



Rotary International District 6960



July 2009 Newsletter

Welcome to a new Rotary year.

Rotary International District 6960 was founded in 1951 and covers eight counties: Collier, Lee, Hendry, Charlotte, Glades, Sarasota, Desoto, and Manatee Counties in Southwest Florida. The District ranges from north of Sarasota to Marco Island and inland to Clewiston. We are divided into 11 Areas. The district is comprised of 51 clubs with approximately 2500 Rotarians.



The theme for 2009-10 selected by President-Elect John Kenny speaks directly to the enormity of the responsibility every Rotarian bears early in this second century of service. Each of us has the opportunity to make the coming Rotary year one in which the framework of the organization will be strengthened through membership development, meaningful service projects, and strong support for the Rotary Foundation. The Theme's image evokes the importance of teamwork in reaching the club, district, and global goals and objectives.

Our goals for District 6960 include the following:

- Increase membership base
 - In accordance with Presidential Citation
- Implement projects that address community needs
 - Use District Simplified Grants to assist Clubs
- Develop community leaders to serve Rotary beyond the club level
 - Encourage RLI participation
- Develop District Strategic Plan
- Amend District Rules of Procedure to reflect Rotary International strategic plan
- Increase program opportunities for youth

The district goal for this year is a net increase of 51 members. Although, this sounds easy to achieve, we should reflect on the net loss of 100 members in 2008 – 2009.

To accomplish this goal we plan to emphasize the basics of Rotary. There will be a return to an emphasis networking, for business, fellowship and service.

A district Rotary "yellow pages" will be designed with the sole purpose of advertising our members businesses. This book will be in hard copy as well as on line.

A web blog will be set up so that district members can advertise employment as well as jobs sought. What better source of help than Rotarians hiring Rotarians.

At least 3 new clubs will be started in the south, middle and north areas of the district to serve the younger members. These clubs will be evening, cocktail and hors d'oeuvres, meetings so that members can meet and still get home with their families.

The annual single membership meeting held in May will be replaced by three meetings held much earlier in the three sections of the district so that more club membership chairs can attend.

The membership committee (chaired by Tim Milligan and consists of other members including all 11 AG's for Membership and Service) will have a Power Point presentation available to show at any club that wants to strengthen their membership numbers. These presentations should be used at their visits to their clubs.

Don't forget to sign up for The Rotary Foundation Workshop being held at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County 2280 Aaron St. Port Charlotte, FL 33952 Saturday, August 22, 2009

7:30 a.m. Registration and the event will conclude at 1:45 p.m. Cost is \$30.00 and includes breakfast and lunch. Prepayment for this event will eliminate the long lines for check-in and allow us to properly reserve your meal selections. Checks need to be received by the Treasurer no later than August 15th. Credit card registrations need to be completed no later than August 19th.

This is specific training for TRF Chairs, AG's, AG's for TRF, Club Presidents and any other Rotarians interested in Foundation matters.

Here are the options you will be given in the registration. There are six class options each containing four topics that will be covered in each. You will stay in the same room throughout the class and the instructors will change classes. Please only select one class.

Please visit the new District Website <http://www.rotarydistrict6960.org/Home.html>. Let me know what you think.

Yours In Rotary,

Vince Cautero

District Governor 6960, 2009-10



Daniel Flaherty's tribute to immediate past District Governor Margie Cypher speaks for all of us.



I remember Margie...
By Daniel J. Flaherty
Rotary International District 6960
Public Relations Chairman

I remember our latest Past District Governor, Margie Cypher, this way. I read her biography and, since I am relatively new to the District, I was impressed. She was a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club of Placida and served as the Area 6 Governor (2005-2006), District 6960 Secretary (2000- 2003) and Chair of the Rules and Procedure Committee.

She had volunteered in local adult literacy programs to teach adults to read, was a Meals-on-Wheel volunteer, taught AARP Defensive Driving classes, was an organizer and the secretary of the McKees Rocks Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Western Pennsylvania Independent Garage Owners. She was a certified Lay Minister of the Lutheran (ELCA) Church, served on her church council, and chaired numerous committees.

Then I met her. "Oh dear.....", I thought, "..... this mild mannered, bespectacled, petite lady is going to lead the District?" In my short time as a Rotarian, I was accustomed to District Governors with blustery, outgoing charismatic personalities. Stage presence, you know. I thought she was going to have a rough time. I was wrong.

After that initial meeting it was a few weeks until her official visit to my club, Rotary Club of Cape Coral Goldcoast. Then I heard her "Dare to Dream" speech. I could see the effect it had on the other members. I was inspired by her vision and goals.

Then, after her first choice as District newsletter publisher couldn't produce, she asked me to do it for her. That was the same scenario under which I had done the newsletter for PDG Gary Israel. I became accustomed to being second choice. But, as the months went by, I saw the calm strength she brought to the Governorship.

I found out that she was the widow of Past District Governor, Leo "Pete" Cypher; and, that she had volunteered her time to the AARP as a trainer and instructor for their Defensive Driving Program and to the Girl Scouts.

Her spare time is currently filled by volunteering with the Gulfcoast Humane Society, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Reading Program, and as treasurer of the Redeemer Lutheran Church Ladies Guild, as well as serving on other church committees. She's one busy lady. She proves the rule that people who have a lot to do get a lot done.

Her year was marked with financial turmoil in addition to the usual trials and triumphs of any District Governor. Yet, calmly and compassionately she moved the District forward.

I remember her gentle chiding, her constant smile, her working through her personal aches and pains, and always, always, she was there when an important issue presented itself. This is a lady who produces two or three hundred homemade individual Christmas ornaments for friends, as if she didn't have enough to do.

Her District Conference will be long remembered. All in all, I remember Margie and how she inspired me and many other Rotarians to "Dare to Dream".



Information Resources for 2009-10 Club Presidents and Secretaries

Are you aware that Club and District Support (CDS) staff serves as your primary contact at Rotary? Staff can answer any question about Rotary as well as provide advice on club elections, constitutional matters, club traditions and customs, club operations, and RI Board policy. Below are some important web resources to assist in leading and supporting your club in the year ahead.

- Learn the names and contact information of your CDS team members by using this web link: <http://www.rotary.org/ClubDistrictReps>
- Review a list of resources for club presidents and secretaries: <http://www.rotary.org/pressecreources>

- Make changes to your club's membership records at RI, reference various Rotary Foundation reports, print your club's SAR, pay your club's dues, and report next year's club officers using Member Access. Full instructions, helpful suggestions and frequently asked questions (F AQ) are found at :

<http://www.Rotary.org/ElearningCenter>

- Find helpful club publications, audiovisuals, forms and supplies:

<http://www.Rotary.org/ShopClubPublications>

- Use the Club Presidents' Checklist, a monthly calendar for both presidents and presidents-elect, with reminders of club and district functions, as well as RI and Rotary Foundation deadlines:

<http://www.rotary.org/clubpreschecklist>

- Consider adopting the Club Leadership Plan - a strategic planning tool based on the best practices of actual Rotary clubs: <http://www.Rotary.org/ClubLeaderPlan>

Rotary staff looks forward to working with you and supporting your club's service efforts. Be sure to contact your CDS representative whenever you need assistance.



Mark your calendars now for:

Event Name: Rotary District 6960 Conference
Location: Trade Winds Resort, St. Petersburg, FL
Event Date: Thursday May-13-10 to Sunday May-16-2010
Event Start Time: 7:30 AM

Hal Atzingen, Conference Chair, Plenary Sessions filled with Fabulous Speakers

