



THE ITHACA ROTARY NEWS

May 26, 2004

The official bulletin of the Rotary Club of Ithaca, NY
Chartered in 1915 :: District 7170

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **New Members Proposals**

The Ithaca Rotary Club Board of Directors will be considering the membership application(s) from the person(s) listed below. Any concerns about these membership proposals should be made in writing to the Secretary of the Club by June 9, 2004.

Name: Joe R. McAfee

Employment: President, Somark Corp.

Sponsor: George Schneider

- **Lost and Found**

Someone, perhaps a Rotarian, left behind a couple of video tapes last week. They are labeled as "NAIDC Competition" and Scott Russell has them should you wish to claim them.

- **New Roster Photos**

It's time to prepare next year's Rotary Member Roster! if you want your beautiful mug shot updated this year, see John Ziegler very soon at an upcoming meeting.

- **It's Time to BBQ!**

The Ithaca Rotary Chicken and Ribs BBQ is coming up on Sunday, June 20. Tickets and sign up sheets for volunteers will be available at our meeting starting June 8. Please mark your calendars now and plan to help out with this very important fundraising activity.

- **Changes to Student and Exchange Visitor Information System**

Proposed changes in the SEVIS system - Student and Exchange Visitor Information System - are going to have a huge impact on Rotary's Youth Exchange Program. The new J-1 Visa requirements would prohibit any inbound exchange students who have graduated from school in their home country from participating in the Rotary Exchange program here in the U.S. Some of the countries currently participating in the Rotary program have already indicated that they will no longer participate in the Rotary program should these rules be put in place. Rotary requires that any country that wants to participate in the Youth Exchange program must both send and accept students in order to be part of the program. These rules could seriously compromise the value and success of this program. Rotarians are encouraged to contact their government representatives and urge them to oppose these changes. The easiest way to reach your representative is via e-mail at www.house.gov/writerep/ or www.senate.gov. There is a sample letter available should you wish to send a hard copy, see President Jeff for more information. It is recommended that snail mail letters be sent to the local offices rather than the Washington offices.

- **Ithaca Sunrise Garage Sale!**

Ithaca Sunrise Rotary is holding their annual Garage Sale on Saturday, June 19. Proceeds from the sale help support the club's Youth Exchange program and other projects. Donations of goods will be accepted until June 18 and pick up is available. The sale will take place at Locke Woods Interiors on Route 13 just across from NYSEG. For more information or item pickup, contact Roni Mays or Kathy Larson at 277-8067 or roni@retirementessentials.com

- **Rotary District 7170 Conference coming soon!**

On June 11-13, our district conference will be held in Binghamton and there will be some very interesting speakers including the GSE team that recently returned from West Africa and the Individual Grant team who also recently returned from Ghana (featuring our own Dale Flinn). Day rates are available now and a special banquet-only price for spouses who wish to attend Saturday evening's event has been made available as well. Please see Pres. Jeff True if you'd like to attend.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS <i>(continued...)</i>

- **Call for Meeting Setup Volunteers**

Dave Flinn, John Hays and Mike Billings have been sharing the meeting setup chores on a monthly rotation basis for the past three years and have done an admirable job. Dave and John have announced their need to participate in other ways and will be phasing out of service this year. So, this is a call for any interested Rotarian to serve the club in this necessary and important activity. It requires that the individual be available from approximately 11:45 to 12:15. (Earlier is acceptable) The tasks include preparing the podium and sound system, putting up flags and banners and assisting the President and program speaker as required. Service will continue to be rotated based upon the number of volunteers, i.e. three volunteers equals one month of service out of three. It is desirable but not required that the setup person be available for the entire meeting. Please see Scott Russell if interested. For further, first hand information, talk with Dave, John or Mike. Jim Showacre has joined the triumvirate, starting in July. Catherine Stulir is already on board, but more help would be appreciated.

- **District 7170 to Offer a Rotary Foundation Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship**

For the first time, in the Rotary year 2005-2006, Rotary International District 7170 will offer a 3-month Rotary Foundation Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship, in addition to an academic year scholarship. The Cultural Scholarship is for 3 months of intensive language training and cultural immersion abroad while living with a home-stay family and has a maximum of \$12,000 including transportation. The language training can take place in fifteen languages in more than twenty countries. The three-month scholarship, as well as the academic year scholarship, will be awarded for the Rotary year 2005-06, but the applications are due to the District Rotary Foundation Scholarship Sub-committee Chair by June 30, 2004. Applications should be sent to Peter Brellocks, DGE, 1405 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, 14850. Information and application forms are available on the web by using the following links:

<http://www.rotary.org> >> click on 'downloads' >> 'The Rotary Foundation' >> 'Educational programs' >> 'Ambassadorial Scholarships'

Use the Ambassadorial Scholarship Application Form (the information on the Cultural Scholarships begins on page 13; to apply it is easiest to print all twenty pages, although some of them refer only to the academic year scholarship) or you may contact either PDG Clayton Alcorn, at 607-753-8187 calcorn@twcny.rr.com, or DGE Peter Brellocks at 607-272-3848 or peterbrellocks@aol.com.

FEATURED ROTARIANS

- **Paul Harris Fellow Recognition**

Janet Steiner made a very special presentation today as we honored Barbara Caldwell for her continuing support of the Rotary Foundation. Supporters of the Rotary Foundation become Paul Harris Fellows when they reach a donation level of at least \$1,000. First-time Paul Harris Fellows receive a pin, a medal, and an inscribed certificate in recognition of their having achieved the first level of giving. However, the giving and the recognition do not end there. For each additional \$1,000 donated, Paul Harris Fellows receive a new pin with a sapphire chip mounted on a gold frame surrounding the likeness of our founder, Paul Harris. In honor of her continued support of the Rotary Foundation and its mission to promote world peace and understanding, today Janet presented Barbara with her three-stone pin. Thanks to Barbara's commitment to the Rotary Foundation, programs such as GSE, Ambassadorial Scholarships, Peace Scholarships, and Matching Grants area able to continue the mission of the Foundation. Congratulations to Barbara and our sincere thanks for supporting the Rotary Foundation.

- **Visiting Rotarians**

Kevin Gross (Cortland Noon)
 PDG Bob Grantham (Cortland Breakfast)
 Barry Downing (Endwell)

Additional Visiting Rotarians from last week:

Michael Thuesen, Kathy Larson, Roni Mays, Paul Banfield (Ithaca Sunrise)

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PROGRAM NOTES “GSE Team Back from Africa
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Our program today featured several members of our district's recent GSE team. Dale Flinn introduced the GSE program - Group Study Exchange - as one of the best programs the Rotary Foundation has to offer. Every district in the Rotary world is given the opportunity to participate in the GSE program. Two districts are paired up either by RI or by agreement between the two districts directly. Each district assembles a team consisting of a team leader who is a Rotarian and four or five young professionals who can not be Rotarians, past Rotarians, or related to a Rotarian. These young professionals must be between the ages of 25 and 40 and must be employed. Rotary pays for airfare for the team to travel to their host district and then the host district is responsible for the team for a period of four to six weeks. Team members are required to have at least 5 vocational opportunities and the teams are usually hosted in the homes of host families.

This program's most valuable component is based on these two factors: the vocational contacts improve and enhance the team member's professional experience and the home stays and long-term immersion in the culture work to create the personal relationships and cultural understanding that support the mission of the Rotary Foundation - world peace and understanding.

With us today were team leader Mike Jerome from Cooperstown and team members Barbara Harman from Cooperstown and Shari Haldeman from Ithaca. Our club sponsored Shari for this exchange and she started off with a Powerpoint presentation sharing photos of the people and places the team was fortunate enough to visit.

This team travelled to District 9100 which is in west Africa and specifically travelled to the countries of Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Mali. After Shari talked a little about her experiences, Barbara shared her experiences as well. Though she has written her thoughts down and presented them several times, she is still unable to make it all the way through without shedding a few tears. This kind of impact on a person's life is extremely hard to convey in words and those who missed this presentation missed something truly special. All of the team members experienced life-changing events along the way. The other two team members, Debbie Giordano from Ithaca and Kristin Sloth from Oneonta were not able to be with us today. Shari is already investigating opportunities that will take her back to Africa and Barb has already made use of contacts she made in Africa to build a relationship with her school in Cooperstown.

To finish off the presentation, Mike Jerome, team leader, gave us his thoughts on the experience from a Rotary perspective. This is a great opportunity for Rotarians as well, again building those personal relationships that are so special. Mike, who has been in the hospitality industry for many years, felt that he learned more about hospitality from their hosts than he ever learned in school or in life so far. All of the team members were impressed with the dignity, caring, compassion, sharing, devotion, and support of their hosts throughout their travels.

We will all have at least one more opportunity to hear about this wonderful program in detail at the district conference in Binghamton June 11-13. If you haven't signed up already, it may be too late, but you should make every effort to see one of these presentations. Team members will be doing presentations at Rotary clubs throughout the district and are available to speak at club meetings. If your club would like to have a presentation or if you know of a club that would like to have a powerful presentation, please contact team leader Mike Jerome at mjerome@stny.rr.com.

Our sincere thanks to Shari, Barbara, and Mike for their participation in this program, their time with us, and for sharing their wonderful experiences with us.

Special Guests:

Tom Sanford introduced Tony Delucci who is the Principle at Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga B.O.C.E.S. The three area Rotary clubs donate \$3,000 each year toward prizes given out by B.O.C.E.S. to their students at the end of the year. Tony thanked us for our continuing support of these awards as they mean a great deal to the students who receive recognition for their hard work. Tony then introduced the B.O.C.E.S. Outstanding Student for 2004, Dan Carpenter. Dan lives on a family farm in Dryden and will be attending S.U.N.Y. Morrisville in the fall. At Morrisville, Dan plans a double major in Dairy Farming and Diesel Technology and then plans to return to help his family run their farm. Dan also thanked us for our support and we appreciate hearing from Tony and Dan and seeing the results of our community involvement.

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CALENDAR

June 2: *Meeting*: IHS Teacher Steve Weissburg: "Education in a South African Township"

June 9: *Meeting*: Family & Children's Services Marketing Director Jessica Ryan: "Marketing on a Shoestring Budget"

June 11-13: District Conference, Binghamton, NY Celebrating the Family of Rotary

June 16: *Meeting*: YEP Students - Pepe, Esteban & Michal: "Reflections on the Past Year in Ithaca"

June 20: Ithaca Rotary Chicken & Ribs BBQ at Stewart Park

June 23: *Meeting*: Don Alhart, PDG 7120: Title TBA

June 25: District Pass the Gavel Celebration

June 27 - July 2: RYLA 2004

June 30: *Meeting*: Pass the Gavel Ceremony

CREDITS & CONTACT INFO

Program Chair: Bill Rusen :: *Kettle Watch*: Bob Young : *Greeter*: Loretta Goss : *Thought*: Mary Kane Trochim ::

Introductions: Jim Vorp :: *Music*: Don Hinman Bill Cowdery, and Siu-ling :: *Photography*: John Ziegler :: *Setup*: Mike Billing ::

Editor: Dale Flinn :: *Website*: Matthew Dearing

Please address all correspondence to the club to:

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Attn.: Scott Russell, Secretary

For Newsletter comments, questions or corrections, and subscription requests please contact the Editor at bigd@starflinn.com.