

District Gov. Gets Typical Answers to His Questions



District Gov. Ron Peterson
Photo by George Lampton

District Gov. Ron Peterson used a lot of references to Rotary when he visited here Oct. 7, like the Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles or Japan, or the Polio Plus drive to eliminate Polio, or the first Rotary meeting in 1905, in Chicago.

Governor Peterson asked how many club members

knew someone who had polio. "That's about normal," he said when he looked at the hands that went up.

But when you ask younger people, you get no hands, he reported. "They don't know what polio is."

"Dr. Ben" in his district, started the push for Polio Plus, he noted. "It takes only one Rotarian," he said. Since then Polio has been eradicated from all but a handful of countries, and several of those are dictatorships, in which there has been a lot of fighting.

(The Polio Plus drive in McAlester started about 1979, and although current club members don't remember how much was raised, they remember that that once the money was turned in, a letter from the Rotary Foundation notified the local club that a Paul Harris Fellow could be awarded with each \$1,000. Steve Taylor and George Lampton and T.A. See District Gov. Ron Peterson, on Page 2

Club Hears About Young Life, Its Leaders and Beliefs



Mia Smith
Photo by George Lampton

Mia Smith told us Oct. 14 about "Young Life" and it's activities and organization.

Chandra Woods is area director and the first group Ms. Smith talked about is the 9th to 12th graders. The WyldLife is made up of seventh and eighth graders. Parenting teens and teen moms make up the Young Lives group.

Sponsors usually try to get the new members to go to camp. The camps are in Arizona, Texas and Colorado, and many of the young people have never flown before. Young Life operates 24 camps across the United States and Canada. At a weekend camp during the school year. or a week during the summer, there are hiking, boating, biking, swimming, climbing through rope courses, and speeding around go-cart tracks.

At camp, they often meet in groups to discuss ideas and questions about their faith, or to explore the Bible.

Each local area has its own committee of adults that "believe in the mission of Young Life." Committees are made up of doctors, lawyers, teachers, pastors, "and lots of moms and dads who care about their kids."

Young Life is not officially connected to any particular church but "believes church is very important part of nurturing a relationship with Christ."

Staff and leaders "come from many denomination...and (they) encourage kids to become involved in the churches that are most familiar to their families."

One of the local girls walked from her house to the Alternative School, with a stroller.

They also have dinners with teens taking the leftovers home to their parents, or to whoever they are living with."

Ms. Smith said the founder of Young Life died of cancer. But some of his last words were that "Young Life is about Jesus."

Scott Walker Gives Report On Growth at Shared Blessings

Scott Walker, newly appointed Executive Director of Shared Blessings, gave an update on the organization and its growth, last week.

Shared Blessings clothes over 1,000 people each month. And it is supported by more than 15 churches and growing.

"You've heard the name, Walker said. Shared Blessings

was started 10 years ago by Devonna Edwards, as an agency providing clothing for children.

Today, it is supported by area churches, civic clubs, businesses, corporations and individuals. Although its primary help is still though the distribution of clothing, it also provides food, furniture, household goods, and emergency funds. Shared

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Gov. Ron Peterson & Brett Smith
Photo by George Lampton

Byrd could not remember exactly how much was raised, it provided Paul Harris Fellows for all former club presidents who were still active in the club. Jim Hewitt had been chairman of the drive, which took about two years.) (T.A. called back Monday afternoon and said the club set a goal for Polio

Plus of \$25,465. We raised \$37,146.)

The district governor said a survey shows that 90 percent of Rotary members have never asked another person to join.

He said that figure runs true about everywhere.

People in numerous countries do not have clean water or adequate food.

There are 30,000 children who die every day, of preventable reasons. As a club, “we can change that,” he said.

“Think about some of the things you could do, because several clubs in the district, together, have dug 118 wells, he said.

You can sign up for the district newsletter, he said, and see some of the projects other clubs are doing. “There may be an opportunity for your club to participate,” he stated.

“We have to pay rent on this earth, every so often,” he said.

Student dictionaries are a good project, and there are many ways to promote the Four-Way Test, he said.

Don’t forget classification talks. “Be proud of your vocation.”

“Keep Rotary strong and make dreams real,” he said.

“I’ve enjoyed being with you.”



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Blessings has provided surplus clothing to Feed the Children and to ministries all around the world.

Anyone needing assistance can visit the building at 1558 South Main, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month. For clothing, anyone can visit once a month and receive up to seven outfits, for a \$2 donation a month.

In four hours, before school started this year, 2,000 children received backpacks with school supplies, Walker said.

Shared Blessings is working with churches and with Habitat for Humanity, for homes for the homeless.

It is now involved in identifying the needs of the area.

Walker read a testimony from one mother who “came

through” the area. Some people just ask for a word of prayer.

The agency serves the downhearted, single moms, and provided the first prom dress for a girl whose family could not afford a dress any other way, Walker said.

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was ill at a national convention, and all he could speak was a one-word message, Walker said. It was “Others.”

“We were not created to serve ourselves, but others,” he said.

There are no financial qualifications to shop at Shared Blessings.

He introduced Bill and Earlene Dowell, executive directors. The facility is “meeting needs and changing lives,” Walker said.

Attendance, Visitors and Handshakers *And the Great Big Pot*

Attendance, Visitors and Handshakers And the Great Big Pot

Last week there were 44 present at our meeting. High school guests were Sabrina Burns and John Harrison. Bill and Earlene Dowell from Shared Blessings, were guests for the program.

There were 38 present on Oct. 14.

On Oct. 7 there were 35 persons present.

HANDSHAKERS-Bob Thornton had the dollar last week, and gave it to Lynn Edwards.

Larry Bishop had the buck on Oct. 14, and to those of us who are hearing impaired, it sounded like he said no one shook his hand, so he stuck the dollar in his picket.

Brett Smith fooled around with the cards in the Big Pot, last week, but couldn’t come up with the joker. So there should be some cash left.

Doug Auld drew the wrong card one week and Clyde Filskow may have drawn a card the other week, if there is such a person. But no one won anything, if anyone knew how much was in the pot....