

**Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration
Newsletter – July – Dec 2007**

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration was held on August 15th, 2007 at the Oakbrook Golf and Country Club in Lakewood, Washington. The full board was in attendance as well as two members from the Tacoma # 8 Rotary club. Sadly it was reported that board member PRID Floyd Olson had passed away. Services for Floyd were held in Gig Harbor, Washington, his home town, and was attended by numerous local Rotarians as well as representatives from Rotary International. Floyd was an early supporter of our organization and helpful when we first filed for Fellowship status. His contributions were many and he surely will be missed.

Dr. David Cotant, Secretary Treasurer reported that our net balance in checking was \$2213.46. Except for grants from Clover Park Rotary, our only income is from membership.

Dr. Cotant also reported that RfHR has 155 members of which 11 countries are represented. They are; USA, Canada, Australia, Taiwan, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, Pakistan, Scotland and Switzerland. We also meet other requirements of RI with 33 Rotary clubs and 15 Rotary Districts represented in our membership. We do need to keep building our membership as we not only need the support but also the annual dues to help with expenses.

Clover Park Rotarians, Sydna Koontz and Alan Billingsly replaced PRID Floyd Olson and PDG James Harris who wished to retire from the active board. James Harris will remain as an honorary board member. Bios of the new board members are posted on the web site.

Much discussion went into the planned fundraiser called Woodstick2007.

The new RI Code of Policies and By Laws were discussed and we believe that we are in compliance with all of the new requirements.

Two new projects were discussed and there are future possibilities for both of them. The first would be a project for student hearing testing at a local high school. The Clover Park Rotary Interact club would be involved. Testing would be at the beginning of the school year and at the end, all done by Interact students under the guidance of a local audiologist and perhaps an ENT physician. The second project discussed would be a partnership with a Mexican Rotary club, disbursing hearing aids under the new Starkey Hearing Aid Corporation program. But Woodstick2008 takes priority at the present time.

Discussion continued at the board meeting regarding the RI Los Angeles convention. Several board members have registered and Chairman Pankey will reserve an exhibition booth, order supplies and handle the shipping of materials. All members of Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration are urged to contact Pankey if they wish to serve at the booth during the convention.

Woodstick 2007

There is a great amount of information that can be written about this fundraiser, but it will be more informative and interesting if our readers will go to www.woodstick2007.com and read all about the event, before and after. You can also reach this site by going to www.hearingregeneration.org. Unfortunately we did not get the attendance that we hoped for or the corporate sponsors. Instead of raising the large number of funds anticipated we just barely broke even. On the plus side, Comcast filmed the entire event and interviewed one of our committee members on a local TV station. Seattle morning television station channel five interviewed two of our committee members as did two other radio stations. The local major newspaper, Tacoma News Tribune, covered the event with a very good story and photos. The event and hearing loss regeneration did receive considerable attention. We are currently in discussion to see if Woodstick2008 is possible. If there are Rotarian drummers reading this, we hope you will join us next year. A tentative date has been set for October 25th.

Los Angeles

We hope that our world wide members and other Rotarians will visit our exhibit at the Los Angeles Convention. We will have our new updated DVD, *Hope for Hearing Loss*, to hand out along with our brochure and a brochure from Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center. We also anticipate gaining new membership and welcome all Rotarians and families who want to join us in the search to find a permanent cure for hearing loss. Annual membership is only \$10.00 and \$100.00 for life membership.

Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center

Thanks to the Oberkotter Foundation and a few others the Hearing Regeneration Initiative (HRI) is going forward. Approximately Four Million dollars US has been raised but another ten to fifteen million dollars will still be needed to have the desired laboratories and scientists on board. There are thirty million people in the US with hearing loss. One dollar donated from each one of these individuals would double the needs. If you have an idea on how we can help to raise these needed funds we would like to hear from you.