



*The Rotary Club of Des Moines is an association of community leaders who are making our community and the world a better place to live, learn, work and play.*

# Deeper Thoughts

August 4, 2010

## Nigeria making impressive progress against polio

Bill Gates says he is impressed with the progress Nigeria has made against polio and urges partners in the fight to eradicate the disease not to let up.

Gates, cochair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, shared personal observations from his June trip to Nigeria on his blog, Gates Notes. The post, along with others about polio, are appearing this week on the Gates Foundation blog, Foundation Notes.

In addition, the Gates Foundation website is highlighting two videos produced in June for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.



A child receives oral polio vaccine in Kano, Nigeria

"I was very excited to visit northern Nigeria in June, because the progress there since my last visit in February 2009 has been especially impressive," Gates writes. As of 20 July, only six cases of the wild poliovirus have been reported in Nigeria this year, compared with 346 during the same period in 2009.

The Gates Foundation has given Rotary US\$355 million in grants for its work to eradicate polio. In response, Rotary has committed to raising \$200 million. As of 30 June, Rotary has raised \$141.2 million.

On his blog, Gates says he spent most of his first day in the northern state of Kano, which has been vulnerable to polio, meeting with community leaders, visiting a local health center, and stopping at a school where students were studying the Quran in Arabic.

"On the streets and most everywhere else we went, I noticed so many young

children around," he writes. "Nigeria has more people by far than any other African country, and more than 40 percent of them are under the age of 15. That makes polio immunization a big challenge."

Gates adds that during his trip, he learned about creative approaches to inform Nigerians about polio immunization. Pro-immunization messages are being woven into the plotlines of popular TV shows, and one of Nigeria's major mobile phone service providers has agreed to send about 25 million free text messages about polio and health.

He also mentions the importance of engaging local leaders and says the 'commitment from Nigeria's leaders has been crucial' to the fight against polio in the country. While in the capital city of Abuja, he had dinner with the minister of health, and the next day met with the nation's new president, Goodluck Jonathan.

One of the videos on the Gates Foundation website praises efforts that have reduced the threat of polio by 99 percent but stresses the need to finish the job. "If you were an athlete, you would never only run 99 percent of the race," a voiceover on the video announces. "An astronaut wouldn't fly only 99 percent of the way to the moon, and a firefighter would never just put out 99 percent of a fire."

### What's up, today?

Mary Ellen Stone from KCSARC will be our speaker.

### NEXT WEEK - GREETERS

Bonnie Verhunce and Bob Sheckler

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### August Birthdays!

Dave Loft - 8/15  
Alison Pacunski - 8/22

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## President's Corner by Al Isaac



Are there really vampires in Forks? Are the Native Americans around La Push descended from wolves? And do a few revert to their wolf persona when confronted by vampires or other threats? Our teenage visiting grand

niece houseguest was consumed with these and related questions. So, as I mentioned last week, we went there to find out. On Thursday, a beautiful sunshiny day, we launched for the Olympic Peninsula via the Seattle-Bremerton ferry and the Hood Canal Bridge. The ferry ride was calm and picturesque, especially through the passage south around Bainbridge Island and in to Bremerton. That passage seems too narrow for the aircraft carriers undergoing refit in Bremerton Naval Shipyard, but, obviously skilled seamen made the passage safely. And as we departed the ferry we saw an unexpected pleasure: some beautiful artwork on the wall of the ferry exit ramp tunnel. Then on to Hood Canal, the new bridge, and a link up with Highway 101, a pretty route lined with alternating open spaces, and tree lined passages, many with water views.

As we entered Port Angeles, the "Twilight-New Moon-Eclipse" story theme emerged again. Where did Bella find her book on vampires, have a dinner date and movie with Edward or buy her prom dress? We found all these places; walked through the bookstore, gazed through the restaurant window, found the theater, and even saw a replica of the prom dress, thanks to the shop proprietor who opened a bit early for a teenager peering through the window! Finally, we completed the Port Angeles investigation and made our way to Forks.

The route became particularly beautiful as we left Port Angeles and passed by the Olympic National

Forest and within feet of Lake Crescent along a 12 mile stretch as rich in old growth timber and crystal clear waters as one will ever see. This beauty gave way to some rolling hills and coastal grassland interspersed with forest growth as we neared Forks. The "Welcome to Forks" sign was the first stop for pictures. Then on to see Bella's pick-up, her father's house, the High School, the police station, the Cullen's (vampire's) house, and Dr. Cullen's parking spot at the hospital. Many other travelers were on the hunt as well. Each of these spots had a good representation of tourists, mostly in the generation of our grand niece. But, alas, the sun was again shining brightly, and the real vampires were nowhere to be found.

Well, if we can't find a vampire, perhaps we'll see some evidence of the story in La Push, one of the western most sites in the state. We saw the cliff where Jacob and friends, and later, Bella, jumped into the Pacific Ocean. But no human or animal evidence of the "Twilight" theme during our stop. So, what to conclude? In a stretch, and to humor our grand niece, and have some summer fun:

- It may be a fictional truth that vampires and wolves inhabit the area; it is certainly true that the "Twilight" story has caught hold of many.
- The story seems fair to both sides in representing their good sides
- The story has brought goodwill and better friendships to the previously obscure town of Forks, and
- It arguably has been beneficial to the many involved



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## Membership Moment by Ric Jacobson

**Membership Development:** Last week we covered Induct. Please be sure to welcome Dr. Bob Larsen and Vince Koester as our newest members.

Our next subject to cover is **Orient**. It loosely means to rise in the east, or in our context, to help the new member become oriented to Rotary, our club and it's members. We all play a part in this process. *All Board Members need to take the time to find out if newer members would be interested in their particular area of responsibility.* The sooner we find out the sooner we will have productive new members.

Thank You for what you do.

Ric Jacobson

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## The RI president's monthly message

### ***Building Communities – Bridging Continents***

Several Rotarians have asked me how I chose the RI theme for my presidential year, so let me explain. After reviewing all the past themes, I decided to search for a few words that would fulfill two objectives – to give outsiders a glimpse of our purpose, and at the same time to make Rotarians proud of their membership.

I searched for words to describe the passion, the creativity, and the generosity of Rotarians. And as I sought the right words, I kept in mind that Rotary is a spirit of service as well as an organization of Rotary clubs, and that we need to share our core values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership with other people and organizations. I considered many words and phrases. The four words I finally selected to convey Rotary's current mission and highlight our achievements describe what Rotarians do best, which is *Building Communities – Bridging Continents*.

I hope you agree those four words aptly reflect who we are and what we do as Rotarians. We are a unique organization and certainly one of the best in the world. We build the spirit and resources of our local communities in an important way, and we are a prominent player on the world stage with PolioPlus and our international service projects.

Rotary has changed the world, and Rotarians will continue to change it in a positive way. The formula is simple: For us to succeed, all we need to do is to focus our best efforts on doing what Rotarians are passionate about and what Rotarians are the best in the world at doing, which is *Building Communities – Bridging Continents*.



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## 2010 Council on Legislation

The Council on Legislation, Rotary's "parliament," meets every three years to deliberate and act upon all proposed enactments and resolutions submitted by clubs, district conferences, the General Council and Conference of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, and the RI Board.

Here are a few highlights from the 2010 Council:

- E-clubs became a permanent part of Rotary International.
- A fifth Avenue of Service was added: New Generations Service.
- Transferring and former Rotarians must obtain a certificate from the board of the previous club confirming the prospective member's prior membership in that club.
- No club may limit membership in the club on the basis of sexual orientation.
- The RI Board was requested — through a resolution — to consider proposing legislation to the next Council to create a new type of membership: satellite club membership.

Visit the RI website for more in-depth information on the results of the 2010 Council on Legislation.

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## Rotary E-Learning Center

Rotary International provides training opportunities for all Rotarians. The Rotary E-Learning Center is your online resource for the independent study of Rotary, particularly for new members and club officers. Rotary International also produces training resources for a variety of training seminars held throughout the year for district leaders and for club leaders and members.

Here is the link to the learning center.

<http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/Training/ForAllRotarians/Pages/elearning.aspx>



## Rotary Club of Des Moines

P.O. Box 98073  
Des Moines, WA 98198

### Board Of Directors:

**President:** Al Isaac

**Secretary:** Pat Bosmans

**Treasurer:** Brian Snure

**President-Elect:** Mark Rusnak

**Past President:** Lisa Meinecke

### Committee Chairs:

**Community Service:** Steve Swank

**Educational Svc.:** Catherine Carbone-Rogers

**International Service:** Mark Rusnak

**Foundation:** Jim Polhamus

**Membership:** Ric Jacobson

**Club Service:** Dave Markwell

**Public Relations:** Michael Allan

**Programs:** Janel Stoneback

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Dave Loft

**Major Fundraiser Chair:** Brain Snure/  
Lisa Meinecke

*Board meetings are held at 7:30 a.m., on the  
second Tuesday of each month.*

**We are on the web!**  
[www.dmrotary.org](http://www.dmrotary.org)

### RI's statement on diversity

Rotary International recognizes the value of diversity within individual clubs. Rotary encourages clubs to assess those in their communities who are eligible for membership, under existing membership guidelines, and to endeavor to include the appropriate range of individuals in their clubs. A club that reflects its community with regard to professional and business classification, gender, age, religion, and ethnicity is a club with the key to its future.

# Sponsors Needed!

The Poverty Bay Blues and Brews Fest is almost here and we still need sponsors. If you would like to become a sponsor or know of someone who might be interested, please let Ric, Dan or Lisa know. Sponsorship levels begin as low as \$250.00. Thank you for your support in this fundraiser, which will allow children in the Highline Schools the experience of playing a musical instrument and benefiting from music4life!



## Community Service Update by Steve Swank

The goal and objective of Community Service is to develop and implement programs that benefit the community while creating fellowship between the members of our club. The Roto-Mow Project, the Weekend Back-Pack Project are great examples of these types of projects.

Along with the joy of completing these projects, it provides an opportunity for the Rotary Club of Des Moines to become visible in the community and educate the general public as to the purpose of Rotary.

A perfect example of the public becoming aware of what our club does happened just two weeks ago. I received a phone call from an individual from the Marcus Whitman Church who was interested in completing a yard work project similar to what our club does with Roto-Mow. This person requested information about how to organize and contact the individuals that may need help. I explained our process to her and informed her that if she made contact with the homeowners I would meet with her at their homes and help her to lay out a plan for her and her team members. A few weeks went by, and I hadn't heard anything, when I received a call, from her, *asking me if I had found any homes so that they could do their project that Saturday (three days away!).* I was a bit puzzled by the request and told her that I would see what I could do. Luckily, since I have the list of homes that we have worked at in the past, it allowed me to quickly make phone calls to two people that we had helped in June and they were both willing to have yard work completed on that upcoming Saturday. Their event was a success and it was good to know that *the Community Service Committee can also be used as a community resource.*

The other benefit from our assistance is that Marcus Whitman Church will be participating with the Rotary Club of Des Moines in Roto-Mow 2011. Keep up the great work.