

Club Visits

This year we did not have as many requests for club visits as in the past. We have visited over 50% of all clubs in District 5020. We had requests and visited Seattle Northshore and Federal Way Rotary in the first part of the year. At the Federal Way club we met Rotarian and Attorney Rajiv Nagaich who specializes in Elder Estate and Care Planning. He also has a weekly morning radio show on the Seattle KIRO 770 AM. He invited Gene Pankey, Chairman of RfHR and Dr. Edwin Rubel lead scientist at Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center to be interviewed by him on his show. This is a good example of Rotarians helping Rotarians.

Woodstick2007

Early in the year we began to plan on a fundraiser for VMBHRC that could raise considerable funds, all of which would be matched by the Oberkotter Foundation. By good fortune, Chris Kimball of the Tacoma # 8 was contacted by board member Don Doman. Chris and Donn Bennett of Bellevue, WA are co-founders of Woodstick, a drumming event arranged to break the Guinness Book of Records which Chris and Donn already hold by bringing 534 drummers together in 2006. Chris and Don think that they can attract 1000 drummers this year and thus www.woodstick2007.com was born. We expect to attract celebrity drummers and other musicians and personalities. You can find lots of information of this website which explains everything. Please check us out and see how you might help us.

New DVD – Hope for Hearing Loss

Some said our current DVD ran too long for club programs and the credits at the end were not necessary. We also realized that new breakthroughs have happened these past two years so we decided to update the current video. Clover Park Rotary, our sponsoring club came to the rescue again, donating \$8000 for the project. The video is complete and is available for anyone if you will send a small donation to cover postage in the \$10-\$25 range. We will also post it on our website so you can view it there.

District Conference

The District Conference for 5020 was held on June 1-3 in Tacoma, Washington. We set up a display during the conference and distributed quite a few copies of our new DVD and new brochures. We also collected \$185 in donations on the ninth hole at the golf event. Dr. David Cotant our Secretary Treasure posted a sign for “fudge” opportunities to improve golf scores. It really didn’t meet the four way test but donations were generous.

Salt Lake City International Convention

Gene Pankey, Chairman, Dr. David Cotant, Secretary Treasure attended the convention and were assisted by Lakewood Rotary Club member, Bill Young and Tacoma # 8 incoming President Steve Smith and Rotarian Rita Morkrid. Thirty five new members signed up. At least 500 DVDs and brochures were distributed. Many good contacts were made and Starfish Television Network will profile Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration in an August telecast. We signed up for the Los Angeles convention and hopefully will be able to reserve a booth in Friendship Hall again. Please visit if you attend next year.

Annual Meeting

We will have our annual meeting on August 08th 2007 in Lakewood, WA. The meeting will be held in the Oakbrook Golf and Country Club board room and begin at 10:00 AM. Clover Park Rotary club meets at 12:00 the same day. If you have any suggestions or business items for us to discuss it will be appreciated. E-mail any suggestions or business items to Gene Pankey at gwankey@comcast.net. As required by the new RI code of policies our future meetings will be held just prior to the International Convention or at the Convention site. We will try to arrange a meeting of some type next year for our members attending the convention.

Oberkotter Matching Grant

In conclusion we must remind our members and visitors to our site that this is the final year of the Oberkotter Foundation matching grant for Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center. Oberkotter will match up to \$500,000. We hope our Woodstick 2007 event will raise close to \$100,000 US. We hope also that some generous donations will pour in to match at least \$400,000 of this amount. Dr. Rubinstein or Dr. Rubel at VMBHRC will be happy to visit with any prospective donors if more information is needed.

Annual Dues

Annual dues are due July 1st. We hope that everyone will renew and that you will give serious thought to a life membership for \$100.00.

Together . . . lets raise the funds and find a permanent cure for hearing loss!!!