The 2017-18 Rotary Year:

We’re half way there!

The start of 2018 meant we were halfway through this Rotary year. Unlike Bon Jovi though, we aren’t living on a prayer. Rather, we are Making a Difference in big ways! The first six months of the year have been great, and I look forward to seeing what we can do over the rest of the year. Before we push ahead and finish strong, I thought it would be good to summarize what we’ve done so far. There’s plenty to be proud of as a Rotarian in our District!

**MEMBERSHIP:** We’ve grown by one club this year, as we welcomed the E-Club of District 5960 in July! That means we now have 63 Rotary Clubs to go along with four Rotaract clubs.

From an overall member count, we started the year at 2,762 members, and through December our membership is at 2,804. That means we’ve grown by 42 members! Now, that might not appear like much, but the trend in our District and throughout the United States and Canada is a decline. In fact, our District has averaged a 28-member decline over the same time period in the last five years. We’re growing, which is great! With more people in our Rotary family, we can make a greater difference, so keep it up!

**FOUNDATION GIVING:** The more we give to the Rotary Foundation, the more difference we can make as well, and we’re having a great year! Through December, our giving to the Foundation’s Annual Fund is $242,915. For comparison sake, our average in the last four years has been $174,641, so we’re well on our way to have a great year!
Polio Plus giving is also up...we’ve given $74,922 so far this year, and 32 clubs have yet to give! To put this number in perspective, our full year giving in the past four years has averaged $92,663, so we should go well past that...which means that we’ll be that much closer to eradicating polio!

Our overall giving to The Rotary Foundation, which includes the Annual Fund, Polio Plus and the Endowment Fund is at $496,134 through December. The full year average over the past four years has been $478,861!

As you can see, we’re having a great year giving and growing! At the District Mid-year Rally, I shared some more that we’ve accomplished so far this year. Here’s a sampling:

• The Board of Directors adopted a new District organizational structure, which will create better communication and understanding of roles throughout our District leadership. In turn this will help provide more resources to clubs.
• We’ve developed broader teams at the District level rather than have a single person in each area. This has led to more empowerment and we’re seeing the creation of stronger teams, which will be better suited to help our clubs in the future.
• The District 5960 Tap Room Tour was initiated to great success. You can read about the first three stops in more detail below.
• We turned on a new District website. It has a much more contemporary feel and will give us a lot more functionality to utilize in the future.
• Along with District 5950, we’ve developed a Human Trafficking Committee which will do great things in the future to make a difference in the lives of so many people.
• We’ve had a lot of fun, and our clubs have done a great deal to make a difference in the lives of the people in their communities and around the world!

That’s what we’ve done. I also talked about some things that we’ll do over the next six months before the 2017-18 year is over:

• We’ll have a great District Conference of Clubs at the new Mystic Lake Center on April 19-20. There will be something for everyone, and I encourage you to register early! I’m especially excited to announce that former Rotary International President Bill Boyd will be joining us throughout the event and will be our keynote speaker at dinner on the 20th!
• We’ll implement our District Awards program and recognize more than 25 clubs for their efforts at the Conference of Clubs.
• The Board of Directors has started a process to develop our District’s Strategic Plan and Vision, which will help the entire District structure be able to focus their efforts on how best to serve our clubs.
• We’ll transition to 2018-19 as a stronger, more efficient and effective District- helping clubs not only maximize the difference that we make, but be an inspiration to our members and people throughout our communities!

Thank you for all you’re doing so far this year, and keep up the good work! The more we do, the better the world around us is, and the more fun we can have...I think that’s a good combination!

Kyle
Tour
District leadership “took Rotary fun on the road” for the first stops on the District 5960 Tap Room Tour! Designed to create an informal environment for Rotarians to come together, get to know each other and talk about Rotary, the first two stops were very successful!

On Wednesday, November 15, approximately 90 Rotarians from between 15 and 20 clubs gathered at Imminent Brewing in Northfield. The Tour stop was co-hosted by the Northfield Rotary Club, and featured short comments by District Governor Kyle Haugen, Northfield President Jean Wakely, and a brief presentation by Northfield Rotarian Todd Thompson. Todd shared details of the Global grant the Northfield club is working on: a significant water project near Lake Atitlan in Guatemala.

On Thursday, December 7, the Tour headed to Mankato Brewery in Mankato for more fun! 75 or so Rotarians from around 10 clubs joined in the fun! This tour stop featured comments by DG Kyle Haugen, along with Greater Mankato club president Kenny Klooster. Kenny introduced several of the leaders of the Mankato club, and shared some details on the club’s partnership with the Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota. The club has committed to providing the Children’s Museum with $100,000 in cash and another $100,000 in volunteer hours over a period of several years...helping the museum have great success!

There was an impromptu Tap Room Tour stop after the District Mid-year Rally as well. Approximately 30 people headed to Blackstack Brewing in St. Paul after the Rally on January 13 to keep the fellowship and conversation going. Once again, it was a great way for Rotarians to get to know each other and talk Rotary...which helps make our clubs stronger through the sharing of ideas and building excitement!
At a recent District Membership team meeting, we talked about having common and simple themes from our committee communications. One theme introduced was #sharerotary. So what does that mean? In everything we do, clubs should consistently ask members to share Rotary with others. Talk about what Rotary is and more importantly what we do – as opportunities present themselves. Invite others to attend meetings, or social events, or service activities. Ask Rotarians to include family members in activities and events so they learn more about Rotary.

Share Rotary through club communications such as through social media, articles in local newspapers, or newsletters that are shared with non-Rotarians. We talk about Rotary being the best kept secret. But we do not have to be, if we share Rotary every chance we get.

EVERY ROTARIAN, EVERY YEAR CLUBS
(100% of members gave at least $25 to the Annual Fund, with a per capita average of at least $100)

Lakeville,
LeSueur,
New Brighton/Mounds View,
Prior Lake
Human Trafficking update...

February 23 Summit bringing together champions

We are excited to bring you an update on the great things that are happening with the Rotary Initiative to End Human Trafficking in Minnesota. Working with representatives from District 5950, many of you have already volunteered to support the activities currently underway.

Accomplishments to date:

• Several clubs have invited Clare Lillis or Emma Becker or one of our other speakers to learn more about Human Trafficking.

• The Summit which is bringing together representatives of more than 150 organizations to begin to create a comprehensive, coordinated community plan is scheduled for February 23. Almost 200 people have already been identified.

• A pitch presentation to solicit major sponsors has been created.

• Several clubs are already partnering with local organizations and providing financial support. However, the work has just begun, and we are still looking for support in the following areas:

  • Identifying leaders in your community to attend the Summit. We are especially looking for representatives in the following areas:
    o law enforcement,
    o education (middle school, high school principals, health services and superintendents),
    o church leaders who are interested in galvanizing their congregations to address this issue
  • Identifying your club’s champion(s) for the Human Trafficking Initiative. We are looking for someone from each club who will lead your club in this initiative for the next 3-4 years to enhance your community. The champion will be invited to the summit to learn more about how they can help while serving in this role.

GETTING YOUR FAMILIES INVOLVED: THE POWER OF VOLUN-TELLING

https://blog.rotary.org/2017/11/10/the-power-of-volun-telling/
SAVE THE DATES

River Falls Rotary “Porch Party”
Friday, February 23
“JEANS REQUIRED, FLANNEL OPTIONAL”: Join the River Falls Rotary members for their Mid-Winter Porch Party fundraiser. Your $50 donation includes an upscale picnic dinner, live music, a signature summer cocktail and auctions and raffles throughout the evening. For more information, contact Club President Heather Logelin at heather.logelin@allina.com

St. Paul Sunrise Rotary’s 13th Community Forum:
Thursday, April 12th at Town & Country Club, St. Paul. “Beyond Political Polarization: Finding Common Ground for the Common Good”

Twin Cities Rotaract Annual Fundraiser:
Wednesday April 25th at Summit Brewery. The event will benefit Books for Africa and will coincide with the TC Rotaract’s 21st birthday... come join them as they are now officially old enough to drink!

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Saturday, February 3:
White Bear Lake Rotary “BEARly Open”
Join the White Bear Lake Rotary club on the frozen shores of White Bear Lake for a one-of-a-kind golf on ice event in conjunction with the St. Paul Winter Carnival. An 18 hole course, complete with real pine trees, a hospitality tent, food and entertainment make it a great way to have fun and raise money for the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf. Also, for even more fun, there is a Community Dance the night before at The White Bear Country Inn. For more information, go to www.bearlyopen.org

Saturday, February 10th:
Woodbury Rotary “Elegant Gala Event”
SHARE YOUR LOVE: The Woodbury Rotary Club is proud to host this great date night to help raise money for their club’s activities. Cocktails are at 6PM, with dinner at 7PM and entertainment from KFAN’s Dan “The Common Man” Cole at 8PM. The event also features live and silent auctions. Cost is $150 per couple, and you can go to www.woodburymnrotary.org for more information or to purchase tickets.

Saturday, February 10th:
Hudson Rotary Clubs “Rock The River”
The Hudson Rotary Clubs (Hudson and Hudson Daybreak) are proud to invite everyone to their inaugural Rock the River concert featuring classic rock band Abracadabra. The fun starts at 6PM with hors d’oeuvres from several local restaurants and a cash bar, while the concert will start at 7:30PM in the theatre at the Phipps Center for the Arts. For tickets, click here: https://phip-internet.choicecrm.net/templates/PHIP/?cts_legacy_app

Stay current with District 5960 news

District Governor Kyle Haugen’s Facebook Page:
https://www.facebook.com/kyle.haugen.7

District 5960’s Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/rotary5960

Newsletter editor:
Jeff Hage, Princeton Rotary Club, email: paperboy@mac.com
As Bon Jovi sang, “We’re Half Way There.” And what better way to celebrate the halfway point of the 2017-18 Rotary Year with a celebration of Rotarians.

District 5960 kicked off its 2018 Mid-Term on Saturday, Jan. 13 at Hamline University where District Rotarians spent the day looking at statistical data that presented a snapshot of the District and its clubs, tools for attracting and maintaining membership, and how to reach members through print, broadcast and social media.

During a working lunch, Rotarians received a first-hand look at the many committees, programs and leadership teams that are available to assist strengthen and broaden clubs throughout the district.

The day’s keynote speaker was Quentin Wodon, a member of a Rotary club in the Washington, D.C. area. Woden took data provided to him from a survey taken by District 5960 Rotarians this Fall and painted a picture of what the District looks like, what its members are wanting as members of Rotary and what shortcomings their clubs provide in terms of leadership, activities and programing.

District Governor Kyle Haugen and DG-elect Mike Becker hosted a special recognition of new members who had joined District clubs as new members since the beginning of the Rotary year in July. More than a dozen of these new members were on hand at Mid-Term to receive this special recognition.

Being at Mid-Term also opened up the world of Rotary to these new members that they might not otherwise had seen until they are more established Rotarians years from now. The experience helped make our newest members some of our strongest and most enthusiastic members.

Rotarians wrapped up their day discussing the best practices learned throughout the day before one final one-on-one group discussion with members of the District leadership team.

For some, the day culminated at the Blackstack Brewing Company in St. Paul where about 30 Rotarians gathered for a pop-up Tap Room Tour. Cold beer and good Rotary conversation was enjoyed by attendees.
The New Prague Rotary Club came up with a fun and exciting way to raise significant awareness and funds for Polio Plus in October with their Pennies for Polio campaign. During the week of October 9th, over 2,800 New Prague Area Elementary and Middle School students worked together to collect change for Polio Plus, and raised $2,686.90!

New Prague Rotarians, led by Tony Buthe, worked with school leadership and teachers to educate students on what polio is and Rotary’s efforts to eradicate the disease. The kids were encouraged to participate, and friendly competition was created...to great success! Rotarians helped the kids celebrate their success by pointing out that, along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation match, they were able to raise $10,777.60, which helped to vaccinate 17,962 kids throughout the world!

Thanks to the New Prague Rotarians and New Prague Area Schools for this awesome partnership!
### Rotary District 5960

#### 2017-18 Giving & Growing Update (Through 12/31/17)

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### Totals

|                | 2845                | 2762              | 2805               | 43                  | $245,960.00  | $242,272.08      | $87,720.00      | $61,350.00       | $74,529.20 |

Note: Totals include all listed amounts.