



## District Governor's Newsletter

**District 5970**  
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Vol. 1, No. 1

August 10, 2009



"The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands" is RI President John Kenny's theme for 2009-10. It is a very appropriate theme for our year and certainly places additional responsibilities on every Rotarian's shoulders to make sure Rotary

increases in membership and service to others during our year. In this monthly newsletter I will highlight the current status of Rotary membership, foundation contributions and the many local and international service efforts conducted by our 54 Rotary clubs in District 5970.

The distribution of this newsletter will be done by Internet and a limited number of printed copies will be mailed to club presidents and secretaries. If you'd like your own personal copy via Internet please contact **Gerald Retzlaff** at [ggretzlaff@hotmail.com](mailto:ggretzlaff@hotmail.com) or Editor Dave Updegraff at [upde@upde.net](mailto:upde@upde.net) or District Secretary John Last at [john.last@mchsi.com](mailto:john.last@mchsi.com) I also encourage clubs to print off an appropriate number of copies for their members. Our goal is for every Rotarian to be informed about what's happening in District 5970. I thank everyone for helping get the news to our fellow members.

### **Membership and Attendance**

Elsewhere in this newsletter is the summary of membership by club and % attendance and the date of the last report received. We have 2939 members as of the end of this report but some club numbers still need to be updated.

This year let's average at least 70% attendance. I've only traveled to a few clubs to date but it is evident make-ups are not always being attempted or recorded. Attendance in 2009-10 is much easier than it was several years ago; therefore, we should be able to exceed historic attendance percentages. Make-ups can be accomplished by attending your club board meeting, visiting another club or working at a club project. Or now you can do a make-up on the Internet at [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org). All of these must be done within 2 weeks of the meeting you've missed. Some clubs have this and other links on their web site for your make-up.

### **Seminars Sept. 19 and Sept. 26**

There will be joint membership/foundation/public relations seminars on Saturday, Sept. 19 at Humboldt and Saturday, Sept. 26 at Manchester to discuss and exchange ideas. Plan to get a car load of fellow members together and come and enjoy the day.

### **Liability Insurance**

When your club secretary completes the semi-annual report (SAR) and the club's dues are mailed to RI (Report due 7-31-09), your club will have paid its annual general liability insurance assessment. All USA members pay \$2.35/member to have this general liability for liability arising from bodily injury to a third party or third-party property damage.

## Classification System

The classification principle of membership is the foundation upon which a Rotary club is established and maintained. It assures a membership that represents the business, professional, institutional, and community volunteer life of your community. We always should survey the community to make sure we have as many of these classifications filled as possible.

There will be additional items for the newsletter soon. Some will be provided by other members of the district.

G Retzlaff

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## Rotary Continues Battle to Eradicate Polio



**Roger Kueter** of Cedar Falls isn't a medical doctor, but he's learning more and more about the battle to eradicate polio. Kueter is professor of curriculum and instruction at UNI. But he's also the leader of Rotary's effort to raise funds in northern Iowa to complete the task begun 25 years ago.

He and his wife Barbara, who had polio as a child, were in Birmingham, England last month to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> Rotary International convention. Among the speakers was UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who pledged that he stands with Rotary to complete the battle.

Kueter is responsible for raising funds from Rotarians in northern Iowa to match two challenges from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation totaling \$355 million. In the first year the 3,000 Rotarians in District 5970 raised \$109,650 and Kueter hopes to reach the phase one goal of \$169,000 by December.

Some of the match will come from a special concert November 8 at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center in Cedar Falls featuring world famous violinist Itzhak Perlman. The event is sponsored by four local Rotary clubs.

In the 1950s as many as 650,000 cases of polio were reported every year with thousands going unreported. But as of June 23, 2009 the World Health Organization said 588 cases had been documented, primarily in four countries where the disease is still endemic. Those countries are Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Another UN speaker at the Birmingham convention predicted that by the end of 2010 India will be declared polio free, a major step for the country which for decades reported more cases than any in the world. He added that wars in Pakistan and Afghanistan have made immunizations difficult but that warring factions have declared "days of tranquility" in March of this year where Rotarians and others were allowed to enter war zones and immunize children under age five. That effort was not without loss of life; three aid workers were killed in Afghanistan last fall during an earlier immunization campaign.

"The experts told us that the last one percent of our eradication efforts would be by far the toughest and they were sure right," Kueter notes. "We're now using a new version of the Sabin oral vaccine in some areas and it is proving to be a big improvement.

Since Rotary began its efforts against polio in 1985, its members have raised over \$500 million. Two billion doses of the vaccine have been given and Rotarians have donated millions of hours of their time to protect children.

Rotary is part of a world-wide alliance in the battle, joining the World Health Organization and UNICEF from the United Nations and the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, part of the US government.

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## Membership – A Team Effort Wins

As the girls hold up the "State Tournament" banner or the boys mob the pitcher following the win – it's all about a team effort. The teams have a common goal; they practice with coaching and

encouragement, and they keep playing, even following a loss.

The same approach works for Rotary membership. The officers, the committees and the members share a goal of quality club. The entire team (club) has a common focus, plans its strategy of recruiting and retaining members. Wins and new members seldom “just happen.”

Rotary District 5970 is preparing to help your team. On September 19<sup>th</sup> in Humboldt and September 6<sup>th</sup>

in Manchester, we are conducting a membership and foundation “training camp.” We encourage you and members of your club to attend one of these sessions. The principal objectives will give you ideas, new information and hone your skills of your team.

**Winning (new members) is not easy, but it’s fun, it’s important and it’s how we keep score.**

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### **Club Programs**

As I travel to the various clubs I'm getting questions about programs for meetings. Often we overlook some of the best programs by not asking our own membership. There are many Potential changes going on right now. Won't it be interesting to hear how some of these changes are affecting member's business right now? How about a program on the current health plans. How will it affect your local hospital, doctor, insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, taxes etc, etc. Got a car dealer in the club? How are they being affected? How are local manufacturers doing with the current slow down?

Local legislatures can provide a vision of these programs as well. There are so many ideas for programs that there should be a lineup of programs. Good luck in getting interesting, educational and VALUABLE programs for your regular meeting.

### **Club visits**

As I'm traveling to various clubs I'm hearing about all the club projects going on. There are many outstanding club activities that provide club marketing opportunities.

Don't forget at each club function that involves the community you will want to have a brochure available to give to prospective members or an informational piece that tell about your club and the purpose of Rotary.

Here are just a few of the projects clubs are doing:

- Odebolt has a steak supper with proceeds going the local museum
  - Pocahontas is displaying flowers on main street
  - Cedar Rapids Daybreak is involved with youth exchange and international water project
  - Marion-East Cedar Rapids has a shoe project for needy children
  - Waterloo in co-operation with 3 other area clubs is working on the Itzak Perlman concert to be held on Saturday Nov. 8
  - Belle Plaine held a spaghetti supper and is planning to market barbeque ribs during holidays
  - Spencer is about to embark on a major streetscape project for community beautification.
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### **Of the things we think, say or do**

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

**Rotary District 5970 Monthly Attendance June '09**

	Last Report	Meetings	Members	Attendance %	Notes
ACKLEY	Jun	4	20	72.00	
ALGONA	Jun	4	62	65.00	
ANAMOSA	Jun	5	28	76.00	
BANCROFT	Jun	3	18	83.00	
BELLE PLAINE	Jun	5	22	70.00	
BELLEVUE	Jun	4	28	64.00	
CEDAR FALLS	Jun	5	118	53.00	
CEDAR RAPIDS	Jun	5	300	60.00	
CEDAR RAPIDS DAYBREAK	Jun	4	123	62.00	
CEDAR RAPIDS HIAWATHA METRO	Jun	4	61	62.00	
CEDAR RAPIDS SUNRISE	Jun	4	39	89.74	
CEDAR RAPIDS WEST	Jun	4	95	65.00	
CHARLES CITY	Jun	5	46	76.00	17-Jul
CLARION	Jun	5	22	68.00	
CLEAR LAKE	Jun	4	20	66.00	
DECORAH	May	4	81	56.00	No Report
DUBUQUE	Jun	5	199	43.70	
EAGLE GROVE	Jun	5	31	71.00	
ELDORA	Jun	5	47	71.99	
ELY GATEWAY	Jun	2	20	60.00	
EMMETSBURG	May	4	41	72.00	No Report
ESTHERVILLE	Jun	4	59	42.00	
FOREST CITY	Jun	5	47	55.00	
FORT DODGE	Jun	5	105	52.00	
FORT DODGE DAYBREAK	Jun	5	28	60.00	22-Jul
GARNER	May	4	44	74.70	No Report
GRUNDY CENTER	Dec	4	15	75.00	No Report
GUTTENBERG	Jun	4	19	59.00	
HAMPTON	Jun	4	42	62.00	
HUMBOLDT	Jun	5	26	71.00	
INDEPENDENCE	May	4	42	60.00	No Report
IOWA FALLS	Jun	5	38	62.00	
IOWA GREAT LAKES	Jun	4	86	66.00	
MANCHESTER	Jun	4	34	60.00	
MAQUOKETA	Jun	4	34	64.25	
MARION EAST CEDAR RAPIDS	Jun	5	35	114.00	
MASON CITY	Jun	5	101	71.18	
MASON CITY RIVER CITY SUNRISE	Jun	4	23	79.00	
MONTECELLO	Jun	5	35	69.00	
MT. VERNON-LISBON	Jun	4	27	55.00	
NEW HAMPTON	Jun	4	43	60.00	
ODEBOLT	Jun	5	21	72.00	
OELWEIN	Jun	5	34	69.00	
OSAGE	Jun	4	30	85.00	16-Jul
PARKERSBURG	Jun	4	14	88.00	
POCAHONTAS	Jun	4	15	80.00	
ROCKWELL CITY	Jun	4	36	62.00	
SPENCER	Jun	5	47	55.00	
STORM LAKE	Jun	5	46	52.00	
SUMNER	Jun	4	23	68.00	
WATERLOO	Jun	3	183	48.00	
WATERLOO CROSSROADS	Jun	4	28	56.00	
WAVERLY	Jun	4	69	55.00	
WEBSTER CITY	Jun	5	60	70.00	
WEST UNION	Jun	5	29	68.00	
District 5970 Total			2939		
Average Monthly Attendance %				66.28	

**RYLA Camp Postponed**

Plans for conducting the Rotary Youth Leadership Camp have been put on hold according to committee chairman Sherry Malyce Kindsfather due to lack of applicants. Turns out the weekend planned for the camp, at Camp Shalom near Maquoketa, that many students were involved with band, football, or cheerleading camps etc.

Therefore various other options are being considered as we attempt to re-schedule the event later this fall. Additional details will be sent to each club as soon as possible so clubs can recruit potential campers. The planned activities will be an excellent experience for the campers involved. If you have additional question please contact committee chairman Sherry at 563-321-0240

**District Foundation Goals**

The combined goals for the Fifty-four clubs in District 5970 are as follows. Clubs have pledged \$225,250 for the annual programs fund. This is what provides funding for such district programs as ambassadorial scholarships, Group Study Exchanges, District Simplified Grants, and World Matching Grants.

The End Polio Now pledges total \$74,188. I encourage clubs to begin their contributions early in the year because when sent in May or June they are not getting processed until July because of staff is involved with the Rotary International Convention at that same time. Thanks for your continued support of the Rotary Foundation

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