

The Critique

Rotary Club of Waterbury, CT



Winter 2007

President's Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians:

It's hard to believe that the Holidays are over and that half of my Rotary year as your club president has already gone by! Together we have accomplished many wonderful and meaningful projects and I thank you all for your commitment and support.

Here are some highlights of our endeavors and also some additional details of projects to come...



The Connecticut Food Bank

I'm so proud to share with you that we collected 196 pounds of non-perishable goods for the Waterbury Chapter of the Connecticut Food Bank. Many of the donations were brought to the Holiday Gathering we had at the Mattatuck Museum. Rotarians from the Tribury Club were also generous with the cause and together we were able to make a difference for many families during the holiday season.

A beautiful thank you letter was received from the special events co-coordinator (who spoke to the club) of the Food Bank thanking us for our efforts to the Food Bank in support of their mission to alleviate hunger throughout Connecticut. Last year, the Food Bank distributed 16.6 million pounds of food to local food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, residential programs and adult and youth day programs.

The Second Annual Holiday Gathering "Rotary Rings"

The Holiday Party at the Mattatuck Museum with the area Rotary Clubs was well attended. Those that participated clearly enjoyed themselves...as evidenced by all the laughter and fellowship! The caroling a little sub-optimal, but the cocktails and delicious food made up for our deficiencies in the music and entertainment department.

A special thanks to those who participated and to those who were not able to attend, but still remembered to bring their non-perishable food items to the following lunch meeting following the holiday gathering.

Toy Drive and Angel Tree Tags

Another Waterbury Rotary tradition continued this past holiday season with our participation in the Salvation Army's toy drive. Captain Garcia attended one of our lunch meetings to explain the program and distributed tags for their needy families at the shelter.

It was very heartwarming to see the van full of toys drive away the following week when the Salvation Army arrived to pick up our donations. I'm sure that due to our continued generosity, there were many bright smiles on Christmas morning as children opened their gifts!

Officer's 2006-2007

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Rose Marie Belo

President Elect

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Chuck Lacerenza

Ingrid McGowan

Ralph Richard

Robert Smith

Teri Smith

Susan Sprano



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President's Message continued...

The Denan Water Project

As most of you know, one of our District Governor's major focuses for this Rotary year is water related projects and issues. Chip Lewis, our Governor, spoke to us directly about this priority back in October when he was our guest and speaker. He shared that many clubs were working together on projects in Sri Lanka and Africa.

Since that presentation, the Board has gathered information on various water projects and back in mid December we heard a presentation by Richard Murawsaki and the Denan Project in Ethiopia, Africa – specifically in the Ogaden Region. It is the second poorest country and a desert region with approximately 4 million people dealing with severe drought and hunger issues. The Ogaden region is populated mostly by ethnic Somalis and has been devastated by drought, famine and an armed separatist movement. There are 7000 people living in tiny huts with no source of water or medical care. The population is forced to walk to Denan (which takes about 10 to 15 days) to reach camp and resources in a temperature and climate that exceeds 120° – 130° daily. A group of concerned Rotarians have formed an organization called the Denan Project and have bravely made many trips to the region and are making incredible progress in regards to both the drought and medical needs.

There is now water delivered daily to the area, a 20 room hospital has been established, an ambulance is responding to the residents and nutrition bars are being distributed. All to help these people stay alive and to stop the malnutrition. There are 14 watering stations (each costing \$1500) and the project is working on drilling a well 14 miles from camp as well as addressing problems dealing with erosion. Additionally, the project is also working on planting trees in the region to help develop an agricultural base and finally grasping with issues relating to the education of 5000 children who are victims of this disaster.

I sincerely hope that those of you who were not present to hear the presentation by Richard can agree with the Board's decision to donate \$1500 to this project while also fulfilling one of the District Governors most important requests.

Cocktail Meetings

This January we held our first meeting of 2007 at an evening cocktail gathering. The rationale behind trying this was to offer Rotarians who sometimes find it difficult to attend meetings during the middle of the day an alternative time.

Then, after surveying the membership at one of our meetings, it was evident that a large number of members wanted to continue with the once a month evening cocktail meeting. With that said, we are continuing this and the 4th week of each month, the meeting will be held on Wednesday and at 5:00pm. Members are welcome to arrive between 5:00pm and 5:30pm and the meeting will be called to order at 5:30pm. These cocktail meetings (on Wednesday) will continue to be held at the Waterbury Club and your weekly contribution is still \$14. For those who didn't attend the first cocktail meeting, you will be given a ticket for one drink as part of your contribution for a cocktail of your choice, and the Waterbury Club will provide some hors d'oeuvres.

Dates for the upcoming cocktail meetings are:

Wednesday, February 28th

Wednesday, March 28th

Rotarians who are unable to attend the evening cocktail meetings can either makeup online or come to the Waterbury Club on our regularly scheduled day on Tuesdays and sign in at the front desk on the roster we will have available.



Naugatuck River Duck Race

We will be selling tickets for the 2nd Annual Duck Race on June 3, 2007 presented by the Naugatuck Chamber of Commerce. **Watch for tickets and details coming soon!**

The club earns 50% of the proceeds from the tickets we sell - **we are counting on you to get out and sell!**

Winter 2007

Pancake Breakfast

The event is scheduled for Sunday, March 11th at the Waterbury Elks on West Main Street.

Committee members for the event are:

Don Cipriano
Dan Donato
Beth McGrath
Sue Sprano

Kevin Cocchiola
Scott Griffith
Ralph Richard

Bernie Dzinski
Chuck Lacerenza
Bob Smith

The committee is meeting for the first time and we will have many more details and information to share with you all very soon. Please feel free to contact any committee member with comments, ideas and suggestions.

Thanks again for putting your trust in me and I remain...

Yours in Rotary
Rose Marie Belo



Rotary Club of Waterbury, CT

PO Box 9081
Waterbury, CT 06724



Weekly Meetings

Tuesdays, 12:15 pm
Waterbury Club
30 Holmes Avenue
Waterbury, CT

Visit us on the web !

www.WaterburyRotary.org
info@WaterburyRotary.org

Rotary by the numbers:

1,208,562	Rotarians worldwide
32,554	Clubs
530	Rotary districts

Aren't you PROUD to be among those statistics!!!!

February Focus: World Understanding Month

Youth Exchange (secondary school level)
Group Exchange (young professionals)
Friendship Exchange (couples and families)
New Generations Exchange

February Calendar

6 Board Meeting; Meeting
13 Meeting—Speaker: Carl Rosa, Main St. Waterbury
20 Meeting—Speaker: Eric Olson, Long Term Care
No Meeting
Meeting 5:30pm

March Calendar

6 Board Meeting; Meeting
11 **Pancake Breakfast**
13 Meeting
20 Meeting
No Meeting
28 Meeting 5:30pm