be replaced with love and with service. Some would argue that these concepts are one and the same; love and service.

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## Beahon nominated for DG 2014-2015

Mike Beahon, past president of the Fulton Rotary Club, has been nominated to become District Governor of Rotary District 6080 for 2014-2015. Beahon was president of the Fulton Rotary Club during 2010-11. He received the Service Above Self Award from District Governor Raymond Plue this past year.

Civic and service organization leadership is nothing new to Beahon, who joined the Jaycees in Columbia, Mo., in 1972 before moving to Kansas, where he served as local Jaycee President, Regional Director, State President and National Vice-President. He joined the staff of Jaycees International in Coral Gables, Fla., in 1980 and served as Area Director for Europe, Africa and the Middle East. He later spent nearly two years as Managing Director of Africana Breweries in Ibadan, Nigeria.

After 21 years away, Mike and his wife, Mary Ann, and their daughter, Kelly returned to Missouri and settled in Fulton in 1995, where they purchased Sir Winston's Restaurant & Pub. Mike is now retired; Mary Ann is Director of University Relations at William Woods University; and Kelly is a manager at a Starbucks in Columbia.

## 18 Students, 8 Adults attend South-Central Rotary Youth Exchange Convention in Tulsa



**Top Left:** Students from Colombia perform a traditional dance

**Top Right:** Students after an all-night lock in

**Bottom Left:** Kit Freudenberg (second from the left) and her Rotary Youth Exchange Team

Why are Foundation programs so effective in reaching Rotary's mission of world (peace and) understanding? They allow people to focus on learning about each other individually first, then together toward a common goal. They allow fear and stereotypes to be replaced with love and service.

The programs promote what Stephen Covey purports as Habit 5 of the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People (and Families): seek first to understand...then to be understood. One of the more interesting points he makes in explaining this habit is this:

People do not see the world as

## World Understanding - continued

it is; they see it as

they are—or as they have been conditioned to be.

So, when people visit another country (whether in high school on a Rotary Exchange or as a professional as a GSE participant, for example), they have the opportunity to experience the world anew, and to understand others' struggles and celebrations. They also have the opportunity to be understood. The world begins to feel smaller, as we feel more compassionate and as we become more understanding.

Mother Teresa summed up the

reality of our cultural filters this way: "When you judge or criticize, you have no time to love." We are a fairly critical lot on the surface, we humans. Once the process of understanding occurs and is shared, however, we understand that we share far more with others in the human experience than stereotypes or word of mouth or media would lead us to believe. It changes "other" to "another." It changes "foreigner" to "friend." And it changes the cultural box each of us resides in to a wide, open horizon that we all share and live in.

## Dick Mazanec Appointed District Secretary



Mark Pearce is pleased to announce another addition to the 2012-13 Leadership Team for District 6080.

Charter member of the Rotary Breakfast Club of Rolla, Richard "Dick" Mazanec, has agreed to serve as District Secretary for a three-year term. In that position, Dick will be responsible for record-

ing the minutes and decisions stemming from official meetings of the District, and to make those records accessible for later access and as reference for future boards.

Dick served as Secretary of the Rolla club for 10 years and is finishing his term as Assistant Governor this year. He has amassed a 21-year perfect

attendance record and has served as chair of his club's Foundation Committee for 18 years.

And, should you think he has more to prove his constancy, he has worked as a pharmacist for 52 years, he has been married to his wife, Fran for 52 years and he has been a St. Louis blues season ticket hold-

## Duane Sterling Appointed Rotary Foundation Awards Chair



Duane R. Sterling from Warrensburg has agreed to accept the position of The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Awards Chair for District 6080 beginning in FY 2012-13. As chair, Duane will be looking for Rotarians within the District who have performed exceptional, long-term service on behalf of the Rotary Foundation, and

he will make recommendations for special TRF commendations for those found worthy of consideration.

Duane has had an extensive Rotary career, both professionally (as Rotary Foundation General Manager 1997-2003) and personally, in which among other things, he has served as Aide to RI President Ray Klinginsmith

(2010-11), was on the Peace and Conflict Resolution Fellows Executive Committee and was the first chair of the Rotary Peace Symposium.

He and his wife Pat have made an exceptional Rotary team over the years, and I am proud to have him join the District 6080 leadership team.

# 2012-2013 Theme: Peace Through Service



## By Mark Pearce, 2012-2013 District Governor

My wife, Ann, and I have just returned from San Diego, California, and the Rotary International Assembly, and I am fresh with excitement and vigor about the tremendous things that Rotary is doing in the world. What's especially exciting is that Rotary is positioning itself to do even more. Undoubtedly, you are a big part of that.

Rotary International President-elect Sakuji Tanaka announced that next year's theme is "**Peace through Service.**" Tanaka took great pains to clarify that the word "peace" is not only an antonym to the word "war," but is also descriptive of a community of understanding, interaction, cooperation and trust. It's in this way that even our local service projects can be seen as building toward a more peaceful world.

You can read more about Rotary International's announcements on the district's website, [www.rotary6080.org](http://www.rotary6080.org).

## Jackie Howard Appointed Permanent Fund Chair

Pulaski County Rotarian Jacqueline "Jackie" Howard has accepted the position of Rotary Foundation Permanent Fund Chair for District 6080 beginning in FY 2012-13.

As chair, Jackie will promote the Rotary Foundation's Permanent Fund and its never-ending ability to generate funds for humanitarian projects. Many people make donations to the Permanent Fund through planned gifts or bequests,

and Jackie will be able to provide information about the Permanent Fund to anyone considering such an option.

A resident of Waynesville, Missouri, Jackie is Director for Psychiatric Services at Phelps County Regional Medical Center. She has served in the psychiatric nursing and leadership development field for over 30 years.

Within the district, Jackie has

served as an Assistant Governor, and for the past three years has been chair of the district's GSE program. Prior to that, she was a member of the GSE team to the Philippines (1994) and the GSE team leader to Germany (2006). Jackie is a Paul Harris Fellow and is also proud to have made a bequest gift to the Rotary Foundation.



## West Plains Rotary Clubs Honored by Chamber



At the Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet, the Rotary Clubs of West Plains were recognized as the Civic/Nonprofit Organization of the Year 2011. The two club presidents, Reid Grigsby and Susan Courter, accepted the award "in recognition of contributions, service and support of the West Plains area." This speaks highly of our Rotarian members and the work that we as Rotarians do.

## Glendale Interact Club Chartered



The Glendale Interact Club was chartered on January 23, 2012 with 25 members. We welcome District 6080's newest Interact-ors!

## Rotarians to Travel to India

Two Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Columbia are going to India on February 14th to participate in a National Immunization Day. They are Darlene Johnson and Judi Elliott. Thanks to these Rotarians for giving Service Above Self.

# February Inspiration: Be a Rotary Team Player

By Rita Esterly, District Governor

Are you a Rotary team player? We function as a group member everyday. For example, we are part of a family whether it is our family of origin or a family we create with a spouse. We function as a group member at our work site in order to produce a product or get a project done. In our community, we may be members of an organization like Rotary or a church group. For leisure, we may be members of a sports team. In all aspect of our lives, we function as a member of a group. Do you excel at being an effective team player in all the groups of your life and especially in Rotary?

So what criteria could you use to answer that question? Excellent question! Let's look at the following four criteria: 1. Am I working collaboratively? 2. Am I doing my share of the work? 3. Am I exhibiting loyalty to other team members? 4. Am I valuing group outcomes over individual success? Let's see how you rate in terms of being a team player in Rotary?

## 1. Working collaboratively

Do I listen to the ideas of others?

Do I offer suggestions of my own?

Do I blend what I hear to make a better outcome?

## 2. Doing my share

Do I do my part?

Do I volunteer to take charge of portions of the project?

Do I take responsibility to complete my part on time?

## 3. Exhibiting loyalty to the team

Do I show up when I am needed?

Do I prioritize the group goals?

Do I tackle tasks even if they are difficult?

## 4. Valuing group outcomes over individual success

Do I give credit for success to the group?

Do I point out individuals who contributed greatly to the team effort?

Do I share benefits with the group?

How did you do? Are you a Rotary team player? If so great! If not, in what areas do you need to improve?

So what would make you want to be a Rotary team player? Let's take a look at the following benefits of being a team player.

1. It is fun to work together! Our Millennial Generation members (those born between 1980-2000) know that work can be fun if you work with your friends. They actually look for people who are like them to share workspace and projects. Having fun on a service project can make the work seem more enjoyable and be attractive for others to join in the Rotary fun.

2. Two heads are better than one! More ideas can generate better service project ideas and more resources. Better results make your club look good in the public's eye so that more people in your community want to join Rotary.

## February Inspiration - continued

3. Divide and conquer! When you are working as a team of Rotarians, the workload is divided. You are not responsible for everything. Getting a portion done does not seem as overwhelming as doing the entire task yourself. Rotary becomes manageable especially to our Millennial Generation.

4. Go team! When a task is shared, there is someone there to motivate you, to encourage you, to help during difficult times, to coach you, to cheer you on to the finish line, and to celebrate the success. As a Rotary team doing a service project, there is not anything you cannot do together.

So you have a choice to be a Rotary team player or not. You can choose to be collaborative, to do your share, to exhibit loyalty, and to value the success of the group. Being a Rotary team player leads to better ideas which leads to a better outcome which leads to the success of your club. When your life is enriched with others who help make the outcome better, who share the load, who cheer you on, who challenge you, and who share in the celebration, you have a more satisfying Rotary life.

# District 6080 Calendar

## February: World Understanding

- Rotary's 107<sup>th</sup> Birthday: February 23, 2012
- District Leadership Team Seminar (DGE Mark Pearce): February 25, 2012

## March: Literacy

- **Changemaker Award Forms** submitted to District Governor: March 1, 2011
- RYLA applications due: March 1, 2012
- Matching Grants submission deadline: March 1, 2012
- Student Government Day in Jefferson City: TBA
- **Presidential Citation Forms** submitted to District Governor: March 15, 2011
- Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar applications due to club presidents: March 15, 2012
- Peace Scholar applications due: March 15, 2012
- **President-Elect/Secretary-Elect Training Seminar** in Jefferson City: March 23-24, 2012

## April: Magazine

- Presidents submit endorsed Ambassadorial Scholar applications: April 1, 2012
- Youth Exchange Outbound Second Orientation: April 7, 2012
- Ambassadorial Scholar interviews: April 28, 2012

## District 6080 Calendar - Continued

### May: International Convention

- **Rotary International Convention** in Bangkok, Thailand: May 6-9, 2012
- Group Study Exchange Outbound Team leaves for Italy: May 1, 2012
- Assistant Governor's submit completed Memo's of Club Visit to District Governor: May 15, 2012
- **Rotary Club Leadership Team Retreat** (DGE Mark Pearce): May 19, 2012

### June: Fellowship

- RYLA: June 24-27
- Deadline for contributions to The Rotary Foundation: June 30, 2012
- Youth Exchange Outbound Final Orientation: TBA

Visit [www.rotary6080.org](http://www.rotary6080.org) for regular updates on what's  
happening in our district!