



Rotary Foundation Alumni Coordinator (RFAC) Monthly Bulletin May 2008

Article from Educational Programs Division Manager Harvey Newcomb III

As in the past, Harvey has written an article on new strategies and lessons learned for Foundation alumni events and receptions. The attached article discusses various successful thematic alumni relations events that The Rotary Foundation has held throughout the world. These events can be planned in any district and we hope that this article will promote more alumni activity.



Thematic Alumni
Relations Events

Comments from General Coordinator Rodney Mazinter

This has been a busy time for speaking engagements about the need to reunite with our Foundation alumni. Conferences and club visits have all taken their toll on time and effort. The one persistent comment has been that finding and recruiting alumni to Rotary is hard work. Of course it is hard work. Did anyone expect it to be easy? Life is a series of contests from which we emerge victorious or vanquished. Why should reconnecting with our alumni be different? At every turn we are faced with circumstances not conducive to recruiting from our alumni pool. It would seem that there wasn't a chance in the world against these circumstances, and there isn't except for persistence. Those who are persistent win because they know how to take a beating and come back for more. It's nothing to get beaten, but it's bad to lose heart. It's a big job you have cut out for yourselves but you have been selected because you are up to the job. Success breeds success; it builds up a momentum that once it gets going is unstoppable. That knocking you hear is opportunity, not success. Success comes from persistence.

Comments from Assistant General Coordinator Jeffry Cadorette

Echoing Rodney's sentiments, I will add the following. For many years we as Rotarians went about our business busily recruiting participants for our Foundation programs, shepherding them through the various processes of applications, interviews and selection and then sending them off on their adventures. We neglected the whole post participation piece. We neglected the part about becoming life-long partners with us in citizen diplomacy. We neglected the exercise of staying connected with them and viewing them as an ongoing ally and resource. Over a decade ago the Foundation Alumni Resource Group (FARG) started to shine a light on the deficiencies in our post participation tendencies. Subsequent to that the Foundation's Trustees through Rotary Foundation alumni coordinators, initiated a new emphasis on reconnecting with and remaining connected with Foundation alumni. Positive results can be seen the world over as alumni gatherings become more numerous. The mention of Foundation alumni no longer elicits a confused look from Rotarians. Foundation alumni are seeing the hand that we have reached out to them and they are reaching back. Many of the 100,000 plus Foundation alumni in the world today may never join a Rotary club. All of them though can become lifelong partners in our goals and in our mission. They want that and we need that.

RFAC Quarterly Activity Report Highlights

Thanks to the following RFACs that turned in their 3rd quarter activity reports:

Babin, Zone 31: D7890 has a get-together every few months--low cost (pot-luck dinner), mostly "casual" (winter weekend activities), developing a real sense of community among the group.

Bambara, Zone 10A: Although I contact alumni chairs regularly, I remain concerned by their lack of follow-up.

Blender, Zone 25: The alumni subcommittee members are frustrated and unable to collect data pertaining to TRF contributions by Foundation alumni.

Buck, Zone 27: In the last 90 days I have moved past communicating with alumni subcommittee chairs in my districts and am trying to work with the governors to establish the importance of forming an alumni association in their district.

Choy, Zone 8B: There is an increased awareness to maintain alumni records current, the introduction of the "formal" change of address notice is in progress.

Edwards, Zone 7&8A: I am corresponding regularly with alumni chairs in my zone.

Eerdmans, Zone 13: The second gathering of the Belux Alumni Association was a successful event.

Ertler, Zone 14E: The District 1910 Alumni Association will be chartered in May.

Geddes, Zone 17: A lot of activity will take place in the coming weeks, for example GSE interviews, but we are actively engaging with future alumni.

Gokuldas, Zone 6: Alumni have been involved in selection and orientation for future program participants in my zone.

Harcourt, Zone 22&23: I will be attending and presenting about alumni at the Pacific Northwest Ambassadorial Scholar orientation in June. I will also be attending the Rotary Alumni Celebration in LA and will help out in any way I can at that event.

Hayward, Zone 22, 28, & 31: D. 7810 will try an alumni reception at their district conference this year.

Jespersen, Zone 16: District 1470 is considering a preliminary appointment for an association president.

Johnson, Zone 18: One district officer when asked to become the district membership chair said he would on condition that he amalgamated this with the alumni chair - I feel this is an excellent move.

Kettmeir, Zone 12&10B: During this last quarter, my last as an RFAC, all my efforts will concentrate in founding alumni associations in my districts which don't have yet have them founded (5 districts).

Long, Zone 10A: There is definitely a growing interest in alumni. We need to keep putting in information and motivation.

Mashhour, Zone 10B: The District Conference of D2450 will be held May 1-4, 08 in Beyrouth/Lebanon and I hope to discuss the progress of establishing the Alumni Association of Lebanon.

Matsuoka, Zone 3&4A: So far I confirmed that a few alumni from several districts in my zone will be attending the Rotary Alumni Celebration.

Okamoto, Zone 2: Alumni from D2590 and D2780 showed strong interest and registered for the Rotary Alumni Celebration.

Pesel, Zone 21: I asked all the DRFCS and DGs to attend the training sessions for GSE teams and to receive the GSE teams in their districts.

Raby, Zone 23: I corresponded with all district officers in my zone and encouraged them to invited alumni to register for the Rotary Alumni Celebration.

Sharma, Zone 5: I attended the TRF seminars and alumni association meetings of District 3080, 3090, 3110, 3290, 3120 and 3010.

Skinner, Zone 29: I have contacted the DGEs for their 2008-09 committee assignments to get any new people on board immediately.

Soderberg, Zone 28: I actively promoted the Rotary Alumni Celebration in Los Angeles, and I will be attending this June.

Torroba, Zone 19B&21B: At two of the next district conferences, I will be handing out charter certificates to new alumni associations.

Wente, Zone 14W: D1800 had its annual alumni meeting on March 15 with around 235 participants.

Yeung, Zone 4B: So far for this Rotary year, D3450 successfully formed an alumni association last December.

Rotary Alumni Celebration Update

There are currently 381 participants registered for the Rotary Alumni Celebration and it is hoped that number will surpass 400. Remember that registration with the paper forms is still open until 31 May and you can still encourage alumni to register for this event. Onsite registration opens 12 June in Los Angeles. Please refer to the attached documents containing planned highlights for the Rotary Alumni Celebration. We hope to see you there!



Rotary Alumni
Celebration Highlights



Rotary Alumni
Celebration FAQ



LA Registration Form

Alumni in the April issue of Rotary World and the May issue of The Rotarian

April Rotary World

- The Ask the Experts section on p.4 features PDG Steve Wilcox, 2003-04 GSE team leader from District 5960 (Wisconsin, USA) to District 2430 (Turkey).
- In an article on p.5 Margaret Curtis, 2007-08 Volunteer Service Grant recipient from District 6710 (Kentucky, USA) to District 2420 (Turkey) talks about her experience teaching English to two classes of 10- 13 year old children.
- On p.6, April Veness, 2006-07 University Teacher Grant recipient from District 7630 (Delaware, USA) to District 4250 (Guatemala) talks about her involvement with a Matching Grant project that has installed a clean water system for the people of San Isidiro. Jennifer Kopenhaver, Veness' former student and a 2002-03 Ambassadorial Scholar also sponsored by District 7630 to District 4250, helped with the project too.

- Stephen Milward, 2007-08 Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program participant from District 1090 (England) is featured in a photo and caption on p. 7.
- 2003-05 Rotary World Peace Fellow Umar Shavurov, sponsored by District 2430 (Kyrgyzstan) to Universidad del Salvador District 4890 (Argentina) discusses the importance of peace fellowships in an article on p.7.

To read all articles visit: http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/rw_0804_en.pdf

May *Rotarian*

- The inside cover is an Every Rotarian Every Year promotion with 2005-06 Ambassadorial Scholar Alissa Creamer who talks about the documentary film that she worked on during her scholarship.



Alissa Creamer-
Every Rotarian Every

Reminder- RITS Travel Requests

A reminder that all RITS travel request forms **must** be sent to your coordinator for approval and they will send them onto RITS. Please contact your coordinator if you have any questions.



RITS Travel Request
Form- English

Zone contact list from April Coordinator Communiqué

The attached list explains the Foundation staff liaison coverage for all RI zones.



Rotarian Position and
Zone staff liaisons.do