

Rotary International President  
**Wil frid J. Wil kinson**

District Governor #5160  
**Stan Smal ley**

ROTARY CLUB of PARADISE, CALIFORNIA

# PINE CONE

Volume 10, Issue 19

May 1, 2008



Dear Rotarians and Friends,

As we say goodbye to April and hello to May, Paradise Rotarians continue to be among the busiest folks on the Ridge. Rotarians helped on several fundraisers including Big Brothers/Big Sisters "Bowling for Kids Sake", Paradise Idols Finals, PPAC St. Patrick's Day Bash, Skyway Clean up, Achieve Charter School Dinner/Auction, Exchange Club's "Paradise Ball", several Chocolate Queen Candidate Fundraisers and the Gold Nugget Day Celebration. Not only did Rotarians volunteer to work at these various events, but also bought tickets and attended helping to make each one a success. Where would the Ridge be without all our great Rotarians showing support for groups throughout our community? Paradise Rotarians are exceptional!

This month we will continue working on the Boys & Girls Club Chocolate Fest and get into the swing of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life coming up June 6 and 7. John Touchette is looking for course help for the Chocolate Chase and Tom Gagne needs volunteers to walk during the relay and to man Rotary's "Fight Back" booth. So, sign up early and often!!!

We also continue to work to grow our club. A new member orientation meeting was held on April 16 for three prospective members and their spouses. Keep up the good work and look for another orientation to happen within the next two or three weeks. Our Club is above average in growing and maintaining membership thanks to several great membership chairmen over the past few years; Ron Jones, Dean Fender and Brian Gray. Brian will be turning the job over to Cheryl Almeida for the coming year. Thank you, Cheryl, for taking on the job, as membership is vital to our club. Throughout North America, most clubs have seen a decline in membership and our club is actually growing at a great pace. In July 2007, we began this year with 80 members. Brian set a goal of 90 members by June 30, 2008 and it looks like we will be very close if not actually reach this challenging goal. This is an even greater achievement when you take into consideration the fact that we had five people leave because of new jobs outside the area. Thank you to those who have sponsored a new member, or more than one, this year: Kathleen Dwyer, Brian Gray, Mary Bellefeuille, Danny Salas, Bob DiPietro, Dean Fender, John Gliha, and Char Mansfield.

Keep up the great work Paradise Rotarians!

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## EARLY LEAVERS

Our club does allow for early leavers when a member cannot stay for the 1:00 PM program. This is not meant as a means for members to leave early on a regular basis. Every year, those in charge of arranging for 48 or so programs work very hard to find guest speakers. And, of course, there is no one speaker who will appeal to everyone. But, as part of being a member of the Rotary Club of Paradise, it is expected individuals will plan to stay for the entire program as often as possible. In other words, purchasing an early leaver pass should be the exception, not the rule. Can you imagine if everyone started taking early leave passes leaving the poor guest speaker facing an empty room? So, please set your schedule to allow for enough time to stay and be a part of the entire Rotary program.



## PROGRAMS

**MAY 1**

Dr. Ray Yip

Rotary Cleft Pallet Surgery Program

**MAY 8**

Frank & Kathleen Mayhew

Adopt-a-Village:

Ending Poverty One Village at a Time

## ROTARY & POLITICS

For those who are new to Rotary and as a reminder to long-time members:

The Rotary Club of Paradise does not endorse or support specific political candidates. As this is an election year, candidates may come as a guest representing their vocation, not the elected position. As such, please introduce them by name and vocation rather than by the political affiliation.

The Board of Directors thanks you in advance for your cooperation and understanding of this policy.

## GOLD NUGGET DAYS

Thank you to all the Rotarians and families who worked on or attended the events including in this year's 50<sup>th</sup> annual Gold Nugget Days Celebration. All tallied, 50% of our members were involved in at least one activity and several members were involved in the three melodrama performances or worked shifts at various events. Just another example of Paradise Rotarians being involved throughout our community!



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### BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANT

"This is a historic moment in Rotary's history. A new partnership has been forged between Rotary International and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to provide a much-needed \$200 million toward our priority goal of a polio-free world", Wilf Wilkinson, President, Rotary International.

"The extraordinary dedication of Rotary members has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication. Eradicating polio will be one of the most significant public health accomplishments in history, and we are committed to helping reach that goal", Bill Gates, Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Gates Foundation has awarded The Rotary Foundation a \$100 million grant, which Rotary will match dollar for dollar, over three years. It is the largest grant ever given to a volunteer service organization and represents a tremendous validation of the approach and success of our PolioPlus program.

The RI Board of Directors and The Rotary Foundation Trustees have unanimously agreed to accept this challenge grant at a critical juncture for the polio eradication initiative, which needs an infusion of funds to reach the eradication goal. For this reason, the initial \$100 million will be distributed by The Rotary Foundation through grants to the World Health Organization and UNICEF in direct support of polio immunization activities in 2008.

Rotary has committed to raising \$100 million of new funds over a three-year period beginning January 1, 2008. Rotary's new PolioPlus fundraising effort will be formally launched July 1, 2008 and be completed December 31, 2010. This is Rotary's response to the Gates challenge grant.

### Why is more funding for Polio eradication required?

As a February 2007 meeting of all polio eradication stakeholders, the director-general of the World Health Organization noted that an urgent injection of additional funding for polio eradication activities was required to reach the eradication goal. Over the past several years, polio eradication efforts have intensified by increasing the number of supplementary immunization activities in the polio-endemic, high-risk, and importation countries. India, for example, is conducting immunization activities almost monthly in some areas and reaching tens of millions of children during each activity. This increased effort requires additional resources.

In 1985, Rotary promised every child a world free from the threat of polio, and we are almost there. This funding agreement between Rotary and the Gates Foundation is a huge step forward, bringing us even closer to our ultimate goal of eradicating polio. We have the technical tools to do it, and now we must complete the job.

### Is progress being made?

Tremendous progress continues to be made in polio eradication. Since Rotary launched the PolioPlus program, the number of polio cases has decreased by more than 99 percent and the number of polio-endemic countries has fallen from 125 to 4. The number of polio cases globally was an estimated 50 percent less in 2007 compared to 2006. In the four polio-endemic countries (Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Pakistan), wild poliovirus circulates in very limited geographic areas.

### What are Rotary Clubs and Rotarians being asked to do?

Rotary Club and Rotarians participation in this effort is crucial to making it a success. Each club is being challenged to organize a public fundraising event to raise a minimum of \$1,000 annually for the next three years.

Individual Rotarians are also invited to personally take part in the challenge, with special emphasis on new clubs and members who have not yet had the opportunity to participate in PolioPlus, Rotary's priority program. A more detailed plan to meet the challenge grant is being developed and will be shared with district governors-elect over the next few months.



### MAY

- Kent Rasmussen – 4
- Sherry Swim – 6
- Gene Hancock – 14
- Ken Hunt – 24
- Jackie Gitman – 25
- Casey Taylor – 29

### Happy Anniversary

### MAY

- Hansi & Sandra Klempa – 1
- Mike & Sheila Viale – 12
- Gene & Darlene Hancock – 14
- Craig & Diane Poundstone – 18
- Don & Edna McClelland – 21
- John & Marsha Lanam – 21
- Dan & Amy Hansen – 22
- Chris & Christie Pillsbury – 30

### ROTARY CLUB OF PARADISE, CALIFORNIA P.O. BOX 820, 95967

Meets every Thursday at 12:15 P.M.  
Paradise Elks Lodge #2026

### STAN SMALLEY District Governor – 5160

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