



## *District Governor's Newsletter*

*June 2018*

### **DOING WHAT YOU SHOULD DO**

No person ever wants to eat right all the time. No person wants to exercise every single day. Some people take days off even when they are present at work. Leaders have to understand there's no one on Earth who wants to do what he or she should do all the time. This is where desire comes in. Desire pushes us forward. Desire is the proof in the pursuit. The more you desire something, the more you will pursue it. If you want to estimate how much someone truly desires something, look at how he or she is pursuing it. Are they simply in dreaming stage? That is where most people stay. They stay in the safety of thoughts and dreams, which is basically nowhere at all.

Desire won't let you ease up on the pursuit. Desire is with you when you go to bed at night and it's with you when you wake up in the morning. Desire will wake you up in the middle of the night with an idea on how to make the pursuit more effective to catch what you want. Think about that special someone you married. Think about when you first met and how desire made you pursue him or her. That desire made you think about that person all the time. You pursued him or her until you got married and hopefully you stoke that same desire to keep your relationship fresh. Desire keeps you doing things when you don't really feel like doing them. If you are having issues with execution in your organization or club, check the desire level within your people. How much desire is there for them to reach their goals?

No person gets there simply on desire alone. Even though desire is where the pursuit of your goals starts, the component that moves you closer is belief. You can have a lot of desire and it can get short-circuited by a lack of belief. You might have desired to date someone in high school but you were circumvented by your belief in yourself. You might not have believed you were good enough, smart enough, cute enough, and confident enough. It's amazing how much our belief systems can propel us or stall us. Belief is the governor between desire and taking action. When strong desire is coupled with strong belief and faith, we are compelled to take action. Why are you not executing and taking action?

Tony Richards, Clear Vision Development Group, Columbia, MO

### **IDENTITY**

Many Rotarians enjoy traveling and meeting new people. Traveling to new destinations offers a chance to explore and enhance our life experiences; this includes travel within the confines of the United States and abroad. Following the end of the Civil War in the U.S., a subculture of traveling migrant workers journeyed from place to place seeking employment and a place to call home. These migrant workers generally

traveled by train and often greeted each other with “hey Beau,” thus creating the slang term “hobo.” Communication among hobos was limited, but reasonably effective. They passed the word to identify towns where food and shelter might be available to hobos; looking out for each other became known as the “hobo code.” The name became their identity.

Identity is a word that is often used to describe the internal culture of a business, an organization, and various social and charitable groups. What is the identity that we as Rotarians are projecting in our community? What image are we projecting that identifies Rotary to others? Thankfully our actions project a very positive community image with the work that is being done in the name of Rotary. This includes this year’s tree planting campaign, our continued work with the Food Bank and food pantries, shelters for abused women, and learning opportunities for youth (Youth Exchange, RYLA, and Interact). The migrant hobo is (and was) an individual in search of employment and a place where he/she could fit in. In our case, a local Rotary club serves people in the community as a place where they can fit in and do good things for others.

Being a Rotarian is a great honor, but with that honor comes responsibility. These responsibilities include paying membership dues, attending club meetings, volunteering to participate in community projects, giving to the Rotary Foundation, and being engaged in fellowship with other Rotarians. By focusing on individual talents, Rotary members will have more pride in their commitment to service above self and do a better job in the community. We work to promote greater emotional investment by creating a Rotary club where every member can contribute without worry or insecurity, while pursuing their passion and continuing to refine their skills. We assess community needs and select those that we can achieve; we always do so with a goal in mind. Some Rotary members regularly spend time together outside of the weekly meeting, allowing organic conversations and ideas to flow and creativity to flourish. In our travels around the U.S. we see our own Rotary marks on sign posts of many local communities. Sometimes the Rotary sign is attached to city welcome signs. This proud symbol conveys an indication of who is within the community and what the community stands for. Rotarians know that, when we travel for business, pleasure, or just exploring, we are embracing the “hobo code” when we see a Rotary sign with its famous Four Way Test as part of a welcoming community. We know that we will be welcomed with open arms and given an opportunity to be part of their community. Rotarians make a difference.

Michael Hechner, Member, Rotary Club of Columbia

## **DARE TO DREAM: HOW ROTARY BECAME A DRIVING FORCE ERADICATING POLIO**

In the March issue, readers were encouraged to obtain a copy of **DARE TO DREAM**, a high-quality, full-length documentary film that tells the story of a small group of visionary Rotary leaders who dared to set a breathtaking goal of eradicating polio for all of the children of the world. This article deserves to be included here again as a reminder to clubs to purchase this film. It tells the “inside” story about the Rotary leaders who put Rotary on the path to polio eradication and the public health controversies that had to be resolved in order for polio to become a world health priority.

Funded by the Rotary District 7620 Project Trust Fund, this film gives Rotarians the back-story to the incredible decision to eradicate polio. You may be astounded to learn that the Rotary Foundation was not involved in the early days of polio eradication, that the international health community was not interested

in eradicating single diseases, and that several prominent Rotary leaders were vehemently opposed to Rotary getting involved in service projects on a global scale.

Yet three successive RI Presidents along with a few other extraordinary Rotary leaders pursued a grand vision and eventually overcame all obstacles in setting Rotary on a course that, more than thirty years later, is ready to achieve the most incredible public health victory the world has ever seen.

A free video excerpt of more than 19 minutes is available to Rotarians on Rotary.org at <https://daretodreamfilm.com/>. Take a look at the excerpt. I think you will be persuaded to obtain the full-length, broadcast-ready film of 56 minutes. It can be purchased for the low price of just \$25.00. Approximately \$18.75 of the purchase cost will be contributed to Polio Plus at the Rotary Foundation. To purchase, go to Rotary.org at <https://daretodreamfilm.com/> and click on “Buy Film.” Just one viewing of the free excerpt will persuade most clubs to buy this film and show it at club meetings and at new member orientations so that Rotarians may better understand the vision of past RI Presidents and Directors in pushing world health professionals to focus on the eradication of polio. This amazing story of how Rotary became a leader in the quest to eradicate polio is virtually unknown to many Rotarians. Seeing this film will correct that deficiency and motivate many more Rotarians to support Polio Plus.

<https://daretodreamfilm.com/>

## **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION VIDEOS AVAILABLE**

In a few days, the 2018 Rotary International Convention will convene in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Like those of the recent past, the general sessions will be a spectacle for those in attendance. Speeches and entertainment will occupy the main stage of convention events. Speeches by RI President Ian Riseley and President-Elect Barry Rassin will be spell binding as will other presentations by leading Rotarians at the international level. Rotarians everywhere can see and hear all of the major addresses at no cost. By July 10, if not sooner, video recordings of the principal addresses will become available on Rotary.org and find International Conventions. Click on “Speeches and Reports – Rotary International Convention” and find the 2018 Convention. Then sit back and be inspired.

## **TREE PLANTING CONTINUES**

A number of clubs were engaged in planting trees this spring in response to RI President Ian Riseley’s call to plant a tree for every member. And they took up his challenge with enthusiasm. They are commended for doing so. If your club planted trees and that action has not yet been reported, then you are urged to go to <https://www.esrag.org/2017-2018-trees-planted-counter> and enter information about the club, the number of trees planted, location of the planting, date of the planting, volunteer hours invested, and financial investment. It is very important that every club that planted trees enter its information so that Rotary International may know the full extent of tree planting in every country where Rotary clubs exist.

Clubs in Columbia and in Rolla have submitted photos and information about their tree planting activity. Five of the six clubs in Columbia planted 340 trees on April 21 in the Forum Nature Area. Several Interactors also helped. Those clubs include Columbia South, Columbia, Columbia

Sunrise/Southwest, Columbia Northwest, and Columbia Evening. Columbia Metro planted trees earlier in the spring.



Members of the Columbia South Rotary Club



Members of the Columbia Rotary Club



Members of the Columbia Rotary Sunrise/Southwest Club



Members of the Columbia Northwest Rotary Club

On April 6, the Rolla Rotary Club partnered with the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop I and the Rolla Boy Scouts to plant 71 red oak and hackberry trees on the grounds of the Rolla Middle School and at the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop I Headquarters. The young trees are native to Missouri and were donated by the Georgia White National Forest to the Boy Scouts. Special thanks go to Troop I and Lieutenant Steve Davis, the Boy Scouts, and Dr. Monica Davis, principal of the Rolla Middle School, where most of the trees were planted.



Rolla Rotary Club Members, Lt. Steve Davis, and Dr. Monica Davis



Boy Scouts Preparing to Plant a Tree



Monica Davis & Ernie Kost, club president

## **PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TREE PLANTING AROUND THE WORLD**

The Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group has reported on the districts that have submitted reports on their tree planting as of June 16, 2018. According to ESRAG data, District 6080 has planted 1,202 trees to date which is better than many of other districts. However, clubs have reported on only 12 tree planting projects in our district to date. Based on my visits to clubs and communication with club presidents, I believe that more than 12 clubs have planted trees, but not all of them have reported their good work. Please go to <https://www.esrag.org/2017-2018-trees-planted-counter> and enter the information requested.

Several clubs around the world reported that they planted an almost unbelievable number of trees. Two districts, one in India and one in Ecuador, planted 60,000 trees, whereas a district in Australia with 1330 members planted 70,000 trees. However, the top district in the world to date, one located north of Mumbai on the west central coast of India with 78 clubs and 3,000 members, planted 1,450,000 trees, more than the total number of Rotarians in the world. You can view tree planting data submitted by clubs by going to <https://www.esrag.org/district-summary-tree-planting-challenge>.

## **CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Four Rotary clubs in District 6080 are celebrating significant events this spring. Jefferson City Rotary Club and the Clinton Rotary Club were founded 100 years ago this month, whereas the Ozark Rotary Club and the Marshfield Rotary Club are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

The Jefferson City club, chartered June 1, 1918, celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Jefferson City Country Club. The event was attended by a number of Rotarians from other clubs in District 6080 and from District 6040, including Ray Klingensmith, Past Rotary International President, Matt Eichor, Past District Governor, and Duane Benton, Past District Governor. Past presidents Mary Russell and Dale Doerhoff gave a very informative description of the club's exceptional accomplishment, led by Dr. Jack Sanders and PDG Art Firley, in founding the YMCA in Jefferson City. Prior to the June 1 celebration, Jefferson City Mayor Carrie Tergin, a member of the Jefferson City Breakfast Rotary Club, presented a proclamation from the City of Jefferson to Rotarians in recognition of the Jefferson City Rotary Club's 100 years of service to the community. James Klahr is club president. President Elect is Steve Crowell.

On June 11, the Clinton Rotary Club also celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service with a gala reception, banquet, and dance that was attended by many members, spouses, and guests. Greg Lowe, Mayor of Clinton, presented a proclamation praising the club for its extensive service to the community and beyond. While a number of club members participated in the celebration and many others were involved in planning the event, the highlight of the evening's festivities was an address given by Larry Lunsford, former Rotary International Director and future Aide to Mark Maloney, President of Rotary International in 2019-2020. Larry spoke about notable milestones in Rotary since 1918 when the club was chartered. Melvin Platt presented a citation of merit from RI President Ian Riseley to the club.



Mayor Carrie Tergin and Jefferson City Rotarians



Parker Mills, President, Melvin Platt, and Rick Watson, President-Elect  
Clinton Rotary Club

## **SUBMIT DATA ON ROTARY (PRESIDENTIAL) CITATION AND OTHER AWARDS**

Clubs are strongly encouraged to submit data on their club's achievements this year. I am not speaking only to those club leaders who hope to win the Rotary Citation, but to all clubs whether your club is close to winning this prestigious award or not. Getting close is a lot better than not trying at all, because it alerts future club leaders that their main goal should be to narrow the gap between reaching the goal and giving up before the year has begun.

All clubs that are questing to win the Governor's Citation should remember to submit information to Melvin Platt at [mplatt.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:mplatt.rotary@gmail.com) that addresses each of the three areas of membership, giving to the Annual Fund, and engaging 75% of their total active membership in community service. Please read and print the requirements for the Governor's Citation on the District website before July 1 when it will likely be replaced by new goals of the next District Governor.

Earlier in this newsletter, I urged club leaders to submit information on planting trees, if you have not already done that. I hope you will accept the same sense of urgency to report the number of hours that club members worked in community service projects this year and the amount of money spent to support those projects. Please remember that you are able to count funds received from the District as well as matching funds from your club to carry out District Simplified Grants.

## **THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR**

As my year as District Governor is drawing to an end, I want to thank club presidents, club officers, Board members, and committee chairs and members for their excellent work. It has been a true joy to meet so many wonderful people engaged in the work of Rotary. Rotarians represent the best of what we admire. So many of them stand ready to help when asked--an abiding quality that I have seen so many times. Lastly, I bow in appreciation to those who have served in leadership positions at the District level this year, particularly District Chairs and Assistant and Associate District Governors. This group has served with dedication and energy to advise and support the clubs in our District. Thanks to all.

*Melvin Platt, District Governor*

*Rotary District 6080*

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