

Rotary
Ireland



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



District Governor's Newsletter – August 2017



August is Membership & New Club Development Month

As your District
Governor for the
Rotary year 2017/18

I am proud to take up
the challenge of
leading Rotary Ireland
in



Please join me at
The Rotary Ireland
Conference
28th September – 1st
October 2017, in the
heart of County Down
@ the La Mon Hotel &
Country Club,
Castlereagh, Belfast.

We have a fantastic
programme planned to
interest, entertain and
stimulate you and your
partner, more details
and booking form at
www.rotaryconference.ie

Key note speakers include:

Eric Knowles
Bill Wolsey
Prof Jim Dornan
Youth Action NI
Irish Heart Foundation
The Stroke Association
ShelterBox

Membership, we still have a lot to do to achieve our goal of 2000 members by the 30th June 2018. As I write we are at 1909 this includes the recent inaugurating of Raheny Rotary our first satellite club, with our second satellite club in Dublin South currently being formed. Has your club considered being instrumental in forming a Satellite Club? Contact the District Membership team for details.

As an organization, Rotary has always had a difficult time conveying the scope of our work: not just what we do, but how we do it, and the value of what we contribute. I am asking each club to provide me with two numbers: the amount of money, both in cash and in kind, spent on humanitarian service; and the number of hours of work performed in Rotary's name. These numbers must be accurate that means beginning now to accurately track the hours and the money that you spend on service.

The simplest way for our clubs to provide this information will be by entering it every month in Rotary Club Central - a tool that has been completely rebuilt to be significantly more useful, and user-friendly, than it has been in the past. I cannot emphasize strongly enough that the goal of this effort is *not* getting the largest and most impressive numbers. There is not going to be any competition, recognition, or public use whatsoever of the numbers reported by any individual club. The goal is accurate and reliable numbers that we can present in our public image work, in our membership materials, numbers backed by specific data, that answer the question,

"What is Rotary?" but also the question, "What does Rotary do?" I strongly believe that with these numbers, we will be better able to demonstrate the value of *Rotary: Making a Difference*.



I am delighted that the Rotary Foundation has approved District grants of almost \$45,000. Over the next year, we will see RC Limavady bring clean water to schools in Kenya, while RC Comber does the same in Tanzania. RC Mullingar will fit out a mother & child centre in Ethiopia, while RC Newbridge will fund life-changing operations for Romanian children who suffer from Spina- Bifida Hydrocephalus.

Closer to home, RC Antrim will provide an exercise facility for a special needs school, RC Limerick Thomond will equip a school to feed special needs children, RC Newbridge will provide essential facilities to a local homeless centre, and RC Dublin North will fund a major youth literacy programme. The RC Waterford will refurbish a centre providing safe refuge for victims of domestic violence, and RC Clonmel will celebrate its 50th anniversary by helping to create a Rotary Sensory Garden for autistic children.

I am sure you will join me in wishing every success to all of these projects, and I look forward to supporting them during the year, and to joining the clubs in celebrating their success.

In closing do not forget to book for conference.

Yours in Rotary

Garth

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