

Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration

Newsletter July 2009 – Dec 2009

Membership in RfHR has reached nearly 180 with representations in more than 10 countries, Rotary districts and clubs. Membership has held reasonably steady although we had hoped to surpass that number and have spent considerable time brainstorming ideas on how to encourage more Rotarians to join us.

Obviously, the US and world economic problems of the last year have had an impact on our membership goals not being met and not being able to exhibit at Birmingham also might have had a negative impact.

Delinquencies among some annual members and the lack of valid e-mail addresses for others, hampers our membership campaigns. If you happen to be one of the delinquents, or if you have changed an e-mail address, please get in touch with us. Remember, a \$100 contribution puts you into lifetime membership but we still appreciate having you and your fellow club members join for the annual \$10 fee.

We have a fundraiser breakfast in the works for May 4th in Lakewood, Washington. Our co-chairs for the event have planned to bring Kathy Buckley, nationally-known comedian with hearing loss, to share the stage with Dr. Edwin Rubel, lead scientist of Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center (VMBHRC). Funds raised will go to VMBHRC.

Dr. Rubel and his associates recently had an article appear in the Wall Street Journal regarding their research with Zebra Fish. You can find it on our website.

Over the last year we have been concerned with RI regulations that have hampered RfHR in making contacts with District Governors, a course of action we had planned to spur the membership as well as get word out about the organization. As a result of this prohibition against contacting District Governors we must rely even more on individual members to spread the word.

This past year presentations were delivered in North Carolina, Santa Cruz, CA and board member Jean Irwin, Ambassadorial scholar and popular Rotary speaker mentions Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration in her presentations. During January a presentation was scheduled to be given in Norwich, CT. We have hoped that many of these presentations would be given around the Rotary world by our membership. You can help do this and we will provide the materials you need for presentations. Our DVD and other information help to provide an excellent club program. Many Rotarians have hearing loss and they show great interest in these presentations.

We have been to 45 of the 86 clubs in District 5020 doing presentations and have exhibited at our district conferences on a regular schedule. We have also provided presentations at three of our conferences. Please consider making similar presentations to your Rotary club and district.

An advertisement in the Rotarian Magazine last August was a disappointment; not one Rotarian inquiry resulted. It was an expense we wish we had avoided.

We will be exhibiting at the Montreal Convention if granted space this coming year and will be distributing at least 1000 of our DVDs, Hope for Hearing Loss plus other information. Hopefully we will be able to add membership by doing this. Any members interested in helping at the exhibit in Montreal are encouraged to contact us so you can be scheduled in.

We welcome your suggestions and comments for improvement and growth and we hope to see you in Montreal.