



Rotaract Newswire

RI Rotaract Committee News

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| | |
|--|---|
| What is the Rotaract Committee supposed to do? | 1 |
| Rotaract Committee Chair Address | 2 |
| Rotaract 2008-09 Committee | 3 |
| Make Dreams Real | 4 |
| Rotaract Resources | 4 |
| Rotaract Club Recognition & Awards | 5 |
| 2009 Rotaract Preconvention | 5 |
| Rotaract around the world | 6 |
| Address: RI President Dong-Kurn Lee | 6 |

**Rotaract
Preconvention
Meeting 2009**

**18 - 21st June
Birmingham, UK**

Will you be there?

Register today!

Welcome to the First Edition of Rotaract Newswire

One of the most common questions/criticisms over the years has been that no one knows what the Rotary International Rotaract Committee is and who is on it...well that's about to change as we launch this new magazine to tell you more!

What is the Rotaract Committee Supposed to do?

Its mandate as stated in the Official Directory is: to provide guidance and advice to the Board of Directors of Rotary International on all aspects of the Rotaract program and to review issues, projects and suggestions, related to Rotaract. Under the direction of the President, the committee shall develop the program content for and plan the Rotaract Preconvention meeting in Birmingham, UK, and promote attendance for this meeting.

The 2008-09 Committee
Progress is set to continue this year, with the Rotaract Committee having held a very successful meeting in Evanston from 10 - 12 November.

As a committee we want to

hear from you. If you have any suggestions for improving the Rotaract Program and the Rotaract Preconvention Meeting then do get in touch with us. Our contact details are on page 3.

If you have any general questions about Rotaract such as how to certify a new Rotaract Club please direct your queries to Rotaract@rotary.org

Rotaract is making progress all around the world, so lets all work together to further improve this great program of Rotary International.

The Youth Services Resource Group

As part of President Lee's commitment to youth and young adult issues, he has also appointed a Youth Services Resource Group

during his term.

This group will provide information and support for Rotary clubs and districts regarding the programs, projects and activities that serve youth and young adults in their communities.

It shall also promote and grow Rotaract, Interact, RYLA, and Youth Exchange at the local level.

It also enables us, as a committee, to coordinate and cooperate with the other Youth and Young Adults programs and their committees.

If you would like further information on this group, and to contact your zone coordinator, please refer to the RI Web site (address below)

www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/RotaryLeadership/RIPresident/Pages/Youth.aspx



Rotaract Preconvention Meeting 2009 - Birmingham, UK

Rotaract Committee Chair - Terry Phillips

Given at the Rotaract Preconvention June 2008



I would like to congratulate the attendees at this year's Rotaract Preconvention Meeting and Rotaractors around the world as we celebrate 40 Years of Rotaract. As many of you know, Luther Hodges, former Governor of North Carolina, was President of Rotary International when

Rotaract was started in Charlotte, North Carolina. I would like to share a picture with you of me as an Explorer Scout with Governor Luther Hodges. I think it is interesting that he would be RI President when Rotaract was started and that I would later become the Chair of Rotaract.

“I am honored and excited to be your chair for the 2008-2009 Rotary Year”

I am honored and excited to be your Chair for the 2008-2009 Rotary year. I look forward to working with the new Committee, the Rotary staff, and Rotaractors around the world. I regret deeply that I am unable due to health issues to be with you at this meeting. I had planned on being there and was looking forward to participating in the Preconvention. I am doing fine and expect to be able to carry out the duties of the Chair throughout the year.

During the coming year I will be working on the following objectives with our Committee:

1. Continue to strengthen the ties between Rotaract, Youth Exchange, Interact, and RYLA which are the four elements of the Youth and Young Adult Programs of Rotary International
2. Continue to encourage the inclusion of Youth and Young Adult Programs and especially Rotaract at Zone Institutes around the world.
3. Encourage feedback from MDIO's regarding improvement opportunities for the Rotaract program.
4. Continue to work to improve communications within Rotaract and

between Rotaract & Rotary International.

5. Continue to work on Strategic Planning for the future of Rotaract.

6. Plan for next year's Preconvention meeting in Birmingham, England.

I will encourage Rotarians to strengthen their ties with Rotaractors by utilizing Rotary's Vocational Avenue of Service. Acting as mentors, advisors, and as role models, Rotarians can provide a network of opportunities for members of Rotaract.

As Rotary International continues to work to increase its worldwide membership, Districts around the world should be looking at Rotaractors as future members. In some countries obstacles may exist for Rotaractors who wish to become Rotarians. We will continue to work to remove those obstacles.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has provided a \$100 Million challenge grant to Rotary International to help fight polio eradication. I will be asking that Rotaract Clubs around the world join Rotary in meeting that challenge over the next three years.

The committee will continue to support the Project of the Year Selection process. This year we had a significant increase in the number of projects submitted. We hope to continue that growth. These projects provide excellent publicity that helps Rotaract and Rotary grow. Growth in both of these organizations enables more service to be done both locally and internationally.

Again I miss being with you. I enjoyed working with this year's committee. My best to Chair Irene Lewitt as she completes the 2007-2008 year.

I look forward to working with next year's committee as we continue to strengthen Rotaract. My thanks to Haris Sofradzija for all his work in supporting the Committee, Rotary, and Rotaract.

Linked in Rotaract and Rotary



Who are the 2008-2009 Rotaract Committee?

Below are your representatives on the 2008-2009 Rotaract Committee, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact any of them.

Rotary Representatives



Chair: **Terry N. Phillips** (USA)
(Term ends 30 June 09)

Member of Rotary Since: 1978

Special Interests: Golf, travel - I've visited all but one of the US States and all but one of the continents of the world!

Email: tphilli1 [at] nycap.rr.com



Vice Chair: **Dong-Joon Lee** (USA)
(Term ends 30 June 2011)

Member of Rotary Since: 1984

Special Interests: Reading and Travelling

Email: rotary7230 [at] msn.com



Member: **Héctor A. Boffelli** (Argentina)
(Term ends 30 June 2010)

Member of Rotary Since: 1989

Special Interests: I enjoy reading and love to travel. I also enjoy training Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, RYLarians etc about Rotary.

Email: beblo [at] sme.com.ar



Member: **Eva Brodehl** (Germany)
(Term ends 30 June 2011)

Member of Rotary Since: 2005

Special Interests: Helping people to maintain & improve their vision.

Email: eva.brodehl [at] gmx.net



Member: **Donald Craighead** (USA)
(Term ends 30 June 09)

Member of Rotary Since: 1978

Special Interests: Rotaract, networking and socialising

Email: dcraighead [at] iopener.net



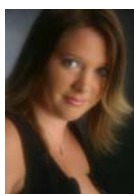
Member: **Michele D. Guy** (Canada)
(Term ends 30 June 2010)

Member of Rotary Since: 1992

Special Interests: Michele is passionate about friends, likes to help people as well as socializing and contributing to social events. She also likes to read the newspaper front to back

Email: mguy [at] courtscrane.com

Rotaract Representatives



Member: **Lisa Burnett** (England)
(Term ends 30 June 2009)

Member of Rotaract Since: 2000

Special Interests: Lisa enjoys swimming, Taebo boxing and visiting new countries.

Email: lisa [at] rotaract.org.uk



Member: **You-Sun Lee** (Korea)
(Term ends 30 June 2009)

Member of Rotaract Since: 2002

Special Interests: Travelling and meeting new people.

Email: yiyusun [at] hotmail.com



Member: **Mary Kathryn DeLodder** (USA)
(Term ends 30 June 2009)

Member of Rotaract Since: 2000

Special Interests: Spending time with my husband, recycling, fish keeping, Rotaract education

Email: mkdelodder [at] gmail.com



Member: **Lawi Sultan Njeremani** (Kenya)
(Term ends 30 June 2009)

Member of Rotaract Since: 2003

Special Interests: reading, music, volunteerism, travelling, and exposure to world cultures.



Member: **Krishnakumar Narayanan** (India)
(Term ends 30 June 2009)

Member of Rotaract Since: 1998

Special Interests: Travelling

Email: nkrishna [at] visteon.com



Member: **Juan Jose Martinez Rivas** (Mexico)
(Term ends 30 June 2009)

Member of Rotaract Since: 1996

Special Interests: Music - I have very eclectic tastes!

Email: juanjosevadeq[at]prodigy.net.mx

Make Dreams Real



RI President Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee has selected Make Dreams Real as the theme for the 2008-09 Rotary year.

As Rotary enters a new year, the theme is a reminder of the organization's responsibility to help those in our communities that are the most precious, and most vulnerable: our children.

Please refer to the RI Theme Brochure for more details about President Lee's theme and allow his message to guide your efforts. You can download this brochure from:



www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/900en08.pdf

Of special note, President Lee has appointed a Rotaract Committee for 2008-09 that will provide guidance and advice to the RI Board in all aspects of the Rotaract program.

The committee will review issues, projects, and suggestions related to Rotaract, recommend to the Board ways to enhance and strengthen the program, and assist with the planning of the 2009 Rotaract Preconvention Meeting in Birmingham, England, scheduled for 19-20 June 2009.

Be sure to contact members of the committee if you have any special suggestions or ideas you would like to share about Rotaract.

Rotaract Resources

We encourage you to visit www.rotaract.org for helpful Rotaract information, resources, and news. This Web site also serves as your gateway to the RI Web site, where you can find additional information on Rotary.

Publications

Several publications are available to assist your efforts to support Rotaract. The Guide for District Rotaract Leaders is a comprehensive guide to the DRR's role and responsibilities. This is a Web-only publication available for download from the RI Web site.

Also available are the Rotaract Handbook and Rotaract Brochure. The handbook serves as a guide to the program and the brochure can be used to promote Rotaract to potential sponsoring Rotary clubs or Rotaract members.

These are also available for free via download on the RI website or purchase by contacting your local RI Office, or online at shop.rotary.org.

Worldwide Rotaract Directory

In August 2008 all district chairs, representatives and active certified Rotaract clubs will be sent via post a copy of the 2008-09 Worldwide Rotaract Directory in CD-ROM format. This valuable guide can help you make Rotaract connections in neighbouring districts and around the world.

If you **did not receive** your copy this means your correct address is not on file with RI. Please contact rotaract@rotary.org if you believe your correct address is not on file.

New Generations E-newsletter

This month, a New Generations newsletter was launched including news and updates on Rotaract, Interact, RYLA. If you would like to receive the New Generations E-newsletter please send an email to rotaract@rotary.org.

District Rotaract Club Report

Many Rotaract clubs operate without official certification from RI. To ensure all Rotaract clubs in your district

receive program updates and materials from RI, every active club must be certified. DRRs and District Rotaract Chairs may request an up-to-date report of the clubs in your district at any time during their term as district Rotaract chair or representative simply by sending an e-mail to rotaract@rotary.org.

ProjectLink Database



The new ProjectLink database includes information on projects undertaken by Rotary clubs and districts, Rotaract and Interact clubs, and Rotary Community Corps in a wide variety of service areas. A short description of the project and contact information is provided for each entry. Individuals seeking to start a similar project or donate resources to an active project can contact the sponsors for more detailed information and to exchange ideas.

Visit the project database at: www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/ProjectResources/ProjectLINK/Pages/ridefault.aspx

Rotaract Club Recognition and Awards

As you help the Rotaract clubs in your district exemplify this year's theme, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the awards and recognition available to Rotaract clubs throughout the 2008-09 year. Please review this information and all relevant deadlines carefully, sharing it with all those involved in your programs.

Rotaract Presidential Citation

RI President Lee encourages Rotaract clubs to Make Dreams Real through creating a better future for children in their communities and throughout the world. Clubs that answer his call can earn the 2008-09 Rotaract Presidential Citation. To qualify, Rotaract clubs must complete any four activities from the categories listed in the Presidential Citation Brochure (http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/900a_en08.pdf).

The Sponsor Rotary Club President must sign the Rotaract Citation Form and submit it to the District Governor no later than **31 March 2009**.

World Rotaract Week Recognition

During the week of 9-15 March 2009, Rotaract will celebrate the founding of the first Rotaract club on 13 March 1968. Rotaract clubs around the world are encouraged to partner with their sponsor Rotary clubs and increase community awareness of the program through performing the following activities:

- Making a presentation about Rotaract to a Rotary club that doesn't yet sponsor a Rotaract club
- Inviting Rotarians to attend a Rotaract club meeting
- Attending a Rotary club meeting
- Conducting a joint Rotaract-Rotary club project

Those that join this celebration and tell the world about Rotaract will receive recognition for their work from Rotary International.

Interested clubs can download the World Rotaract Week Celebration Recognition Form from: www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/rotaweek_03.pdf

The submission deadline is **15 April 2009**.

RI Recognition of Outstanding Rotaract Projects

Each year, hundreds of Rotaract clubs submit details about their exceptional community or international service projects to Rotary International.

In the 2007-08 Rotary year, seven clubs were selected by the Rotaract Committee to receive international and regional awards.

To learn more about developing a great community or international service project, download the Communities in Action publication from: www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/605a_en.pdf

To submit a project for the 2008-09 Rotary year, download the Outstanding Projects Form from:

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/rotaract_outstanding_projects.pdf

Submit your project to RI no later than **1 February 2009**.



Register now for the 2009 Rotaract Preconvention Meeting

The 2009 Rotaract Preconvention Meeting will be held 19-20 June 2009 in Birmingham, England, immediately prior to the 100th annual RI Convention.

At the meeting, the participants will have the opportunity to discuss topics relevant to Rotaractors today in workshops and listen to exciting and interesting speakers. It is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen Rotaract in your district and build lasting friendships with Rotaractors from around the world.

Be sure to register for the meeting by **15 December** to qualify for the discounted convention registration fee,

and encourage Rotaractors in your district to do the same.

To register, please download the RI Convention Registration and Ticket Form from: www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/c09_registration_form_en.pdf and mail or fax it back to RI. (Please note that online registration is not available for Rotaractors).

You can also book rooms at Birmingham hotels online www.rotaryaccommodation2009.birminghamconventionbureau.com

To register for optional social events organized by local Rotaractors, please visit the Birmingham Rotaract Host Committee Web site: www.brum09.com/

Rotaract Around the World - a Status Report



Let us start with VITAL STATISTICS. As you know Rotaract statistics are problematic and it is difficult to receive exact figures especially of membership. The account is that we are inching very slowly up to 170,000 Rotaractors.

As of 31 March there were 7165 clubs which grew to 7343 today. So far there were 480 new clubs certified this year. The estimate is that there will be a total of 500 new clubs this year. Last year 534 clubs received certification.

Rotaract is active in 525 district in 162 countries.

The countries with the greatest number of Rotaract clubs are:

- India: 1762
- Brazil: 646
- USA: 533
- Philippines: 478
- Italy: 397

But we get a much better understanding of the status of Rotaract if we check how many percent of Rotary clubs in these countries do sponsor Rotaract clubs:

- India: 69 %
- Brazil: 27 %

- USA: 7 %
- Philippines: 60 %
- Italy: 52 %

and here are the percentage numbers of some other countries:

- Japan: 11%
- England: 5.6%
- Korea: 8%
- Australia: 4.6%
- France: 7%
- Germany: 18 %
- Canada: 7.7%
- Mexico: 36 %
- Sweden: 2 %
- Taiwan: 21 %
- Belgium: 23 %
- Turkey: 55 %

As you can see there are many countries with much space for Rotaract to grow. We need to show Rotary clubs the benefits of sponsoring Rotaract clubs. Rotaract is part of the future of Rotary. Rotaractors are the future leaders in our professions, of our communities and our Rotary clubs.

Address: RI President Dong-Kurn Lee at Preconvention 08 in LA

It is always a pleasure for me to speak to Rotaractors. But it is an even greater pleasure to speak to all of you today as we mark the 40th anniversary of the beginning of Rotaract.

In just forty years Rotaract has grown from an idea into a success story. Today Rotaract has over 7300 clubs in 163 countries and geographic areas. It has over 165 00 members. And more important - it has members who make a difference. It has members who give of themselves, while learning and growing. And it has members who bring honour to all of Rotary.

When Rotaract was first begun as a Rotary program, the goal was clear. The goal was to bring more people into Rotary service by opening a path to Rotary to young adults. Many people under the age of 30 are not quite ready to become Rotarians. But that is no reason to leave such a resource untapped. Young people have the energy, talent and creativity that Rotary service very much needs. They have the desire and the drive to go out and change the world. And Rotarians wanted to help them. This is how Rotaract was born.

In the last forty years I have been

amazed by Rotaractors the world over. The quality of the projects you do is often an inspiration to your sponsor clubs. And your creativity and enthusiasm spur us on to greater heights of service.

So many of your peers have chosen to spend this time of their lives in other pursuits. They focus only on their careers or only on themselves. All of you have chosen instead to look outward. You have chosen instead to reach out to your communities and your world.

But as you have learned, in Rotaract as in Rotary, service does not need to come at the expense of friendship or career.

One of the great advantages of the Rotary model is that it allows us to combine service with pleasure. In our meetings and in our projects, in everything we do through our districts and clubs, we also enjoy the company and fellowship of our friends. In Rotaract each of you has discovered the same thing. And many of you have discovered the professional advantage of belonging - the advantages that have long been part of being in Rotary.

Being part of Rotary makes you a part of

your community. You become connected with others like you, and you grow and learn from the example of others. You learn practical skills. And you benefit from being part of a network - a network of Rotaractors and Rotarians who know who you are and what you are capable of.

And it is clear to me that all of you here are capable of a very great deal. The best projects of Rotaract clubs rival some of the best Rotary projects anywhere and are often done with fewer resources. The energy and spirit of Rotaractors humbles us and inspires us to achieve more.

Rotaract often is a path to Rotary club membership. And of course that how it should be. As each of you grows older, I hope that you will all choose to join a Rotary club, together with your friends from Rotaract.

But Rotaract is so much more than simply a path to Rotary. It is itself a part of the Rotary journey. Because our lives in Rotary are a journey - not a destination.

I hope that each of you will continue to travel this Rotary journey with us. And I look forward to travelling it with each of you.