



THE GREENVILLE ROTARIAN

"Service above self"

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Christina Hunter, Greenville County's Teacher of the Year, will be honored by the Rotary Club of Greenville during its annual salute to education on September 10th. She teaches 3rd grade at Sara Collins Elementary School. At left, she is congratulated by a student, Brianna.

Also honored during the teacher appreciation event will be 1st runner-up Debbie Cooke, art/photography, Fine Arts Center; 2nd runner-up Jennifer Young-Wagner, special education resource, Monaview Elementary; and 3rd runner-up Linda Jennings, 4th grade, Bryson Elementary.

**Rotary
to salute
Greenville
County
teachers**



RI's Centennial Planning Committee has developed a calendar of events and activities to guide Rotarians in their efforts to plan for the grand celebration of Rotary's 100th anniversary on February 23, 2005.

The committee encourages Rotarians to focus on three key goals for 2005 in support of Rotary's centennial: eradicate polio, increase membership to 1.5 million members, and support the Rotary Foundation of RI's goal of \$100 per member in donations to the Annual Programs Fund.

Rotary gearing up for its centennial celebration in 2005

During 2002-2003, the committee encourages clubs and districts to form their own centennial planning committees to plan and launch special observances and projects. In

the coming months, Rotary clubs are urged to plan a new community service project that will commemorate Rotary's centennial.

To participate in this effort, clubs must register their project with RI by January 1, 2003, using the registration form on the Rotary website. All projects must be completed by February 2005.

To qualify as a Rotary Club Centennial Community Project, a project must fulfill a clearly identifiable community need; provide a solution that has measurable results; involve the active participation of Rotarians (as opposed to simply providing funding to another organization); and create a permanent sign, plaque, or inscription at the project site that identifies both the sponsoring Rotary club and Rotary's centennial year.

Projects that register will be included in a photo display at the 2005 RI Convention in Chicago, and sponsoring clubs will receive special recognition. Select projects will also be highlighted in various RI publications and on the RI website.

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IFRAA keeps Rotarians looking up

There are more than 40 recreational fellowships of Rotary International, devoted to everything from amateur radio to yoga. With the recent formation of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Amateur Astronomers (IFRAA), stargazing Rotarians will now be able share mutual interests in all things extraterrestrial.

The IFRAA grew out of the SETI@home project, in which 3.6 million computer users around the world help the SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) Institute by installing special software that can download and process data collected by SETI radio telescopes. Don Higgins, a member of the Rotary Club of Pinellas Bardmoor Bayou, Fla., discovered that he was not the only Rotarian who frequented SETI, and in June, organized the Fellowship.

"One of the most exciting things about IFRAA has been meeting new Rotarians from so many different countries and learning so much about our shared interest in astronomy and space exploration," said Higgins. "I had no idea there were so many Rotarian astronomers in the world and that there is so much information on activities and research so easily accessible via the Internet."

The Internet played a critical role in the formation of IFRAA. "We now have 60 charter members from 16 countries in 21 of the 34 Rotary zones, most of whom have never met except via e-mail on the Internet," he said.

It is not even necessary to own a telescope. "Rotarians around the world can share new information and images from space collected and published on thousands of websites all over the world," according to the Florida Rotarian.

Rotarians interested in astronomy and space exploration are encouraged to join the fellowship via the website at <http://www.rotary-ifraa.org>, which features space images, e-mail groups, IFRAA news, SETI e-mail groups, chat rooms and a bulletin board.

The Fellowship's first official meeting on terra firma is slated for the Rotary International Convention in Brisbane, Australia, June 1-4, 2003. However, several Rotarians from Australia are planning to meet to witness the total eclipse of the sun in southern Australia on December 4, 2002.

Higgins hopes that the Fellowship will "help promote peace and understanding on planet Earth as we look beyond for life in space and potentially an entire universe of future Rotarians." To further promote this dream, IFRAA is planning to support such projects in the future as space camps, scholarships, and recognition award programs in the field of astronomy and space exploration.

Presidential Pondering

Education. Who needs it and who should be concerned about our educational system? Everyone. The education of ALL our children is of major importance to ALL of us. Their education can ensure they live a healthy, happy, productive life; and it truly affects our quality of life.

Having knowledgeable, effective administrators is not enough. Quality, dedicated teachers are not enough. The involvement of parents, business and the community in general is mandatory to make the system effective and efficient.

Since many parents are working full-time to earn a living, all of us are needed in the schools more than ever. And those of us who are grandparents have unique experiences to share with the students to enrich their education. In addition, grandparents usually have a little more discretionary time than do the parents of students.

How involved are you in the School District of Greenville County? There is a place for you — all that is needed is your willingness to give a little time and to make that willingness known, whether you be parent, grandparent, or caring citizen.

— Nell Stewart

Rotarians cycle to raise funds for La Loma

A thousand-kilometer (621-mile) bike ride isn't most people's idea of fundraising or fun. But for Robert McAllister of the Rotary Club of Whitby Sunrise, Whitby, Ontario, Canada, the "Training Wheels Tour" was a worthwhile challenge.

Accompanied by riding partner Bob Kirk, McAllister cycled from the Toronto suburb of Whitby to RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Ill., to raise money to assist the small Dominican Republic town of Consuelo, home to La Loma, an adult training center that began in the 1970s with the help of District 7010 of Canada. Under the supervision of a community of nuns, the center taught housewives skills such as sewing and cooking.

Once a thriving sugar mill town, Consuelo is currently in the throes of an economic downturn.

Run strictly by volunteers, La Loma has become the focus of efforts to retrain the unemployed in the town. The project, sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Consuelo and Whitby Sunrise, will cost an estimated C\$100,000 (approximately US\$64,139). McAllister's road trip has raised about C\$35,000 of that sum through sponsorships.

RI sponsors tour for Muslim journalists

A group of Muslim journalists from Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, and Turkey recently visited RI World Headquarters. Organized on the recommendations of the ad hoc committee for the development of Rotary in Muslim areas, the study tour and seminar that brought them together was aimed at helping journalists from Muslim areas gain a better understanding of Rotary and Rotary projects.

The six journalists participated in a question-and-answer session with RI President Bhichai Rattakul, met with General Secretary Ed Futa, toured the Secretariat, and attended a presentation on Rotary Centers for International Studies. In addition, the group visited Rotary club projects and local Rotarians active in humanitarian work.

The visiting journalists were all veterans of the news media in the Muslim world, having covered major events and trends in their countries and interviewed heads of state, cabinet ministers, movie stars, and United Nations leaders.

Good questions

Adopted by Rotary in 1943, The 4-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?