



THE GREENVILLE ROTARIAN

"Service above self"

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Mitchell to speak on 'Character First!'

Dianne Mitchell, chairman of the Community Character Council of Greenville County, will speak on "Character First!" at the July 9th meeting of Greenville Rotary Club.

Character First! is an initiative chosen by the Community Character Council because of its design and proven success in more than 100 cities. By defining character in 49 qualities, the program aims at changing the face of business, communities and families. The goal of the council is to coordinate efforts among various sectors in the community to produce dramatic change. An initiative such as this has proven effective at uniting the political, governmental, law enforcement, business, media, faith, education, and family sectors in a community toward one common effort.

The Character Training Institute (CTI), which developed the Character First! material, was established in the midwest and has spread into every state and many foreign countries. CTI seeks to train leaders in various areas of the community to impact absenteeism, theft, high worker's compensation, poor customer service, low productivity and many other workplace issues.

Here are three success stories: Kimray Inc. of Oklahoma lowered worker's compensation costs by 90 percent; the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office reduced turnover by 30 percent; and Fresno, Calif., cut crime by 50 percent in just over two years.

Mitchell, a native of Greenville, is a wife and mother of three teenagers. She is a graduate of Furman and Indiana universities, and is involved in many civic, community and church activities.

For South Carolina

Way predicts 'bright future'

The outlook for South Carolina's economy is "bright and getting brighter," according to the state's secretary of commerce.

Charles Way said South Carolina has entered a "new era" in its competition with others to attract business, but pointed to a need to improve the state's infrastructure, especially its water and sewer systems. Way said some rural counties are "really behind" in this area.

The commerce secretary said attention must be given to building on the perception of South Carolina as a "premier business location," even with the current economic uncertainty.

He looked for capital spending, though it's growing, to be "moderate" into the next fiscal year, and offered the sobering prediction that there will be "no quick return" to what he referred to as the "go-go economy" of the 1990s.

The secretary of commerce was optimistic about the state's overall economic picture, noting that "more and more leading indicators suggest that an economic upturn is underway." He pointed out that in April and May, more than a dozen companies invested in South Carolina for the first time, or expanded their business operations in the state.



John Funderburk, left, introduced Way.

The Greenville Rotarian

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Bhichai Rattakul, RI President

Bruce Baker, District 7750 Governor

Nell Stewart, President
Terry Weaver, President-Elect

Frank Kolb, Acting Secretary
David Karr, Treasurer

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In Barcelona, Spain

Rotarians celebrate achievements, ponder future at RI convention

More than 19,000 Rotarians traveled from 147 countries to attend the 93rd Rotary International Convention in sunny Barcelona, Spain, on June 23-26. The event opened with remarks from RI President Richard King, who focused on the increased need for organizations such as Rotary in the face of wars and tragedies.

"The world looks to us for direction," he said. "And why not? We are the most dedicated, energetic, and committed citizen-leaders that the world has ever known." President King then presented a Rotary Award of Honor to U.S. humorist and humanitarian Jerry Lewis.

A highlight of the convention was the announcement on June 24 of the winners of the Global Quest by the RI president and Kenneth Boyd, chairman of the RI Membership Development Executive Steering Committee. Thirty winners received jeweled globes for their achievements, and President King announced that an unprecedented number of more than 72,500 new Rotarians were inducted during 2001-02.

On June 25, former Soviet Union President and honorary Rotarian Mikhail Gorbachev made a keynote address on the importance of service organizations in promoting world peace, health, and environmental protection. "I would like to congratulate your movement on its great accomplishments and salute all those who are doing projects that respond to the hopes of the people in the 21st century," he said.

President King presented Gorbachev with RI's Humanitarian Service Award, in recognition of his groundbreaking efforts to promote peace and social development. On the same day, Jonathan Majiyagbe of Kano, Nigeria, was declared RI President for 2003-04.

"Never before in the history of the movement has anyone from my part of the world been asked to take charge of Rotary's affairs," said Majiyagbe in a heartfelt acceptance speech. "This is a great testimony to the famous writing of founder Paul Harris in *The Rotarian* of June 1944. He said, 'Rotary is an integrating force in a world where disintegrating forces are far more numerous.'"

Other featured speakers included Nane Annan, wife of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Dr. Jacques Moreillon, secretary general of the World Organization of the Scout Movement; Kenneth Behring, chairman of the Wheelchair Foundation; and Dr. Bruce Aylward of the World Health Organization, who updated participants on the polio eradication effort.

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European region now polio-free

The European region of the World Health Organization (WHO) was declared polio-free on June 21 by the Regional Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication (RCC) in Copenhagen, Denmark. Some 870 million people live in the region's 51 member states.

The declaration makes Europe the third WHO region to be certified polio-free after the Americas in 1994 and the Western Pacific in 2000.

"This is truly an historic achievement," said Rotary Foundation trustee chairman Luis Vicente Giay from RI's annual convention in Barcelona, Spain, where Rotarians celebrated news of the certification. "I commend our global partners and every member of Rotary for helping to eliminate this age-old scourge from Europe for all time."

Europe's last case of indigenous wild poliomyelitis occurred in eastern Turkey in 1998, when a 2-year-old unvaccinated boy was paralyzed by the virus. Poliovirus imported from polio-endemic countries remains a threat. In 2001 alone, there were three polio cases among Roma children in Bulgaria and one non-paralytic case in Georgia — all caused by poliovirus originating on the Indian subcontinent.

Pleasantburg's Bruce Baker DG for 2002-03

Bruce Baker, a member of the Rotary Club of Pleasantburg, will serve as District 7750 Governor in 2002-03. Baker has served as club secretary for more than two years, board of directors member for several additional years, and president for the year 1994-95. Baker served as Lieutenant Governor for four years. He is the founder of the District e-mailers group and has been influential in establishing the District web page. He is a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow and Rotary Foundation Benefactor, and has 15 years of perfect attendance.

The Michigan native moved to the Greenville area in 1978 as a branch manager with Burroughs Corp. In 1980, he left Burroughs to start ADS Data Systems Inc., a turn-key computer firm specializing in custom business application software. After 20 years, Baker closed ADS, where he served as president and CEO. He continues to do consulting work from his home.

He and his wife Luanne have two children and five grandchildren.

(Continued from inside)

In recognition of his efforts to end world hunger, President King presented RI's highest award, the Rotary Award for World Understanding and Peace, to Dr. Norman Borlaug, a scientist who won the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his pioneering efforts in developing a strain of high-yield, disease-resistant wheat. "I have long been an admirer of Rotary International and of your motto, 'Service Above Self,'" Borlaug said. "I am a firm believer that education is necessary for overcoming poverty and achieving world peace. Rotary International has made important contributions to individual excellence and advancement through its various scholarship and ambassador programs."

On June 26, RI President-Elect Bhichai Rattakul of the Rotary Club of Dhonburi, Bangkok, Thailand, introduced the 2002-03 RI theme, "Sow the Seeds of Love." Rattakul spoke on the importance of "going back to basics" and a "bottom-up" approach. "The source of next year's theme lies in my long-standing belief that any undertaking must have a sense of mission," he said. "One must have total faith in the cause. It is this sense of mission that infuses our actions with determination, enthusiasm, sincerity, devotion — and above all, love."

For the first time this year, the programs of Rotaract, Interact, RYLA, and Youth Exchange had their own "mini conventions" during convention week. In the past, these meetings had been held prior to the convention. Participants enjoyed a host of fellowship and entertainment activities including dancing and festivities at the El Pueblo Espanol, a Spanish village.