

Weather
Sunny Forecast for
Conference
May 19-20



**Ambassadorial Scholarship Applications
due this month.**

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**Blue Dog
Fundraiser**

See Katrina page
on District Website
for more info



Blue Dog Print
Hurricane Katrina / Rita Relief

The District Dispatch

District 6840

May 2006

Service Above Self

Good King and Good Rotarian Not so Different



Next week-end I'm conducting a retreat for a group of men on the subject: King, Warrior, Lover, and Magician. It's about men making good decisions in their work and personal life. It's also about why we don't always do the right thing.

As I was working on my notes, I received an e-mail from DG Yvette that said "it's time." Meaning my column is due. A few days ago I had a great idea for this month's "Heart," but it disappeared into the deep recesses on my brain. So, sitting at my desk I noticed my notes on "What is a good king?" Reading them over I started to think that there really wasn't any difference between being a good King and a Good Rotarian.

For instance, a good king "Blesses those around him," He brings order to the realm and takes steps to see that the innocent and the children prosper. A good king brings nurturing to all the people, and affirms the human rights of all. This certainly got me to thinking about all we do as Rotarians. Indeed we attempt to "bless those around us," both in our own communities and around the world. See King, page 2.

Light on Your Wallet Short and Sweet

That's just two descriptions of this year's District Conference. There is no registration fee; the only cost is \$45 for breakfast and lunch and this is optional. The plenary sessions will be just one-half a day on Saturday, May 20. Some clubs are encouraging club officers, directors and members to check out Conference because of these two reasons. What do you have to lose? But these are not the only reasons to attend Conference. See Reasons, p. 2

Calendar of Events

May

- 1 Early Bird Registration for Conference
- 1 Food Fest Club Participation
Registration deadline
- 12 Dictionary Project Deadline
- 19-20 District Conference
Ambassadorial Scholar apps due
University Teacher Grant apps due

June-Rotary Fellowship Month

- 10-14 RYLA, Loyola University
- 11-14 RI Convention-Malmo/
Copenhagen

Wild Polio Virus Update

Only 91 reported new cases in Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Niger and Indonesia.

Only 4 endemic countries.

We are depending on you to spread the word about the District Conference. See page 1 for details. A Rotary World Peace Scholar will join us, so let's spread the word and make a good showing.

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Kings

Our Polio-Plus outreach absolutely brings nurturing to all people and affirms the human rights of all. I can't think of a better way to reach out to the world and "bless" it.

Last week at my club's regular meeting, our Exchange student from Croatia spoke. She was eloquent in her use of English, enthusiastic about the connections occurring between her and other students, and to anyone who didn't know what the program was about, she "sold" it without intending to. At the moment I was sure we were helping the children prosper, the work of Royalty.



Now, I know none of us are Kings, although I know some members who like to pretend they are. However, we can function as full Rotarians in our own "realms," blessing others and bringing order wherever we can. That's what the Four Way Test helps us do; it's also what the power of the local club offers. We are not Kings alone but we offer the energy and caring to a world deeply in need of it.


Put on your crown and bless everyone you see today!

Try it tomorrow too.

Lamont Satterly, District 7430 Newsletter

Reasons to Attend Conference

Conference will have an international flair this year. We'll share experiences from three distinct and varied points on the globe: Africa, New Zealand and Europe.



A Rotary World Peace Scholar will highlight the Conference. She is the principal state advocate for the government of Zambia and is an advisor to the attorney general on matters of international law and agreements. It's not every day that you get to meet a Rotary scholar whose life's mission and profession is to spread peace. This is a special opportunity for our District, so you don't want to miss it.

We'll also hear from the Group Study Exchange Team from France. Louisiana and Mississippi both have strong historical ties to France, so let's support our visitors and show them our unique Southern Hospitality.

Likewise, our 2005 Group Study Exchange Team will report on its Rotary experience in Denmark. Their delight will be contagious.

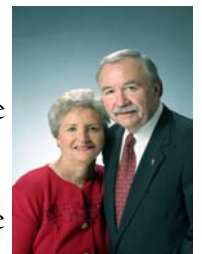
Jason Meaux, our District Ambassadorial scholar, will share his New Zealand experience. His photographic presentation is breath taking. Come hear about Jason's Rotary adventures and see the beautiful landscape of this exotic island.

But let's not forget about Friday's events. The Friday Night Food Fest should not be missed. We are depending on you to participate by serving a dish or beverage. (cont'd page 3)

Message from the DG

Conference, Conference, and More Conference.

I know you probably feel bombarded with info on the Conference. That's because we believe Conference is so important to the development of Rotarians and club officers and directors.



Why cook Friday night, when you can sample a smorgasbord of delicacies for free? Where else can you meet people from Africa and France, and experience Rotary adventures in Denmark and New Zealand all in one place? The answer of course is the District 6840 Conference.

Many people are working hard to make Conference an educational and enjoyable experience. Show your support by attending Conference.

If you haven't attended Conference before, come check us out. As highlighted on the front page, Conference will be short, sweet and cheap this year. If you have attended Conference, encourage others in your club to join you.

I look forward to seeing you at Conference.

Neil

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



Past culinary delights include boiled shrimp, beef tenderloin, gumbo, etoufee, fried catfish, jambalaya, baked chicken, and desserts to die for. This year promises to be just as scrumptious. So, get your club involved by serving a dish or beverage. The club sign up form is available on the Conference page on the District website: rotary6840.org.

org.

Food Fest will be held on Friday, May 19 at the pavilion at the D'Iberville Community Civic Center, located just a couple of miles from the Imperial Palace. Directions to the pavillion are posted on the District website. Don't be left out. Join the fun.

FORE!!!

Calling all golfers. There will be a golf tournament on Friday, May 19 at the Grand Bear Golf Course. The cost is only \$80 and that includes the green fees for this renown course, lunch, snacks and beverages on the course and door prizes. What a great way to end the week by enjoying a round of golf, followed by a the Food Fest.

HERE'S WHAT WE NEED YOU TO DO:

1. Register for the Conference NOW, even if you are not participating in the meal events. We need a head count for appropriate room set up and preparation of name tags.
2. Sign up for the Food Fest. This event takes a lot of planning. So please be considerate of the planners and sign up NOW.
3. Sign up for the Golf Tournament.
4. Encourage club participation at Conference by announcing each week at club meetings and asking those in your club who have attended in the past to give testimonials.
5. Review the information on the District website.
6. Review the Conference deadlines below.

Info and Forms Available on District Website

Checkout the Conference page on the District website (rotary6840.org) for the following forms and information:

Conference Registration Form	Golf Registration Form
Food Fest Participation Form	Conference Sponsorships

Conference Chronicle

Conference Deadlines

April 18: Hotel Group Rate expires
 April 28: Golf Tournament Registration
 May 1: Early Bird Conference Registration
 May 1: Food Fest Registration for participating clubs
 May 1: Conference Sponsorships

If you've missed a deadline, please contact the committee chairman.

Thanks to Capital One, a sponsor of the Golf Tournament.

Thanks to Whitney National Bank, Food Fest Bandstand Sponsor.

DISTRICT NEWS

The GSE Team from France will arrive in the District on May 8, 2005. Contact Bobby McDaniel if your club would like to host the French team. See District website for more information.

District 6840 GSE Team will leave for France on April 29 and return on May 29.

Be sure to submit your RYLA applications to Lisa Flair. Information and application are on the District website.

Ambassadorial Scholarship and University Teacher Grant applications are due at the end of May The applications are on the District website.

District Website: rotary6840.org.

Wanted: District 6840 Executive Secretary. Part-time position. Contact DG Neil Alford at neil@alfordlegal.com for copy of job description and hourly pay.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

President's Checklist:

- ◆ Convene Board meeting
- ◆ Contact Greg Lier, DGD with your planned 2005-06 Paul Harris Fellow donations, so he can plan for his year as DG in 2008-09. greglier@rathborne.com (??)
- ◆ Turn in GSE Host Bid Form
- ◆ Turn in RYLA application(s)
- ◆ Promote District Conference
- ◆ Announce each week that Ambassadorial Scholarship applications are available on district website. See page 5 for more information.
- ◆ Register club members for District Conference.
- ◆ Send monthly membership attendance report to District Secretary, Gill Miller at norler@cableone.net.
- ◆ Send info on club activities to District Newsletter editor: Lydia J. Alford, 1290 Seventh St., Slidell, LA 70458 or lydia@alfordlegal.com.

Katrina Relief

Projects in the District

“Keep on Truckin”



Rotary District 6110 (which covers Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma) and a Rotary club in Medusa, CA each donated a medical van for use on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The medical units travel to low income and homeless locations and are operated by the Coastal Family Health Centers, which services about 41,000 people each year.

Two vans will be donated to the Council on Aging for St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. One will be via a matching grant sponsored by Rotary clubs in Germany and Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. The second will be paid for from RI Donor Advised Funds granted to Rotary District 6190, located in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana.

Trailers

Fifty-three refurbished trailers were donated by the Christian Housing Relief Project in Bakersfield, CA. The trailers have been donated to families on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Each is equipped with all new furnishings and new appliances, and stocked with a host of other stuff, including dishes, quilts, pillows and blankets. The Rotary Club of Bakersfield assisted with the project. The Rotary Club of Biloxi provided funding for the transportation and installation of the trailers.

Business Recovery

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Philadelphia region Rotary District (7450), the Biloxi Rotary Club awarded grants to organizations to assist with hurricane recovery, particularly non-profits involving day care and human services. Each entity filled out an application which was reviewed by a committee in Philadelphia. Grants were awarded as follows: \$5000 to Wesley Academy Pre-school; \$10,000 to Back Bay Mission, an organization that directly serves the poor and struggling through emergency assistance with food, clothing, utilities, and rent; case management, client advocacy and referral among other things; and \$10,000 to Moore Community House. This organization runs an early head start program, a preschool program and offers family counseling to east Biloxi's low income residents.

Special Note: If your club has a website, be sure to keep it up to date. Many Rotary clubs and districts are coordinating Katrina donations with clubs with websites. If you'd like your Katrina projects to be reported in *The District Dispatch* and at Conference, please send the details to lydia@alfordlegal.com.

Thank you!

Here are some of the Rotary clubs and districts that made monetary or supply donations to the Biloxi Rotary Club:

Rotary Clubs		
Eastchester, NY	Vicksburg, MS	
Arcata Sunrise, CA	Inverness, Birmingham, AL	
Locust Valley, NY	Salida, CO	
Connellsville, PA	Las Vegas Northwest	
Perry, OK	Burrell Area, Lower Burrell, PA	
Apple Valley, CA	Azusa, CA	
Victor Valley Sunrise	Pagosa Springs, CO	
Bakersfield, CA	North Napa, CA	
Morris Planis, NJ	Canandaigua, NY	
Raleigh, NC	Upper Keys Fdtn, Tavernier, FL	
Wilbur, NE	Durham, NC	
Attleboro, MA	Rotary Club in France	
Palmyra/Riverton/Cinnaminson		
Rotary Districts		
7300, Pittsburgh	5300, CA	7450, PA
6580, Columbus, IN	5130, CA	5470, CO
6040, Kansas City, MO	7250, NY	7620, DC & MD

Shelter Boxes

These all in one shelter boxes began in England. It is hosted in the U.S. by the Rotary Clubs in Lakewood Ranch, FL. 1400 shelter boxes were delivered to the Gulf Coast area. Tracy Dedeaux of the Biloxi club served as the Shelter Box coordinator and helped pass out the green cases at the Salvation Army's relief center.

Storage Units



The Rotary Club of Biloxi donated 40 storage sheds to those with FEMA trailers. Each shed costs \$500.

Holy Toledo!

Rotaract members from Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio spent four days in Slidell repairing a residential youth facility for physically and mentally abused children and teenagers. As reported last month, the Rotary Club of Maume, Ohio (also near Toledo) donated a van to Mt. Olive AME Church in Slidell to deliver daily lunches to the home bound.

Program Ideas	District/Foundation Projects	Donations to The Rotary Foundation
<p>RI has many prepared presentations on RI history, The Foundation, membership and other topics. See rotary.org for copies to download.</p>	<p>GSE Team Contact Bobby McDaniel if you are interested in hosting the incoming GSE Team from France. governor@telepak.net.</p>	<p>Wanted: \$100 Every Rotarian, Every Year</p>
<p>Centennial Power Power Point: Community Service: Improving the Quality of Life. www.rotary.org/centennial/spotlight.</p>	<p>Sell District Foundation Raffle tickets. Turn into Gill Miller at or before District Conference.</p>	<p>Why support the Foundation? Because in today's world of 8 billion people... 4.4 billion live in developing countries Of those, 1.6 billion are without basic sanitation 1.3 billion don't have adequate housing 1.0 billion can't read or write 800 million children suffer from chronic malnutrition because they don't get enough to eat</p>
<p>Ask a member of the District Conference Committee to make a presentation on District Conference.</p>	<p>Review the funding opportunities for Katrina Relief projects. There are substantial funds available at the RI level for 501(c)(3) entities. Club members may be aware or involved with organizations that could benefit from RI grants.</p>	<p>Why support the Foundation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many children die of dysentery • Too many children are blinded or crippled for life by diseases we have forgotten exist • Too many children lose their sight because their diet lacks Vitamin A
<p>Vocational program by president-elect.</p>	<p>Project Ideas</p>	<p>Why support the Foundation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because we are the wealthiest country in the world. • Because we can leverage our gifts with the time, contacts, money and talents of Rotarians around the world. • Because the Foundation is about Rotarians helping Rotarians to help
<p>Club Annual report in June.</p>	<p>Bear with a Book in a Bag.</p>	
<p>Program on RI Conventions.</p>	<p>Plan your Awards and Installation Banquet.</p>	
<p>Order Rotary Video Magazine for your club and show the video as a good example of Rotary's service projects worldwide.</p>	<p>Dictionary Project.</p>	
<p>RYLA student.</p>	<p>Don't reinvent the wheel. Consult the District Resource Guide for new project ideas. Contact Lydia J. Alford at lydia@alfordlegal.com for a copy.</p>	
<p>Installation Banquet. If you want district officer(s) to attend your Awards and Installation Banquet, contact them now. Calendars get booked early this time of year, especially in June.</p>		
<p>Steve Wistar, Forensic Meteorologist for AccuWeather. Contact Paul Mallery, Pres. of Rotary Club of Biloxi for contact information. pmallery@sunherald.com.</p>		

CLUB NEWS




Rotary Club of Westwego
21st Annual Golf Tournament
Friday, May 5. Start time is 1:00pm.
Bayou Barriere. \$75 per player.
Call Frank at 504.367.4467 for more details.

Art Auction

Sponsored by Wild West Territories
May 3, 2006
Four Point Sheraton Hotel, Metairie
\$20-includes food, wine, beer and cheese
Contact Mike Babin at 504.737.8775 or
Steve Alderdice at 504.837.9116.

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To report club news for June, send the details to lydia@alfordlegal.com. To report club news for July, send the details to Vaughn Brennan at vbrennan@cox.net.

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