

Rotary Alumni Association of Greater New England

Newsletter #6, September 2013



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends:

I am happy to announce that our Association is now officially recognized by the Rotary Foundation as the first electronic Alumni Association worldwide. This gives us the opportunity to work on projects easier than a traditional, physically-bound organization. We now operate on a global scale through the support of our members, who come from over 25 countries.

In a few days we will celebrate our Charter Ceremony at Northeast Link; see <http://www.northeastlink.org> where you can register to attend. I hope to see many of you to have fun and share stories. After announcing that we would bolster our social media presence in the last newsletter, we can now count more than 100 followers on Facebook at (www.facebook.com/RotaryGreaterNewEngland).

"We now operate on a global scale through the support of our members, who come from 25 countries."

This newsletter provides you with more information about the Charter Ceremony and inspiring Rotary Global Grant Projects, as well as insight into Rotary's activities in Turkey through our spotlight with PDG FaikTokatlioglu.

I wish you a successful and productive month.

Best regards,



RAAGNE President Christopher Uschnig
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NORTHEAST LINK UPDATE FROM PDG KLAUS HACHFELD

The great news is that RAAGNE was chartered on August 30th, 2013, making it formally part of The Rotary Foundation's Alumni Network. The charter certificate will be presented by Rotary Foundation Vice-Chairman Michael McGovern to President Christopher Uschnig at the Alumni Reunion and Charter Celebration on the evening of September 28th. Also speaking will be alum DG Peter Kyle, winner of the 2010 Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award. This exciting event starts at 5 PM with networking time, following the NORTHEAST LINK scholar orientation, which will take place at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough, Massachusetts, USA.

"Rotary may feature this charter celebration in its monthly magazine, The Rotarian, which gets sent to every Rotarian in the English-speaking world."

Christopher has received substantial assistance from Rotarians to fly him from Santiago (Chile) to Boston (USA), so he can attend the celebration. Thus, I strongly encourage you to register to attend this event by going to the Northeast Link website.

We have now learned that Rotary is looking to feature this charter celebration in its monthly magazine, *The Rotarian*, which gets sent to every Rotarian in the English-speaking world. While RAAGNE is still very young, it is clear that we have a unique opportunity to present ourselves to Rotarians, Alumni, and the Internet community, so let's make this a great event by showing our faces. Please REGISTER NOW!

PDG Klaus Hachfeld



INSPIRING GLOBAL GRANTS STORY FROM INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CHAIR CHLOE HEUNG

I would like to share how the Rotary clubs in my District (7632) have joined with the Rotary club in Uganda through a Global Grant Peace Project.

The host club was Kololo- Kampala, in Uganda (District 9200). The international partner was the Rotary club of Annapolis (District 7620). Supporting clubs included: Severna Park, Maryland and Dupont Circle, District of Columbia, (both in RI District 7620); and, Monroe, Michigan (District 6400). The local partner was the Ugandan Joint Christian Council

The power of the clubs was multiplied with Matching Grants from Districts 9200 and 7620, and from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

Uganda has been experiencing election violence. During the 2011 elections, 71 people were injured in Eastern Uganda when a fight involving machetes and metal staves erupted between opposing parties.

The grant aims to decrease post election violence by:

- Creating a culture of mediation where the affected parties are dealt with fairly
- Increasing awareness of the political process in a multiparty system that nurtures certain rights
- Creating empowered community leaders who can effectively work with local politicians
- Promoting social responsibility among parents, teachers, and schools through a mediation forum



Rotary Clubs Connected

In November 2012, members of the Peace Team, including Rotarian grant authors Rachael Blair (Rotary Club of Annapolis) and Fred Mubiru (Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala), accompanied by Rotarians Deborah Foti and Robert Romano from the Rotary Club of DuPont Circle, travelled to Uganda to visit the areas where mediation training is being conducted.

Bring it home

After the trip, Rotarians came back home to share the experience. The international lane of the Rotary Club of Annapolis hosted a Uganda project information night at the home of director Lydia Hohman in Annapolis.

Phil Reynolds, Uganda Global Grant Team leader, presented a progress report on the conflict resolution project in Uganda.

Lorna Pitcher, founder of Children of Hope Uganda, a Toronto-based nonprofit that has built two schools in the country affected by conflict, listened to the exchange.



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TURKEY SPOTLIGHT FROM SECRETARY JOSEPH BERNARDO



FaikTokatlioglu is a Rotarian from Izmir, a large port city on Turkey's Aegean coast. He is a past District Governor (2005) and the current president of a mid-sized manufacturing firm.

When and why did you join Rotary?

My father was a Rotarian. When I was younger, he encouraged me to join Rotaract, which is a youth program sponsored by Rotary International. This was a wonderful experience. Through Rotaract, I made great friends, participated in interesting projects and even met my wife!

Rotary has highly educated members, many of whom are well-known in the community. This was very appealing to me. Most importantly, I was inspired by one of Rotary's key goals: to help people worldwide better understand each other. I have always enjoyed this cross-cultural aspect the most.

You have been a Rotarian for 26 years. During this time, which projects did you find the most inspiring?

Two projects come to mind. The first is an ongoing effort to combat illiteracy. People who cannot read or write are isolated. Sometimes they do not even feel like complete human beings. In my district, we've worked on a number of inspiring projects designed to confront this social problem.

I remember receiving a letter from a man who

learned to read through our Rotary language program. In the letter, he indicated that he had always suffered from social anxiety. He was even afraid to ask for directions. After becoming literate, however, a new world opened up for him. He became free.

Second, during my district governorship (2005), we organized the university Olympic Games in Izmir. Students from all over the world participated in this event; over 8,000 athletes were present. I was inspired because the Rotarians from my district worked so hard to make this project a success. They really supported me during my governorship.

What were the major challenges of being a District Governor?

If you are a doctor, you must join the medical board. If you are an attorney, you must join the bar association. Rotary membership is voluntary. Thus, as a Rotary District Governor, you have to find interesting projects that inspire people to commit their time and resources. People expect new ideas. They expect you to be motivational.

As a District Governor, you travel constantly and do a lot of public speaking. Yet, these are positive challenges. I experienced great hospitality while travelling throughout my district. The Rotarians who invited me to their clubs and into their homes were very gracious. Because of this experience, I now have many close friends throughout the country.

Perhaps the best part of being a District Governor was the amount of time I was able to spend with my wife. Your spouse plays an essential role during your governorship. You must work closely together for long hours. This was wonderful! In fact, I've never spent so much time with my wife in my entire life!

In your view, do foreigners have an accurate perception of Turkish culture?

The average American probably knows little about daily life in Turkey. Yet, Americans may be somewhat familiar with Turkey in a political sense. For example, during the recent war in Iraq the Turkish Parliament refused to allow American troops to pass through

Turkish soil. This had a negative impact on the American perception of Turkey. Some Europeans have a negative view of Turkish society. Some believe we are backward and misogynistic. This prejudice has a long history. For centuries the Europeans held an unfavorable view of Ottoman society.

But people who visit Turkey usually have a positive impression. Those who experience our culture firsthand can look beyond the stereotypes. When you visit a country you can appreciate its essence. That's why its important for us, as Turks and Rotarians, to share our culture with people from other lands.

Event Calendar

September 25, 2013

Idealist.org Fair for Grad Students in Boston.

<http://www.idealist.org/info/GradFairs>

September 27-28, 2013

Science and Engineering Career Fair at Dulles Town Center, Virginia

http://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=128634&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click

September 28, 2013

Rotary Alumni Association of Greater New England Charter Night at the Boxborough Holiday Inn in Massachusetts

<http://www.northeastlink.org/>
<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/boxborough/boxma/hoteldetail>

October 2, 2013 at 8 am (CDT)

October 3, 2013 at 4 pm (CDT)

Webinar: Paul Harris Society: *What's New, What's the Same, and Best Practices From the Field*

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/6631667352208552960>

October 21, 2013 at 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm (EDT)

Webinar: *Open Access Week 2013 Event at the World Bank: "Redefining Impact"*

<http://live.worldbank.org/open-access-week-2013>