



# The Greenville ROTARIAN

*"Service above self"*

Published Semi-Monthly by The Rotary Club of Greenville, SC · PO Box 3537, Greenville, SC 29608

## GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE TEAM TO ADDRESS CLUB

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program of The Rotary Foundation is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men



and women between the ages of 25 and 40 and in the early years of their professional lives. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas.

This year District 7750 had the pleasure of participating in a Group Study Exchange with District 2200 which covers the southern portion of Spain. Our outbound team, comprised of a Rotarian Team Leader and five non-Rotarian Team Members, had to "suffer through" a four week stay in the Canary Islands, southwest of Spain, off the Moroccan coast. At our meeting on July 10 the team will share their experience representing our District, state, and nation on this exciting journey.

Bert Strange, a member of the Rotary Club of Greenville, is the Team Leader. Members of the team are Catherine Dillon (ESOL Lead Teacher in the Greenville County Schools; sponsored by the Pleasantburg Rotary Club), Chris King (Support Analyst/ Installer for Activant Solutions; also sponsored by the Pleasantburg Club), Nic Lane (H.R. Director for Miliken & Co.; sponsored by the Rotary Club of Seneca), Tong Wagner (Math Professor at Greenville Technical College; sponsored by the Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast), and Carla Witt (Mechanical/ Nuclear Engineer with Washington Safety Management Group; sponsored by the Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise).

Volume 53 Number 1

Issue Date: July 5, 2007 Next Meeting: July 10, 2007  
12:30 p.m. At the Westin Poinsett Hotel, Gold Room

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear Rotarians,*

I am just back from the Rotary International Convention in Salt Lake City. I am grateful to the Club for providing me the opportunity as President –Elect of the club to attend the annual convention. About 17,000 Rotarians from all over the world were in Utah this past week and I came away with two distinct impressions:

First, Rotary as an international service organization is successfully doing good things. Everywhere I went I heard conversation about service projects of all kinds—from water to relief to literacy, etc. Did you know that Rotary is the largest single non-governmental source of scholarships in the world? And because of the size and success of our organization, Bill Gates, Sr., Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation told us that “powers that be” listen when we speak, thus magnifying the efforts of each club and each Rotarian.

Second, I have never been around such a group of happy, positive people. Oh, I know that conventions are often great times for letting your hair down, and there are folks out there that are so into Rotary that their underwear has the Rotary emblem (not that I’ve ever seen any, mind you). But this was not superficial, or put on or inane. These folks were positive and excited about the role that Rotary was playing in serving the world and especially the role that they and their local clubs were playing.

I do believe that there is a payback for service above self, and it is that you can find personal satisfaction and fulfillment in giving and helping. That translates to a positive outlook on life and happiness. I’m in. Hope you’ll join me as we work together during the coming year to make a difference here and elsewhere. The operative words are “work” and “together”. The payback will be worth it.

*Neil*



## A NOTE ON UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The Rotary Club of Greenville will be inviting 2008 presidential candidates to speak at upcoming meetings.

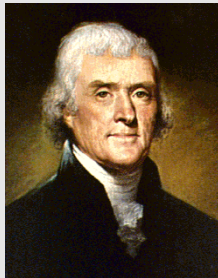
As one of the first primary states, South Carolina plays an important role in the upcoming presidential nominating process. We plan to have two Democratic candidates and two Republican candidates address the club prior to the South Carolina Presidential Primaries currently scheduled for early 2008.

The candidates we invite will be determined by a poll of our club membership. You will receive an email in the near future explaining the selection process and soliciting your ranking of candidates from both parties.

Please contact Vickie Pitman at the Rotary Office if do not receive email so that you may participate in the selection process.

## WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?

Most countries do not begin with a statement of why they are beginning. Most cannot produce a document that says why the country is being built, and for what it will stand. Of those that do begin in this way, one has stated a powerful defense of human freedom, based upon the facts of human nature, applicable to all human beings, in all times.



The United States of America has a birthday. It celebrates the adoption, by an elected assembly, of a certain resolution. It celebrates the "Unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America." This is the Declaration of Independence. It was adopted on July 4, 1776. It created a nation by a purposeful act, upon a specific day. It built that nation upon a foundation of universal principle. The principle referred not merely to the people who would live in that nation. It applied to all people, in all places, in all times.

The Declaration remains the most noble, famous, and powerful statement of the basis of government ever written. It is unique. It has shaped a people and a nation, and it has helped to shape the world.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

“In order for Rotary to continue to meet the ever-increasing demand for humanitarian service, we must continue our work toward membership retention, growth, and development,”



says Wilkinson. “We must build stronger clubs, and keep Rotarians informed, connected, and involved.”

Rotary International President, Wilfred Wilkinson is planning a major focus on membership development this Rotary year! To promote this, he is asking Rotary members to consider attending one of seven presidential conferences about sharing the magic of Rotary. The conferences will be held in Canada and the United States in July and August, and each one opens with an evening reception followed by a one-day meeting.

Conference locations and dates are: Philadelphia, 13-14 July; Nashville, Tennessee, 20-21 July; South Bend, Indiana, 27-28 July; Denver, Colorado, 3-4 August; Vancouver, British Columbia, 10-11 August; San Jose, California, 17-18 August; and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 24-25 August.

The conferences are intended for all Rotarians who are committed to strengthening Rotary membership, but especially club and district membership development committee members, club presidents and officers, and district-level officers including governors. For more information, go to the Rotary International website.

## *The Greenville Rotarian*

Newsletter of The Rotary Club of Greenville, SC

Organized January 7, 1916

Volume 53, No. 1 July 5, 2007

Wilfred Wilkinson, RI President Myles Golden, District Governor  
Neil Rabon, President Jason Elliott, President-Elect  
Paul Wickensimer, Secretary

Walt Kivett, Treasurer

Kelle Corvin, Bulletin Editor

