



SERVICE Above Self

Fargo West Rotary

Newsletter May 2010

Fargo West Rotary, PO Box 9237, Fargo, ND 58106

President's Message

by David Wrolstad

"In Honor & Memory - Bruce Opheim"



Just think, my 2009/2010 Rotary year as your Fargo West Rotary President is coming to an end – only two more months to go. OK, OK – I know what you are thinking – can the end come soon enough!?

As I ponder the last 2 months of my term as your President, there are a few things I need to do to closeout my year. But I can only do this with your help as fellow Fargo West Rotary members.

First and foremost, we need to closeout our '11th Annual Harley Raffle'. This project is one of our two major fundraisers for our club each year. The proceeds from the raffle go directly to benefit the Red River Zoo. This year's proceeds will go towards the new 'Wings of the Orient' bird aviary exhibit.

Currently, we have sold enough tickets to recoup the cost of the 2010 Harley Davidson FLSTC Heritage Softail Classic and our expenses. Now, each & every ticket we sell will go directly to the benefit of the Zoo and the new exhibit. The drawing for the Harley is Saturday, May 15th. That means we only have 2 weeks left to sell tickets and to raise money for the Zoo. **It takes EVERYONE in the club to sell tickets! Please SELL, SELL, SELL!**

You might recall when I started my year and my 'Amazing Technicolor Rotary Sports Coat', I dedicated my Rotary year as President to the memory of Ed Stern. I now need to add another patch to my sports coat – **B.O.** – in honor and memory of **Bruce Opheim** who passed away on Saturday, April 3rd.

Bruce was a shining example of what it means to be a true 'Rotarian'. Bruce had a passion for Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. Bruce had a passion for Fargo West Rotary. Bruce lived each day as a Rotarian. Bruce exemplified the Rotary Motto: 'Service Above Self' in all aspects of his Life. Bruce will be missed, but certainly not be forgotten. Bruce had a big impact on my Life – and I am guessing yours.

Thank you, Bruce, for being a fellow Rotarian, a fellow Fargo West Rotary member, a mentor, an example of what to do & how to live, and a Friend!

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*Be part of history —
Join us at the District
Conference in
Winnipeg May 13-16th.
Meet RI President,
John Kenny, Scotland.
Sign up at
<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=777459>
Bring your spouse!*

Why Join ROTI

There has been an on-going discussion about why Rotarians should join the Rotary Fellowship Rotarians on the Internet (ROTI). I am a charter member of ROTI and we have members from all over the world. We get into many discussions about different programs within Rotary and how they affect our lives. We learn about projects from Rotarians who are actually rolling up their sleeves and doing the work.

The bonus to all of these discussions is the ability to forge friendships. If you are traveling to another country and you want information on where to go, what to see, all you have to do is ask the group. Usually, you will be invited to the homes of Rotarians in the area because they have been communicating with you for a while. This is how Bruce and I toured the South Island of New Zealand in 1998. One of the members learned we were going to be there and he offered to take vacation time to show us around the South Island. It was a marvelous trip for us, and we ended up staying at his mother's home. I am still in contact with his family because of the bond.

Here are a couple of comments from members when asked why it is beneficial to belong to ROTI:

"I have found ROTI to be most beneficial for several reasons. The first being when taking the office of DG, I asked clubs in the District to develop 'sister-city' relationships. When I was asked how, it was simple: look to ROTI to develop friends. In fact, Rotary is no different than any other organization in that everything begins with the "Who," and NOT the "What, When, Where, How, and Why."

1) The GSE team exchange between D 6630 (USA) and D 46890 (Brazil) was initiated between ROTI members.

2) I find ROTI to be an excellent forum of discussion between successful and well-minded individuals who possess a passion to make this a better world.

3) I shall forever be grateful to certain people I met through ROTI who assisted me through a difficult period my life.

4) Finally, I had the help of many I met in ROTI who assisted as I prepared for my term as District Governor. as I prepared for my term as District Governor." Jay Dzurilla, Ohio, District 6630 DG 2006-07

Pres. Message cont

"The Future of the Fargo West Rotary Club.....IS IN YOUR HANDS." How can YOU make a difference as a member:

1. Come to weekly meetings
2. Invite a friend to a meeting
3. Invite a friend to join
4. Get involved.....ASK (You only get out what you put in)
5. Read.....the monthly club newsletter (Thanks, Betty), the monthly district newsletter and The Rotarian magazine
6. **Sell Harley Davidson Raffle Tickets!!**
7. Attend the first Rotary District 5550/5580 Joint Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada May 13-16, 2010.
8. **'Every Rotarian Every Year' – become a Sustaining Paul Harris Fellow**
9. *"Eat Chili – the rest will become history."*

CP Other People's Money – 'ES' & 'BO' out.



Why Join ROTI cont

"Being a member of ROTI has connected me with Rotarians in all corners of the world. I have a number of new friends with who I exchange club newsletters, ideas for club social activities and a network of people with ideas that have made my club richer for the sharing of them.

About ten years ago our club established an Interact club and they wanted to do something in another country. Through ROTI we were able to connect with a club in Singapore that was doing a vision project in Vietnam and the Interactors collected several hundred pairs of cast-off spectacles which were shipped to the Singapore club." PP John

RC of Cumberland Centennial, D 5020 BC, Canada

Check out ROTI at <http://www.roti.org/> and join one of the best Rotary Fellowships available to you.

RI Council on Legislation

The Council on Legislation (Rotary's parliament) meets every 3 years to deliberate and act on proposed enactments and resolutions submitted by clubs, districts, General Council and the COL.

Representatives from 531 Rotary districts convened in Chicago April 25-30th for the 2010 COL to propose and debate changes to the policies governing Rotary International and its member clubs. There are two types of legislation: enactments and resolutions. A proposed enactment seeks to amend the RI constitutional documents. These include the RI Constitution, the RI Bylaws and the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. A proposed resolution is legislation that does not seek to amend the constitutional documents. Only enactments are binding. Resolutions are not.

Voting members include one elected representative of the clubs of each Rotary district. Some nonvoting members include the chair and vice chair of the Council, the RI president, members of the RI Board, and past RI presidents.

Several of the ROTI members were delegates to the COL and kept us apprised daily of the goings-on. I thought I would share a few things with you so you will have a better understanding of what goes on in Rotary.

There were 219 pieces of legislation the council had to review. From what I could tell by reading the various pieces, a good share of them do not affect us directly. Here is a report from a ROTI member:

One of interest to the 'older' Rotarians is the "rule of 85" attendance exemption guidelines. They have added the age of 65 requirement for this to be in effect. For this to apply, the aggregate of the member's years of age and years of membership in one or more Rotary clubs is 85 years or more, and the member has submitted a written request to the Board, and the Board has approved the request. Senior Rotarians under the "rule of 85" have no special status other than exemption from attendance requirements.

Among other actions, the Council approved a dues increase. There will be a \$1 increase annually until 2014 when it will be reviewed again by the next COL.

Resolution 10-07 makes eClubs ongoing and it passed with 431 in favor and 76 against. There was a long and drawn out debate over an hour long, with various amendments proposed such as limiting the total number of eClubs to 50. But that amendment was defeated. After much discussion it was voted to allow 2 eClubs per district.

A surprising adoption of 10-87 was one of the few significant resolutions we've adopted in the last couple of days. With a vote of 263 to 250 in favor, we have created the 5th avenue of service, labeled as New Generations. Many felt that youth programs are already present throughout the other four avenues and if put into their own area there could be a sense of restriction from the avenues of community and international service. New Generations are seen as the future of our planet and an important part of Rotary, so I believe this is what carried the result.

Resolution 10-112 proposed to eliminate grandchildren from the ineligible list of applicants for Rotary Foundation programs, such as GSE and Scholars. I was successful in my proposed amendment getting the assembly to include children as well. Currently, some feel the exclusion of Rotarian children/grandchildren from TRF programs is unfair to well qualified family applicants.

If you would like to learn more about the Council on Legislation, go to

<http://www.rotary.org/en/members/policiesandprocedures/CouncilOnLegislation/Pages/ridefault.aspx>.

Happy Birthday!

5/2	Paul Hannaher
5/9	Sheldon Emil
5/10	Pat DeVine
5/30	Sharon Hilgers

My Tribute to Bruce



As you know, my husband of almost 48 years died April 3, 2010. We were together 50 years, as we dated a long time before marrying. I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about him.

I've known Bruce since I was 4 years old. His family moved across the street and down

three houses from mine in St Cloud, MN. Our fathers worked together for a while; our mothers were confirmed together; we went to the same schools and church. We played together, even though he was 3 years older. All the kids went swimming, played baseball, basketball, and games together. I was one of three girls in a neighborhood of what seemed hundreds of boys. So if you wanted to play, your playmate was more than likely a boy. We used to stay out until 10:00 at night playing hide & seek during the summer. Or we played Captain May I or Annie Annie Over using our garage. Because Bruce was the oldest, he pretty much kept the peace. Of course, it helped that he was also the biggest.

Bruce asked me out the first time when I was in 8th grade. We dated that whole summer and at the end of it, he gave me a dime and told me to call him when I grew up. Fast forward to my junior prom and my current boyfriend wouldn't take me. I was angry and told him I would find someone who would take me if he didn't want to. He scoffed at me and said, "Who are you going to get now?" because it was less than a month to prom. I told him, "Bruce Opheim." Bruce took me to prom and we never stopped dating. School was out in June and we were married in August. I couldn't imagine anyone else I would want to marry.

We moved to Minneapolis as Bruce had a job at IBM. It was a glorious time for us. We had our marriage, we had all of the Cities to explore, and Bruce had a great job! IBM sent Bruce to many training schools all over the country throughout the years. He took me and our children (Brenda & Bill) with him as often as he could. We had the opportunity to live in many cities for short periods of time. Some of the schools were 6-9 months long, but we always returned to Minneapolis.

We bought our first home for our fifth anniversary. We each had bikes and would ride every night and weekend.

We spent a lot of time at the zoo. Bruce loved taking them to the lakes. He taught both of the kids to swim and fish. Bruce had a great knack with children and he loved to teach them. He taught them about animals, reptiles and taking care of cars. Our son is as good a mechanic as his dad. Probably better, since he is ASE Certified, even though his job is working on computers. Just another thing his dad taught him.

Our children were the center of his life. We traveled often with them and tried to show them as much as we could. We wanted them to have as many life experiences as we could give them.

When they left home, we decided we needed a 'date night.' Something special we did for us. So we started going to the 5:00 movies on Monday night or the Saturday matinee. We had our Friday night dinner group, too. We've been going out with the same couples every Friday night since 1976. And yes, I am still going out with them.

We played cards and board games. When **Lesley and Grant Crawford** still lived here, we played canasta every weekend. Guys against the gals. Bruce and I had a running card game we played daily before dinner. Either we played cribbage or we played golf — **Pam and Keith Freeland** taught us that game.

Bruce was a jack-of-all trades; he could do anything. He was a plumber, electrician, wallpaperer, upholsterer, carpet layer, gardener, and mechanic. If something needed to be done, he could do it. He really hated painting — it was the prep work and the clean-up he hated the most. He was learning to cook the past 4-5 years. He made a great pizza!

When I joined Rotary in July, 1987, I was very anxious for Bruce to join, too. I loved Rotary and was always excited to tell him about the program and what happened at the meetings. It took me until May, 1988 to convince him he would enjoy it.

He jumped in with both feet and volunteered for whatever was needed. He served as our president

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in 1995-96. After that, he served as the Foundation chair. Bruce believed in The Rotary Foundation and all the good it does in the world. He was enthusiastic about members giving to the Foundation.

Rotary became an extended family to us. It is like having a lot of siblings and cousins. Some cousins are more distant than others, and some are favorites.

Bruce would worry about Rotary and our members. He wanted everyone to feel as he did about Rotary and to get the most out of being a member. He would talk for hours about the best way to get people to understand there is so much to belonging to Rotary and you that you get out of it as much as you put into it. There weren't many things that Bruce wasn't at the forefront. He would be the first one at the peach sale to make sure everything was set up. He'd volunteer to help with the Harley raffle, the highway cleanup, and the street fair cleanup. He didn't miss many opportunities to offer his assistance.

I've been asked many times why we didn't sit together that often at Rotary. The simple answer is we felt that if we sat at different tables we would get to know you better than if we sat together and finished each other's stories. We'd call each other after Rotary and report what we learned at our respective tables. That's really how we know you so well. We did double duty on you.

I want to thank you for the friendship and support you have shown us through the years. It almost seems trite to say it meant the world to us, but it did.

I've lost my husband and best friend. But I still have you. And I thank God for you.

Club Resignations

We are sad to see them go, but we understand.

Dave Gross has resigned due to conflicts at work. **Pam and Keith Freeland** resigned as they spend their winters in Florida and their summers at the lake. They made up at the Perham Rotary club last summer.

Each of them expressed the desire to keep the door open. **Dave** would like to return when his schedule is better and the **Freeland's** want to visit when they are in town.

Fargo West Rotary has an open door policy, so we look forward to seeing them again and we wish them the best of luck.

Important Rotary Info

May Meetings

Greeters: Jill Henning

5/3 Emily Kao — Our Youth Exchange Student

5/10 GSE Team from Japan

5/17 Fargo Marathon Help

5/24 Craig Whitney — FM Chamber of Commerce president

5/31 No Meeting — Memorial Day

Make up meetings at any of these local clubs:

Fargo West Rotary meets Monday noon at the Holiday Inn

Moorhead Rotary meets Tuesday noon at the Moorhead Country Club

Fargo Rotary meets Wednesday noon at the Radisson Hotel

FM/AM Rotary meets Thursday at 7:00am in the Overture Room at the Ramada Plaza Suites

FM/PM Make up meeting is at 5:15 pm on the 1st & 3rd Wed of every month at the Winery

