



Rotary Foundation Alumni Coordinator (RFAC) Monthly Bulletin February 2008

Comments from Trustee Chairmen-elect Jonathan Majiyagbe



Thank you for your continued dedication and sincere commitment to your role as Rotary Foundation alumni coordinators. I would like to share the Foundation's goals for the 2008-09 Rotary year with you. They are:

- 1) Keep our promise eradicate polio.
- 2) Embrace the two pillars of support for The Rotary Foundation: The Annual Programs Fund through Every Rotarian, Every Year and the Permanent Fund.
- 3) Participate in Your Foundation/ Our Foundation, a "lend a hand" program for sharing funds from club and district foundation to permanently establish the Rotary World Peace Fellows program and support global polio eradication.
- 4) Enhance Rotary's public image.
- 5) Support the Future Vision Plan of The Rotary Foundation.

I want to emphasize that although there is not a goal that specifically mentions Foundation alumni this year; I still believe that alumni are tied into these goals. The Rotary Alumni Celebration as well as events held locally and the formation of new alumni associations represent our unchanging goal of reconnecting, engaging, and celebrating with the alumni of our Foundation programs. I hope to see you and your regions' alumni at the Rotary Alumni Celebration on 13-14 June 2008 in Los Angeles, California.

Comments from General Coordinator Rodney Mazinter

It may be the distance from the event, but I find the general conversation among those Rotarians I regularly come into contact with pretty low key when it comes to ensuring that their districts are represented by Foundation alumni at the Rotary Alumni Celebration in Los Angeles. Yet on simple reflection it can be understood why this event is considered one of the most important in the current Rotary calendar. Without exception most Rotarians in their districts are working diligently and hard for Rotary; but they are working apart and often alone. Musicians in any orchestra who do not attend the conductor's rehearsals cannot hope to make great music if they "go it alone." Those of us who are serious about The Rotary Foundation and its potential to make a difference to our world should be present in June to play their music; we need to make our band of willing players grow into a great orchestra for hope and peace in the world. This can best be done together at the gathering of Rotarians and Foundation alumni at the Rotary Alumni Celebration in Los Angeles in June. It is a gathering that will hopefully produce our orchestra of hope that can tackle the growing discordant noises the world today is facing.

Update on The Rotary Alumni Celebration

Please continue to promote the Rotary Alumni Celebration in Los Angeles! Currently, there are only 250 participants registered and many more are needed to make this a successful event. Please remember to distribute the attached FAQ and flier at all Rotary events that you attend. Both Rotarians and alumni are invited. The next deadline for registration is **31 March** and the registration prices will rise again after that date. Non-Rotarian alumni must register using paper forms (online registration is not possible for them). As of 1 April, RI will no longer accept paper registration forms until on-site registration at the convention. In other words, if alumni miss the 31 March deadline, they must wait until they are on-site to register. John Osterlund, General Manager of The Rotary Foundation and a Foundation alumnus, has written the following testimonial that the Foundation will soon be sending to all alumni chairs.

Rotary Alumni Celebration 2008: Reconnect, Engage, and Celebrate!!

By John T. Osterlund

*Member, Rotary Club of Evanston Lighthouse, District 6440
General Manager of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International*

I am very proud to be a Rotary Foundation alumnus, as I was an Ambassadorial Scholar to Stockholms Universitet in Stockholm, Sweden from Florida, USA during the 1987-88 program year. Even today, I have many Rotary friends in Sweden that I made during my scholarship experience. My experience as an Ambassadorial Scholar led me to where I am today: an employee of the Foundation for seventeen years and a Rotarian for eleven years. This incredible program, in addition to the other Educational Programs of The Rotary Foundation, has made a difference in the lives of over 100,000 individuals around the world.



I am extremely glad to see so many alumni across the world becoming involved in Rotary activities and being considered as both potential Rotarians and donors to our Foundation. February 23rd marks Rotary's 103rd anniversary and represents the rich history that Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation have created to date. Alumni of our Foundation's programs are vital to Rotary's continued success. As alumni we are true advocates of Rotarians providing humanitarian service and building goodwill and peace in the world.

The Rotary Alumni Celebration marks Rotary's inaugural preconvention alumni event and is an excellent opportunity for Rotarian and non-Rotarian alumni alike to engage, reconnect, and celebrate. Now is the time to reach out to the alumni who want the opportunity to thank Rotary and to reconnect with Rotarians and each other. Chairman Bob Scott and I are encouraging districts to send one GSE and one scholar alumnus to attend the Rotary Alumni Celebration; please consider providing district funding for your representatives' travel expenses and lodging.

With your assistance, our goal of reconnecting with Rotary Foundation alumni can happen in Los Angeles.

Alumni in the January issue of Rotary World

- Rotary World Peace Fellow alumnus, Colin Spurway is featured in an article about his work in Kyrgyzstan with Mercy Corps (p.5).
- The 2006-07 GSE team from District 1560 (Netherlands) to District 5260 (California, USA) talks about their positive experience with GSE (p.6).
- Thevananth Thevanayagam and Raveendra Pathiranaage, both Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies alumni, are featured in an article about the unique relationship they formed as a result of the program (p.6).

To view the full articles visit http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/rw_0801_en.pdf.

RFACs to receive PeaceNet newsletter

RFACs have been added to the PeaceNet newsletter's distribution list. The PeaceNet newsletter is a forum for the Rotary Centers community— a community that includes Rotary World Peace Fellows, alumni, center directors and staff, Rotarian sponsors, host area coordinators, donors, and Rotary Centers committee members. The next edition will be sent in March and it is sent out on a bi-monthly basis.

2nd Quarter Activity Report Highlights

Thanks to the following RFACs that turned in their 2nd quarter reports:

Edwards, Zone 7&8A: I feel that there is interest slowly generating in some districts as alumni are being brought together.

Eerdmans, Zone 13: The Belux alumni association, which I helped to form, is holding it's second alumni event in March 2008.

Harcourt, Zones 22&23: I will be presenting at the Regional Rotary Foundation Seminar in Vancouver on 19 January.

Wentz, Zone 30: We are planning a sizeable TRF alumni reception at the multi-district conference (Districts 6710, 6740, 6760, 6780) in Nashville, TN in April.

February is World Understanding Month

Every club is encouraged to promote Rotary's good works on 23 February, [Rotary's 103rd birthday](#). The day, designated as World Understanding Day, provides a tremendous opportunity for clubs and districts to share the story of Rotary's local and global contributions.

Though 23 February is the official Rotary anniversary, clubs can designate any day to celebrate Rotary in their communities. Most important, Rotarians are encouraged to select a day to communicate to the public what the organization is and does around the world. Alumni are the products of Rotary's mission; who better to promote world understanding through Rotary? Invite local alumni to be a part of your club's world understanding event.

RI provides resources to help Rotary clubs and districts coordinate a celebration. For starters, view a [list](#) of events and activities your club can organize. Additional materials, including a sample proclamation and two promotional posters, are available on the [Public Image Resource Group page](#) at Rotary.org. You can also [contact](#) a Public Image Resource Group member for more suggestions. (11 February PR Tips Newsletter; the blue links are hyperlinks)