

Rotary Review

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Plainfield and North Plainfield

Volume 6 Issue 3

September 2006

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OFFICERS

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Rotary Club of Bound Brook-Middlesex

DICTIONARY PROJECT

President Bill Parenti recently issued a press release, announcing that September 8, 2006 is International Literacy Day, a day in which Rotary International celebrates its partnership with the International Reading Association.

Plainfield with Borough officials and fellow Rotarians Janice Allen (Mayor), Marilyn Birnbaum (Superintendent of Schools), Bill Parenti (Chief of Police) and club secretary Michael Townley passing out dictionaries to each student in the Borough's three elementary schools.

The first stop was East End School, followed by Stony Brook School and then West End School.

"Reading is probably the most important skill we learn," Parenti said. "In addition to helping students learn the correct spelling,



President Bill presents the first dictionary to Crysnel Amaya at East End School

Our Club used this occasion as a way to celebrate the importance of literacy by kicking off our own local Dictionary Project.

"The goal of this project is to provide a dictionary to every third grader in Plainfield and in North Plainfield," said President Bill.

The kick off began in North



Students eagerly respond to Janice Allen's query "Who knows how to read?"

(Continued on page 2)

What Paul Harris Said...

"Remember that great missions are serious undertakings. Do not expect to perform great missions in a day."

*Paul Harris, Founder of Rotary
Written for The Rotarian
September, 1912*

*Need more information? Have comments, questions or suggestions? All are welcome.
Contact the Editor at 908-822-1441 or at RotaryPNP@comcast.net.*

Why I Am A Rotarian

Rotary is a miracle as small as one tiny drop of vaccine in a child's mouth and as big as peace and prosperity for our planet.

Personally, I think it requires an incredible investment of our time and energy that offers unlimited returns.

For the recipient it can be the promise of a future filled with hope; for the donor, the assurance of fulfillment and probability of grace.

While it is tempting to savor its rich and brilliant past; for most people Rotary is and will remain . . . a pathway to the future.

**Robert A. Cerwin
Director and Vice President,
Rotary International, 1985-87
The RC of Asheville, NC**



Dictionary Project Begins with North Plainfield Schools

pronunciation, definition, and uses of words, these dictionaries will assist them in developing their reading, writing and creative abilities.”

Mrs. Beth Sobel, Principal of West End School wrote this note upon learning of the project. “I would just like to thank the Rotary for doing this for our kids. The children will be thrilled; and, for many this will be the first dictionary that they can call their own”.

Each student received a copy of “A Student’s Dictionary”, with a label inside that has a place for the student’s name, and that reads “This book is a gift from the members of the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield. We hope that it will help you, and that you will give it to someone else when you no longer need it.”



A group of students reading the label after writing in their names.

The Club is also distributing Spanish-English dictionaries to students in both school districts’ bilingual classes, for a total of



Marilyn presents a dictionary to a Stony Brook student. (The “girl” standing at the right is actually the teacher!)

over 1200 books.

More information about the overall dictionary program can be found at www.thedictionaryproject.com. This site explains the origin of the program and provides more background information.

Last year’s district governor, Andy Calamaras, made the distribution of dictionaries one of his goals for the 2005-2006 year. We purchased our dictionaries during that year but, being too late to distribute them, we held them for the current school year.

Paul Casey is coordinating the distribution of dictionaries to the Plainfield elementary schools. There are eight schools with almost 100 third grade students at each school.

Rotarians are asked to step forward when Paul asks for help in handing out the books. Ask those who went on September 8th, and they’ll tell you it was an extremely rewarding experience.



Who's Who and What's New

Denise Manning is our newest member . . .

Denise is Director of Public Relations and Manager at the Alden Institute, located at 200 West Second Street, Suite 103, in downtown Plainfield. She is a resident of North Plainfield.

Denise's work email address is AldenInstitute@verizon.net, and her home email address is NEECEE052@yahoo.com.

Welcome, Denise!

Vocational Assembly

RI President Bill Boyd of the Rotary Club of Pakuranga, New Zealand, will be the keynote speaker at the annual, multi-district Vocational Assembly.

The event will be held at the Pines Manor in Edison on October 11. The afternoon registration and programs begin at 2:30 PM, with dinner at 6:00 PM. Cost is \$45, with Club paying \$10 of that.

Mark your calendars and be there with your fellow members.

If you can't make the programs, at least attend dinner - don't miss this rare opportunity to hear our RI president.

Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations to the members of the Church of the Holy Cross in North Plainfield on their 130th anniversary.

Founded on September 14, 1876, the church will celebrate its anniversary at its 10 AM services on September 10, with a reception to follow in the church hall.

With its interior wooden columns, pointed cathedral-style windows and doors, and its exterior board-and-batten siding, Holy Cross is one of the finest examples of American Carpenter Gothic architecture in this area.

Holy Cross is Janice and Harry Allen's parish.

Four Way Test

Of the things we say and do...

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Scholarship Recipient Thank You

Dear Rotary Club of North Plainfield-Plainfield,

I again wanted to extend my gratitude for the scholarship that I have received.

I've experienced my first few days of college, and it is quite overwhelming but I think I am making the transition rather easily and smoothly as well.

My first day of classes is today, and so far I am very anxious to commence the semester.

Well, I will be sure to inform you as the semester goes on of my progress. Again, many thanks. =)

Sincerely,
Jessica Munoz



2006 09-30

Wine Tasting Dinner

Our 8th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser (\$3,000+ last year) will be held 6 PM on November 8 at Giovanna's Restaurant. We anticipate the cost will be \$65, the same as last year - this has not yet been confirmed.

For our new members, this is our BIG fundraiser for the year. We need a minimum of 100 people to attend - the more the better. Get your guest list ready now!



Somerset Patriots Baseball

Club members and their families and friends will enjoy their "peanuts and Cracker Jacks" on September 16 as the Somerset Patriots take on the Newark Bears. Game time is 7:05 PM.

Recent Meeting Program Summaries

How To Solve Personnel Problems in the Workplace: A Philosophy with 5 Easy Pieces

1. **Don't personalize other people's personality disorders.**
Narcissistic-Histrionic-Antisocial-Borderline-Obsessive-Dependent-Passive Aggressive-Schizoid-Paranoid
2. **There are myriad ways to confront**
 - a. Direct —flat out
 - b. Indirect —with humor, with positive reinforcement, in a group
3. **Be the most inflexible on the most important rules -and don't feel you have to explain yourself.**
 - a. Be more flexible on the small rules, and you'll be appreciated for it
4. **Realize that in negotiation, everybody walks away unhappy.**
 - a. Negotiation is a powerful tool none-the-less
5. **Take responsibility for your own failings, and fix them, before you hold others responsible.**

Presented by Dr. Sally Wright of Well-spring Resources Unlimited - Quality Treatment, Evaluation and Research.
908-782-5989

Five Steps to Create the Ownership and Performance that Bring Great Results:

1. Make sure people understand the top goals of the organization and the contribution needed from them to hit those goals.
2. Get rid of inner circles; let everyone know they are important to the cause.

3. Pass problems down and solutions up in your organization.
4. Give positive feedback, even for small improvements.
5. Own your own attitudes; develop ones that enable you to achieve your goals.

Presented by Bill Granda of Paradigm Associates - Improving Performance, Implementing Change, Improving Results. www.paradigmassociates.us

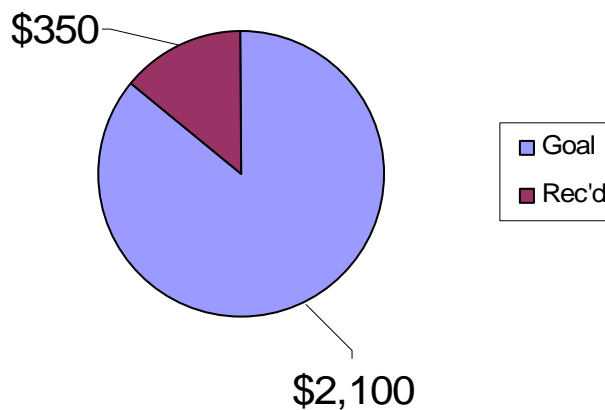
Rotary Foundation

In order to earn the *RI Presidential Citation*, the Club must achieve certain standards and milestones. One of these is to have each Club member

contribute a minimum of \$100 to the Annual Programs Fund.

The chart shows the Club's progress toward reaching our goal of \$2,100.

Rotary Foundation



Calendar Don't forget to check the website for your speaker assignments. September is filled, and Bev and Trish are responsible for October dates (18th and 25th).

One source for speakers is the local papers; the local section of the Courier News, for one. Another source is the District list in the Members Area on the website (www.RotaryPNP.org).

Rotary Membership and Extension

When it comes to finding new members to join Rotary, start by looking in the obvious places, says Rosemary Barker Aragon, a member of the Rotary Club of University District of Seattle.

As a regional RI membership coordinator, or RRIMC, Aragon is always on the lookout for potential Rotarians who are just waiting for an invitation.

“I look for people who are “already ‘Rotarians’”, she says. “They are active in the community, they volunteer, they might be part of another organization that you might be involved in.”

Parent-teacher associations, neighborhood groups, and volunteer events draw involved, community-minded individuals who might be just right for Rotary but never thought to join.

Children and grandchildren of Rotarians are also good potential members, according to Aragon, because they understand the nature of Rotary.

“Rotary is a commitment organization, and they know that,” she says. “You need to find out what people are passionate about and then show them how they can get involved through Rotary.”

It is and often-repeated axiom that people will not join Rotary unless they are asked. We all know that membership in Rotary is by invitation only. So who does the inviting?- each one of us.

Years ago, our Club counted among its most active members a man named John Gale. John is deceased now, but you will find his name listed in our Club Directory as a past president, as well as one of only two recipients of the Matty Mathewson Award. (This is a District 7510 award that is presented annually to the Rotarian who exemplifies our motto, *Service Above Self*.)

Whenever a new member was inducted into the Club, John would always rise and tell the newest member that “You are not a true Rotarian until you have tapped someone else on the shoulder and asked that person to join you in Rotary.”

Every new Rotarian brings a range of personal and professional resources that can greatly strengthen a club's ability to serve.

Nothing has changed since the time that John was alive. We are each responsible for the growth of our Club - no one else can do it for us.

The following members are responsible for bringing in 80% of our current roster :

- Janice..... 4
- Michael 4
- Jackie..... 2
- Linda H-T..... 2
- Tom..... 2
- Linda P 1
- Rick 1
- Trish..... 1

The other 20% were brought in by former members. And over

the past ten years or so, most of those who have come and gone were asked by four or five of the members listed above, plus one or two others.

We all need to do our part to bring in new members. Since 1990, thirty-one members have joined and then left. Most of those changed jobs or retired.

These numbers just show that there is a tremendous turnover of members, mostly because of business reasons. We all need to work hard to bring in new members if we are to keep our Club active and productive.

Invite someone to join Rotary - you know they won't be sorry.

Sept/Oct Meeting Schedule

- ◇ **Sept. 6** - Club Assembly
- ◇ **Sept. 13** - John Ryan on the Battleship New Jersey
- ◇ **Sept. 20** - John Goldsack on Powers of Attorney
- ◇ **Sept. 27** - Chief Bill Eaton on Fire Prevention
- ◇ **Oct. 4** - Club Assembly
- ◇ **Oct. 11** - Vocational Assembly - No Regular Meeting!
- ◇ **Oct. 18** - Bev Howard is responsible for getting the speaker.
- ◇ **Oct. 25** - Trish Mulligan is responsible for getting the speaker.

<i>Current Members and Classifications</i>	
Allen, Janice	Child care administration
Alparone, Helena	Banking
Birnbaum, Marilyn	Public education
Bonet, Addy	Social service
Casey, Paul	Youth services
Glock, Jackie	Social service
Griswold, Vicky	Music retail
Hawkins-Todman, Linda	Real estate
Henry, Paul	Financial planning/CPA
Hollod, David	Public administration
Howard, Beverly	Cardiac care
Kosin, Ivan	Chiropractic
Manning, Denise	Medical support education
Mathews, Robin	Health care administration

<i>Current Members and Classifications</i>	
McNally, Richard	Office machine sales
Mulligan, Patricia	Humanitarian services
Parenti, William	Municipal police service
Persichino, Linda	Banking
Reading, Lori	Continuing care
Reedy, Thomas	Social service
Townley, Michael	Stained and leaded glass
Honorary Members and Former Classifications	
Harvey, William	Clergy - presbyterian
Gindin, William	General law
Herting, Frank	Public education
Perrone, Ralph	Social service
Ridzy, Edward	Mortgage banking

THE FOUR WAY TEST 1. Is it the truth? 2. Is it Fair to All Concerned? 3. Will it Build Goodwill
of things we say and do... and Better Friendships? 4. Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?



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