

The President's Corner



April is Magazine Month. The Rotarian is the official magazine of Rotary International. It always has articles and information that helps us all to be better informed Rotarians. My favorite section of The Rotarian this year has been "A message from President Carlo". These terrific articles written by R.I. President Carlo Ravizza have had a common theme of changing the way we do things within Rotary.

This months message is "Keep Rotary Simple". Too many rules, too many programs, too much red tape, etc. He is not promoting chaos and discontinuity, but rather changes for R.I. to be flexible and to move forward without all the speed bumps that are placed in front of even the simplest of requests.

We have available to us, The Council on Legislation (see page 40 in this months Rotarian), for changes to the rules of Rotary. We have the opportunity to submit proposals to Evanston by June 30,2000. One such proposal has been formed within our club in discussions about membership. A proposal has been made of having a spouse or significant other be an associate member to the Rotarians classification. This associate membership would provide a members spouse the opportunity to attend meetings for the Rotarian if the member was absent. It would help us with meeting attendance, which truthfully is sometimes very small. All the details of this proposal will be worked out and submitted to the Council.

The Rotarian is a magazine filled with information and news about Rotary. It is well worth reading each month to keep informed of the path our organization is taking on R.I. structure, world, and club issues. Rotary International is in a mode of change and upgrade to meet the changing world of business, charity, and club membership. We, The Rotary Club of Mission Viejo, have that same challenge of keeping up with the times, while not forgetting our rich 25 year heritage. Keeping up with R.I. through the magazine helps us to form new ideas and new projects available to us. We need to choose those that fit our club goals and give us opportunities to grow our club in membership and in attendance..... Don

REPORT FROM OUR AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLAR Camrin Michelle Christensen who is attending Irkutsk University in Siberia, Russia

Dear Rotary,

I wanted to give you another quick update on my life here in Russia. Everything is going magnificently! I find that I am busier than ever with Rotary, Rotaract and school these days. In addition, I have been meeting other foreigners everywhere, most recently people that were over to observe the elections. I spoke with many people about the Presidential elections, and interestingly enough, most people didn't want to vote for Putin, but felt that he was the best candidate. The general concern here was that Putin was so closely associated with Yelstin and that no one really knew who he was.

He was essentially considered a shoe-in, though, and I heard on Russian tv that although all of the votes hadn't been counted, the West was already announcing that Putin had one. (I actually met quite a few people that were voting for Zyuganov, the Communist candidate). As you can probably imagine, nothing seems to be different here. Irkutsk is an incredibly stable region anyway, very far away from Moscow.

On the Rotaract front, I spent three hours yesterday at the Orphanage with my friend Andrei. He has been heading up all of the projects at the Orphanage, ranging from weekly visits with cooperation from the Siberian American Managing School, through interior decorating (he had art students come over and paint fairy tale characters on the walls in the play area), to the photo album project. I already mentioned how I have been appointed head photographer, and as such I took about 100 pictures of the children after school, before the Rotaract meeting yesterday. On Friday, Andrei and I are joining the children at the circus and hope to take more pictures of them in a different atmosphere. These pictures also might play arole in helping the children to be adopted.

My mother and sister will be arriving this Tuesday. I am still attempting to plan a trip to Baikal and show them as much as I can of Irkutsk (including taking them to a Rotaract meeting, Rotary meets on Mondays so I don't think we will make it to that, but we can stop by and visit the President and Vladimir Donskoi). Yesterday I e-mailed Rotarians in both Moscow and St. Petersburg in order to arrange a visit while we are there. After about 5 days in Irkutsk, my mother, sister and I will be setting off on our 3.5 day train ride to Moscow. My host mother is attempting to organize our accommodation so that we can stay in a Grad Student Dormitory, and I have a friend in St. Petersburg who has already found us accomodation on Nevsky Prospekt, no less. It is the main street in St. Petersburg.

The weather is being evil. It snowed a few days ago, and the wind, the WIND here is incredible! Thank goodness for sun glasses. It is like freezing cold Santana winds blowing dust in your eyes. It had gotten really quite warm, but it hailed yesterday and I was told, as I complained, that it could stay like that until June. Apparently it has been known to snow even in June! And we complain about New England weather. It is child's play.

On the whole, everything is going incredibly well. I went down to the Siberian American Managing School and gave two guest lectures to 4th year students. They asked some very interesting questions, though I won't go into that right now. Choir has also started on Tuesdays, so I have quite a full schedule! In 10 minutes I am heading over to Nadezhda Fyodorovna's for my Russian cooking/conversation class.

Hope that everyone is doing well down in California!! And please, if anyone has any specific questions, feel free to e-mail me at both this address and camrin@hotmail.com. Sincerely, Camrin Christensen

In Loving Memory

Virginia LaFern Monninger

June 18, 1917-March 31, 2000

It is with deep sorrow we hear of the passing of Virginia Monninger, wife of Rotarian John Monninger

"Do not stand at my grave and weep I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow. Do not stand at my grave and cry; I am not there. I did not die."

COMING EVENTS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

- April 18 Dave Doomer, Asst. Superintendent CUSD
April 25 Corozan-Building a Shelter
May 9 American Field Services-Exchange Students

SPECIAL EVENTS

- April 22 Tree Planting Program To be announced
May 04 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
May 4-7th District Conference Mission Inn , Riverside
May 20th District Assembly
June 3rd Corazon Mexico House Building Trip
June 4-7th R.I. Convention Buenos Aires, Argentina

WHITE ELEPHANT

- April 18 Jan Eisenbeisz
April 25 Rich Frieder
May 9 Robert Germeroth
May 16 Kathy Haze
May 23 Ed Heeren

Laura's House joint project

On Sunday, April 29, we have a special opportunity to be part of a hands on service project. Laura's House in San Clemente is in need of house repairs, storage room clean-up, and thrift shop improvements.

This project is a direct result of the joint meeting between the Kiwanis and Lions clubs in January. At that meeting we proposed that we jointly do some hands-on service projects within the local community. Cory Bream, President of the Lions Club and Ed Mitchel, President of the Kiwanis, have been very enthusiastic about this joint effort as I have been. They have committed their respective clubs to share the costs and workers to complete the repairs.

Repair tasks include:

- Thrift Store___Display Shelving
• Storage Building_Needs manpower to organize and catalogue household furniture.
• House Repair___Loose stair banister;
• Screen door repair; Ceiling fans repair;
• child-proof security locks for cabinets;
• Window Screen replacement; Closet repairs; Interior door knobs and door stops; Interior door replacement;
• miscellaneous minor repairs

We will meet at 8:00a.m., Sunday, April 29, at their business office, 99 Calle De Industrias in San Clemente. Take the Pico off ramp, turn right. Turn left on Calle De Industrias. It is located in the shopping center behind Del Taco. The time for the repair is set from 8:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Please volunteer for this day of service that requires nothing more than a pair of hands, some tools and a desire to help a worthy cause.

DARK MAY 2ND

We will not meet on Tuesday May 2nd and instead will meet on Thursday May 4th at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast