



Rotary Review

The Award Winning Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Plainfield and North Plainfield

Volume 10 Issue 1

July 2009

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Vicky Griswold	President
(Vacant)	President-Elect
Marilyn Birnbaum	Vice-President
Michael Townley	Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas Reedy	Sgt. at Arms
Linda Persichino	Past President

DIRECTORS

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Marilyn Birnbaum.....	Membership

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Rotary Club of Grangemouth,
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Governor, District No. 7510

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Rotary Club of Princeton Corridor.

Assistant Governor

BEV HOWARD

Rotary Club of
Plainfield-North Plainfield

\$25,200 in Scholarships Awarded

Grants Range from \$500 to \$1500

The Club of recently awarded \$25,200 in scholarships to graduating seniors from Plainfield High School and North Plainfield High School.

The Club sponsors its own F.S. Mathewson Scholarship, awarding a total of \$7,200 to students in the two high schools in its service area.

“Six \$1,000 scholarships were awarded in memory of Matty Mathewson, the first member of our club to serve as District Governor,” said club president Linda Persichino.

“Matty was an active member of our club from 1928 until his death in 1993 at the age of ninety-eight,” said President Linda. “We honor Matty’s memory through our community service activities, including these scholarship awards to assist students as they continue their education. Candidates for this award must demonstrate a mix of aca-

ademic achievement; financial need; community service; school service.”

Recipients of the F.S. Mathewson Scholarship Awards from North Plainfield High School were Branny Orak, Yulesy Almonte, Julia Lake and Jonathan Montoya. Plainfield High School recipients were Erick Barahona, Sharina Ander-

son, and Alisa France.

“We also awarded an Interact Club Scholarship for the first time this year,” said President Linda.

“The Interact Club at North Plainfield High School is a youth program of Rotary.

The Interact Club members work hard

to help us raise money during the year for our scholarship program, and we wanted to recognize that hard work with a special scholarship.”

The Interact Club Scholarship of \$1,200 was presented to Branny Orak, an Interact member who was instrumental in a number of fundraising events for the Rotary Club.

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

President Linda's Year-end Report

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, friends and family. Welcome to the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield's annual dinner and induction of officers for 2009-2010.

Could we all stand and start with the pledge of allegiance?

Please remain standing while the members say the 4 Way Test.

The 4-Way Test 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?

Thank you and please be seated.

Before we get started, I would like to take a moment to welcome back to our club this evening past district governor and member of the Rotary Club of Branchburg Dr. Julie Ann Juliano, who will conduct our induction of officers and directors this evening. Thank you for joining us.

WOW..... Another year gone by...where does the time go?

At our 82nd Annual Track and Field Meet this year, I was reading a package Mike had put together which included a brief history of Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Plainfield- North Plainfield. I took the

liberty of making a few copies which are on the table. Take a moment to look at it.

Our club began in 1921 - our charter was issued 12/1/1921 - 88 years ago. We are still going strong- small but strong.

Our club continues to support so many worthwhile projects within our community such as:

1. Dictionary project: We supplied over 900 dictionaries to all 3rd graders in Plainfield and in North Plainfield. I am happy to report that we received our District Simplified Grant money recently which enabled us to cover just over half of our expense!



President Linda accepts her Past President plaque from PDG Julie Ann

2. We support the Interact Club at North Plainfield High School and, may I add, the Interact Club was a tremendous support for us this year at the Rutgers and our track meet! This was the first year we presented an Interact Scholarship to a member of Interact.

3. Speaking of Rutgers, we continue to work the concession stand at the Rutgers basketball and lacrosse games to raise funds. A huge "thank you" to our helpers, to our Interact Club and to the members of the Dunellen-Greenbrook club. Without their time and support, staffing the games would have been difficult. The concession stand work is a major source of funding for our club.

4. We provide and serve a complete dinner meal to the guests at the homeless shelter and to the residents in the Plainfield YMCA each quarter.

5. Our Club awarded \$17,500 in scholarships this year to seniors at Plainfield and North Plainfield High Schools. The awards included F. S. Mathewson Scholarship; Interact Club Scholarship; The PHS Alumni Scholarship; The J. Wilbur Tovell Scholarship; The Leo Albert Friesse Scholarship; and The Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship. The club also awarded \$6000 in scholarships to past recipients of the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship who are continuing their four year educations.

6. Track Meet - we held our 82nd Annual Track and Field Meet this year awarding 156 gold, silver and bronze med-

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President Linda's Year-end Report (cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

- als! Once again, many friends and members of the Interact Club assisted us with the event this year.....Thank you.
7. We adopted Star Fish Food Pantry in Plainfield. I would like to thank everyone for bringing food donations as your entrance ticket this evening. Remember, this is an on-going club project. Please bring your donations weekly, biweekly or monthly to our meetings. Mike will deliver the donations.
 8. We also took on a new project, the Giving Garden in Warren which is associated with The Somerset County Food Bank and Star Fish. Funny how things go in full circle. We are growing hot peppers in our plot. In addition, the club donated four flats of tomato plants. The project also includes weeding and watering.
 9. At District Conference it was announced that we received the Presidential Citation. We also took 2nd place honors for our club newsletter. Thank you Michael.
 10. Three members of the club were proud recipients of the Paul Harris Fellow Awards this year – Bev, Janice and Mike. Congratulations.
 11. We held our 10th Annual Wine Tasting Dinner and Silent Auction in early spring this year, with ap-

proximately 100 guests in attendance. This year we honored Janice Allen for all her years of service to Rotary and for her service as mayor in North Plainfield.

12. Rotary Foundation contributions by our members exceeded our goal this year in contributions to the Foundation. Thank you...
13. Students of the Month- we recognized Students of the Month from Plainfield and North Plainfield high schools by presenting them with framed certificates at luncheons in their honor.

And the list goes on....

We also support projects on the international level such as:

- Pure Water for the World
- Homes of Hope in Ecuador
- Polio Plus...(our piggy banks were hungry this year. We donated a little over \$1000.00 which included a piggy bank from the Interact Club.)
- Homes for Hope Sponsor Me Project ... We continue to sponsor a young boy from Ecuador, Carlos Santana. This year we sent him some reading books, pencils for the school and a camera.

Wow ... quite a list and I am sure I missed a few projects — not bad for a small club.

I would like to thank all of you for everything you have

done. Remember, it is a team effort to accomplish our goals.

I usually begin our meetings with a thought for the day, but I decided to end with a thought....

"It is time for us to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever, the one who recognizes the challenge and does something about it." (Vince Lombardi)

I applaud all of you for being the doers and the achievers. This is what has made our small club a success.

But each of us, even in our busy lives today, must take a few more steps forward to continue our work and to support the many worthwhile projects of the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield.

Remember, this our club.



The Club received "thank you" notes or letters from four of this year's scholarship recipients.

Julia Lake of North Plainfield said, in part, "I am writing to thank you for the Rotary Club's F. S. Mathewson scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected...I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals as you have helped me."

Other comments will appear in future issues.

Annual Dinner and Induction of Officers



Cocktail hour saw lots of chit-chat as guests and members mingled.

New president Vicky addresses members and guests (right)..



Linda is all smiles - her two-year stint is finally over!



Bob Gulick, who helped at lacrosse, with Marilyn Birnbaum.



PDG Julie Ann pins Linda with her diamond past president pin.

Giving Garden Project

Linda Persichino and Michael Townley have been working at the Giving Garden in the Wagner Farm Arboretum. Weeding and watering are the order of the day up at “the farm.”

The Giving Garden is a cooperative effort to grow vegetables for donation to the Somerset County Food Bank, for StarFish of Plainfield, and for other food pantries.

Our club’s four by forty-foot section (pictured right) contains several dozen growing pepper plants, some even showing their fruits.

Anyone can spend time in the Garden. Besides our own

plot, there are many others that need some TLC. Set aside an hour or two, won’t you?



Coming soon

YMCA Dinners -

Sept. 14 - Marilyn and Vicky need another helper.
Dec. 7 - Bev needs two helpers.

Sign up at any Club meeting - three or four people needed for each event.

Dictionary Project -

Tom Reedy is chair for the Plainfield schools, and Dave Hollod is chair for North Plainfield. We’re adding the Plainfield charter schools, and have applied for grants to fund the project’s \$1915 total cost.

Jack Townley’s Corner



Jack was 11 on July 19. Mom and Dad gave him a Wii game system. A few evenings ago, he asked Mom to play a game they had already played one morning. “You should be better at it now,” said Jack. “You’re not as groggy now as you are in the morning!”

Scholarship Awards

(Continued from page 1)

The Club also awarded scholarships on behalf of the Plainfield Foundation, a community-based non-profit that awards funding to benefit local community groups.

This year, the Club awarded \$1,500 from the Leo Albert Friese Scholarship Fund, with \$750 grants to North Plainfield High students Daniela Velastequi and Soniya Khan. The Friese Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who will pursue a major course of study in science.

In addition, the Club also awarded PHS Alumni Association Scholarships and J. Wilbur Tovell Scholarships to Plainfield High School seniors on behalf of the Plainfield Foundation.

The PHS Alumni Scholarship Fund was established in 1986 when the Association, prior to disbanding, asked the Plainfield Foundation to award their scholarships. The Foundation established the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Candidates demonstrate academic achievement, participation in school activities.

Recipients of the \$4,500 in PHS Alumni Scholarship awards were Tenneisha Brown, Jennifer Maldonado, Ayanna Navarro-Thomas (\$1,000 each,) and Zulefika Mofokeng, Erin Walker, and Darius Watson (\$500 each.)

The J. Wilbur Tovell Scholarship Fund was established as a bequest from a Plainfield native and alumnus of Plainfield High School. Candidates must be male students only, with academic achievement and participation in school activities.

Recipients of the \$3,500 in J. Wilbur Tovell Scholarships this

year were Chris Aggrey-Marfo (\$1,500,) William Patterson and Tyray Forte (\$1,000 each.)

Finally, the Rotary Club also administers the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund. This fund was established in 1988 by a \$1 million bequest in the will of the late Plainfield author Adele DeLeeuw.

The Club has worked with other Rotary clubs in the area to see that the annual income from the bequest is awarded to students who pursue a course of study in poetry, art, journalism, writing, or engineering. A total of \$884,000 has been awarded over the fourteen years that the Club has administered the program.

This year, the Club awarded \$1,000 Adele DeLeeuw Scholarships to Plainfield High School senior Briana Taylor and to North Plainfield High School senior Jonathan Valencia.

The Club also awarded repeat scholarships of \$1,000 to Arkor Kalubah and Elissa Salvemini, both graduates of North Plainfield High School who are now in college, and also to four graduates of Plainfield High School, Caleb Williams, Chanice Sears, Edwin Teran and Joseph Tiller, also currently in college.

The Club's Plainfield Scholarship Committee was chaired by Annie McWilliams, assisted by Beverly Howard, Sandra Carolan-Brozy, Victoria Griswold, and Michael Townley. Awards were presented by Annie.

The North Plainfield Scholarship Committee was chaired by Janice Allen, assisted by Linda Persichino and Dave Hollod. Janice presented the awards



Who's Who and What's New

Addy Bonet recently "resigned" her position as President and CEO of the Plainfield Area YMCA. The YMCA Board has not commented publicly about why Addy left the position. As a result of her "resignation," Addy finds it necessary to forgo her membership in Rotary while she concentrates on finding a new position. We wish Addy all the best - she did a great job at the Y, improving the facility and working hard to build membership.

Sandra Carolan-Brozy faces difficulties in this tough economic climate and will not renew her membership in the 2009-2010 year. Sandra holds out hope that things will improve over the next few months, and remains available to assist the Club with its projects and events. We wish Sandra good luck as well.

Amy Six, North Plainfield High School's Interact Club adviser for the past three years (or was it four?) will not serve in that role in the coming school year. Amy is responsible for the High School's choirs and musical programs and simply does not have the time needed by the Interact Club. Amy raised Interact members' interest in and enthusiasm for supporting Rotary's fundraising efforts, including basketball, lacrosse and soccer concessions. We wish Amy all the best - she will be missed!!



The District Conference

Most Rotarians have never attended a Rotary district conference, which means they have not experienced one of the most enjoyable and rewarding privileges of Rotary membership.

A district conference is for all club members in the district and their spouses, not just for club officers and committee members.

The purpose of a district conference is for fellowship, inspirational speakers, and discussion of matters that make one's Rotary membership more meaningful.

Every person who attends a district conference finds that being a Rotarian becomes even more rewarding because of the new experiences, insights, and acquaintances developed at the conference. Those who attend a conference enjoy going back, year after year.

Every Rotary district has a conference annually. These meetings are considered so important that the Rotary International president selects a knowledgeable Rotarian as his personal representative to attend and address each conference.

The program always includes several outstanding entertainment features, interesting discussions, and inspirational programs.

One of the added benefits of attending a district conference is the opportunity to become better acquainted with members of one's

own club in an informal setting.

Lasting friendships grow from the fellowship hours at the district conference.

Presidents-elect Training Seminar (PETS)

The Bylaws of Rotary International require that the governor-elect of each district, in cooperation with the current governor, schedule and conduct a training seminar for the incoming club presidents of the district, preferably in March.

This two- or three-day Presidents-elect Training Seminar, commonly referred to by its acronym, PETS, is a motivational and leadership training session designed to prepare the future club presidents for the office they will assume on 1 July.

Among the subjects covered are the presentation of the RI theme for the coming year as well as information about effective service projects and The Rotary Foundation.

Time is also devoted to reviewing the role and responsibilities of a club president. Incoming club presidents also learn about goal-setting, selection and preparation of club officers, club administration, membership recruitment and orientation, and RI and district resources.

In some areas of the world, two or more neighboring districts

July thru August Meeting Schedule

- ◇ **July and August** - no speakers (see below) - we will have our regular meetings!
- ◇ **August 5** - Meredith Reedy will speak on her trip to Costa Rica, including video of her bungee jump!
- ◇ **Vacation Make-ups** - you can keep your attendance up by making up at any Rotary club meeting throughout the world. Doing a make-up is a great way to learn about what other clubs are doing, to meet friendly Rotarians, and to gain local insight and assistance, if needed during your travels. You can find the day, time and location of any club throughout the world by either asking Michael or checking the RI website, whichever is easier.

[**Note:** Our new speaker schedule will be prepared over the summer. Please let Michael know when speakers are arranged so certificates can be ready for presentation.]

conduct Multidistrict PETS. Multidistrict PETS groups have found that their larger numbers help them attract popular Rotary speakers, provide incoming presidents with a perspective beyond the district, and generate more diverse strategies for effective club leadership.

Current Members and Classifications

Allen, Janice	Child care administration
Birnbaum, Marilyn	Public education
Griswold, Vicky	Music retail
Henry, Paul	Financial planning/CPA
Hollod, David	Public administration
Howard, Beverly	Cardiac care
Persichino, Linda	Banking
Rainear, Frank	Funeral home
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

Join us for a free lunch!

Clip this coupon (or bring the newsletter) and use it as your invitation to meet our members and to learn more about our Rotary Club and about Rotary International.

**Any Wednesday at 12:15 PM
Giovanna's Restaurant
1462 South Avenue
Plainfield, NJ**

**THE 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 Goodwill and Better Friendships?
4. Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?



The Rotary Review

**Rotary Club of Plainfield/North Plainfield
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