



ROTARY FOUNDATION ALUMNI COORDINATOR RFAC TEAM BULLETIN

January 2006

Welcome Roger Caestecker, Zone 13 RFAC

Roger Caestecker has accepted the appointment of RFAC for Zone 13. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Genk-Noord, Belgium. His contact information is as follows:

Paardskuil street, 6,

B- 3600 GENK

Limburg

Belgium

Tel: +32 89 35 49 52

E-mail: vranken.caestecker@skynet.be

Districts represented: 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2170

Remember that the contact information for all RFACs is located on the RI Web site at <http://www.rotary.org/foundation/alumni/resource.html>. Please join us in welcoming Roger to the RFAC Team!

Staff E-mail Address Changes

Please note that all Rotary International and Rotary Foundation staff e-mail address have changed to the format firstname.lastname@rotary.org. Alumni Relations staff addresses are now as follows:

Gary Millman: gary.millman@rotary.org

Jennifer Willbanks: jennifer.willbanks@rotary.org

Pat Dunmore: pat.dunmore@rotary.org

Linda Gold: linda.gold@rotary.org

General alumni mailbox: alumni@rotary.org

REConnections

The December 2005 edition of *REConnections* is currently being mailed to all alumni with active addresses in our database in English, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish. The English bulletin is attached to this message and copies are being sent to you as well.



District Success Story

District 6780 Alumni Connections – People In Whose Lives We Have Invested

This story was submitted by Carol LaRue, 2005-06 District Rotary Foundation Chair of District 6780.

District 6780 has long been active in the Educational Programs of The Rotary Foundation, through both Ambassadorial Scholarships and Group Study Exchange, and now through Rotary World Peace Fellows. Until recently, the district was not maintaining contact with these Foundation program participants. The 2005-06 Rotary Foundation Committee, led by chair Carol LaRue, decided to plan an event to reconnect with these people in whose lives the district had invested.

The committee and 2005-06 District Governor Karen Wentz compared their alumni information with records from The Rotary Foundation to develop an alumni database. Using available e-mail addresses, the district invited alumni to visit the REConnections pages of the RI Web site and update their information. With this additional information, their database was established and they could move forward with an event to reach as many of their alumni as possible.

A Rotary club in the district agreed to host a Sunday afternoon event called Jazz in the Park. Club members agreed to be greeters, bring hors d'oeuvres, and share their pavilion. A local jazz combo was engaged for entertainment. Invitations were printed and mailed to alumni in the district's database. As invitations were returned with forwarding addresses, the database was updated and another invitation was sent to the new address. In the end, the district was able to contact 90% of its alumni.

Each alumnus was asked to bring one photo of their trip and encouraged to bring their families and friends to enjoy the event. If possible, they were asked to bring their favorite hors d'oeuvres from the country they visited. The committee also developed Internet-generated maps of the 14 countries visited by their alumni for display at the event.

55 invitees attended Jazz in the Park, both alumni and parents of alumni no longer living in the district. District leadership also attended, including 2005-06 District Membership Committee Chair, John Bailey. As a result, a new club is being chartered in the district and some alumni who attended the event have since joined Rotary clubs. These new members are encouraging other alumni to also join Rotary.

Jazz in the Park helped District 6780 establish a successful alumni relations program. They have since recognized their alumni are an excellent resource for referrals for future Group Study Exchange teams and Ambassadorial Scholarship applicants. With an improved alumni database, they plan to invite their alumni to attend their district conference in 2006, where they will include a special reception for them.

District 6780 has other plans for their alumni relations program:

1. Continue to hold an annual alumni event.
2. Plan a districtwide alumni service project.
3. Give alumni the opportunity to contribute to The Rotary Foundation.
4. Inform the district's clubs of alumni living in their area so they can invite them to speak at their club, include them in club projects, and consider offering them membership.

Through Jazz in the Park and these other plans, District 6780 is truly reconnecting with its alumni. As a result, the district is getting a wonderful return from the people in whose lives they have invested.

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RFAC General Coordinator Lou Piconi

Most sincerely, thank you. These 2 words cannot express our appreciation for the great effort to date. Since our gathering in Skokie in August 2005, just 5 months ago, we have seen great strides to identify, locate, include and invite Alumni into our Rotary family and service projects as well as support the Rotary Foundation. We have received great cooperation and support of the RRFs and Gary Millman and his Alumni staff. We have reviewed your reports and suggestions carefully, read hundreds of testimonials and appreciation letters from Alumni, and seen very creative and innovative events around the world involving TRF Alumni. And, most importantly, we are beginning to see some incoming governors and district foundation committees place an emphasis on alumni in the near future. However, we all know our responsibilities have just begun and we have a long way to go to achieve the goals established.

Please, do not let a month go by without creating action between now and 1 July. There are PETS, District Assemblies and Conferences that should have alumni and/or alumni information in the programs. What are the alumni goals of each of your district's TRF committees? If the district foundation committee does not have alumni goals that the governor supports, how will you make that happen? When?

Create Awareness of Rotary Foundation Alumni and **Take Action** to make them an integral part of Rotary service and family.

Thank you.

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RFAC Assistant General Coordinator Bill Mulkey

For the last six months it has been an honor and pleasure to be your associate and work by your side in this noble effort on behalf of one of our most valuable resources, our Foundation Alumni. I truly believe we have made a tremendous impact with our endeavors to project our Alumni to the forefront of Rotary's present and future. As we enter the second half of this Rotary year may we not slow down with our efforts and lets continue to be excited and appreciative of the success we have achieved year to date.



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