



Governor's Monthly Letter

RY 2013-2014

June 2014 Issue

The Governor's Message



The Message of District Governor Luiz "Louie" Ticman during the District Handover.

Greetings!!!

Rotary Year 2013-2014 was a year of change as well as challenges.

One year ago today, or 364 days ago to be exact, in this same venue, the First Class Team took its oath of office and pledged to Engage Rotary, and Change Lives. This, we had to do under a new Rotary landscape, under a new set up in view of the changes Rotary would like to implement worldwide, for good reasons, and these are: Future Vision, new grant model of Global and District Grants, VTT replacing GSE, and Rotary Club Central to name a few; and the challenges we had to confront on the domestic front: District 3800 Strategic Plan/ membership goal: membership challenge where three clubs will be lost; 105 members will be lost as well; and the effects of global warming and climate change impacting our operations, and our service projects.

Fellow Rotarians and guests, please join me as I take you down memory lane (on what confronted us at that time, what we promised to do), and as I share with you some highlights on what the First Class Presidents, District Officers, and Rotarians, what we all, have collectively accomplished during the Rotary Year. Please allow me to occasionally share my thoughts on what I believe may impact and would be beneficial to our district in the future.

On membership - at the start of the year, our district was confronted with what we labeled as membership challenge. Undaunted, we unraveled our membership strategy where instead of lowering our target, we even set our aim higher, and aimed as well to form at least four (4) new clubs coupled with a twin strategy on recruitment and retention. As a result, as of May 31, 2014, we were 2,492 strong, with 89 clubs. This is only 8 members shy of our goal. Then on June 24, RC San Juan Neopolitan was officially chartered, for another twenty five (25) new members which would equate to a total of 2,517 members. This is 17 members more than the 2,500 mark which was our target. Hurray to our membership committee, the FCPs, and the whole district for this feat!!

The unofficial tally on the screen though further shows that our district will have 2,442 members, inclusive of the twenty five (25) new members from our new club, that is after the usual "end game membership cleansing dynamics". Still a big achievement for our district. (To my mind, if we are to really grow in numbers, cleansing or delisting whenever necessary should be done with extra caution, should follow certain basic procedures, and should be aligned perfectly well with the twin strategy on recruitment & retention.)

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We have formed five (5) new clubs for a total of 90 clubs as of today with one (1) more new club in the pipeline, the Rotary E-Club of Wack Wack which will hopefully find the light of day this coming Rotary year, when we will all "Light Up Rotary".

On TRF - the RI Presidential Citation mandates a goal of at least 100 US\$ per capita, our district raised the bar by setting a goal of 350,000 US\$. Today, our total TRF contribution stands at 438,761 US\$ which translates to roughly 183 US\$ per capita. But wait, I had just been informed that total contributions is now at 447,000 us dollars and that we have another major donor in the person of future district governor, Rtn. Benny Pe.

Our participation in different foundation programs and grants is exceptional as well with 15 global grants and all 12 district grants approved. This is despite the snags attendant to new systems and set ups. Noteworthy is the fact that we were able to reciprocate to our usual donor districts by playing the role of their international partner this time. This serves as our reciprocal "investment" on the partnerships our districts have cultivated and continue to nurture.

Our commitment and adherence to transparency, accountability and good stewardship of TRF resources is immaculate at 100% compliance to grants reports requirements. All projects that are supported by grants were either closed or are considered "in progress" and closely monitored with due diligence.

On VTT or Vocational Training Team, we successfully hosted a VTT from District 2680, Japan headed by PP Hiroto Ashioka on November 17-30, 2013. To my mind, this program which replaced the GSE or Group Study Exchange is "what the doctor ordered" to optimize results and benefits vis a vis utilization of foundation resources. It is about either teaching or learning things that would be used and/or passed on to others to promote common good in the communities. With this, sustainability is likewise assured.

In support of HARPDI's efforts to help Yolanda victims, we unanimously approved a resolution to appeal to the foundation for two (2) million US dollars to be used for reconstruction of damaged school buildings, and to allow utilization of grants for infrastructure projects on a limited and specific purpose in the areas that were affected.

On club and district administration - Rotary's new management tool: the Rotary Club Central which provides key leaders real time information, was officially launched in September 2013. Our Rotary leaders in both club and district levels, slowly but surely traversed the learning curve. Our district now has sufficient mass of leaders with exposure and experience for a successful transfer of technology, even to non-techie senior/seasoned Rotarians. To my mind, the Rotary Club Central could render the mid-year review less relevant, if not totally irrelevant, in the not too distant future, save the qualitative analysis and the fellowship.

In line with our thrust on environmental protection, we enjoined clubs to minimize use of printed copies of the traditional bulletins for club meetings and emphasized use of e-bulletin instead to help save not only papers but trees as well.

On April 23, 2014, our district demonstrated its capacity for self-healing. Instead of brushing aside or ducking the issues and concerns on the selection of our District Governor Nominee, we grabbed the bull by

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its horns and held a District Resolutions Meeting (or DRM) where we encouraged free and democratic debates on the resolution proposing that we shift to ballot by mail from our current mode which is the DNC or District Nominating Committee. During that DRM, we likewise addressed issues on equitable representation in the DNC. Moreover, our eyes were opened wider on the necessity of periodic revisit and review of the Terms of Reference (or TOR) for the selection of our DGN. Lastly, during this unique and rare “exercise”, we have also put in place the mechanism by which District 3800 will henceforth select its vice governor, a recent Council on Legislation (or COL) innovation that manifests the dynamism of our organization.

On engaging Rotarians in our activities such as breakfast meetings, Rotary Academy sessions, Mid-Year Review and other related seminars, we practiced and employed the policy of inviting, as much as possible, only the “right persons” to attend these types of activities to promote efficiency and cost effectiveness aside from precluding “Rotary-fatigue” among our members.

For the RI Presidential Citation, 55 of our clubs (out of 85) received recognition as outstanding club with distinction (65%) while 19 clubs were outstanding clubs (22.4%) for a total of 74 clubs or 87% receiving the RI Presidential Citation.

Public image - in promoting the image of rotary, our clubs maximized use of the social media (Facebook, Twitter, website etc.) aside from the traditional print, broadcast and outdoor. We reached out as well to the new generation or the youth, and to Rotary's supporters, donors and/or partners including: individuals, corporation and government agencies.

And the best public image tool of them all, our service projects. The footprints of typhoon Ondoy and the unusual flooding resulting from even ordinary habagat or monsoon rains which brings socio-economic paralysis for hours, and worse for days, forebode of more calamities and catastrophe to come where poor nations are most vulnerable. Against this backdrop, we came up with the district's flagship project on environmental protection thru livelihood and entrepreneurial ventures and won the squanderers of the environment to our cause of protecting and preserving mother earth with them playing the twin role of beneficiaries of livelihood programs, and environment protectors at the same time. Several ventures under our menu of livelihood projects had been launched, both in the uplands of the Marikina Watershed in Sierra Madre, and in the lowlands of the cities and municipalities in our district. They now serve as templates for practical, workable, meaningful and mutually beneficial partnerships between the squanderers on one end such as: kaingeros or slash and burn farmers, mag-uuling or charcoal makers; and the advocates such as: Rotary and other NGOs, and government agencies (DENR, LLDA, DTI, LGUs).

Our clubs have likewise made significant inroads in addressing different concerns in the communities which fall under the six areas of focus:

1. Peace and conflict prevention and resolution
2. Disease prevention and treatment
3. Water and sanitation
4. Maternal and child health
5. Basic education and literacy

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6. Economic and community development. For District 3800, we added two additional areas of focus: flagship project on environmental protection is number 6a, and Boat for Lives for Yolanda victims is 6b.

Fellow Rotarians and guests, so much has been done by Rotarians of our district to so many people in so many communities here and abroad in the different areas of focus. Furthermore, when super typhoon Yolanda brought untold suffering to people in Central Visayas, as decent and caring human beings, we immediately rallied behind the cause of saving lives and limbs by providing basic relief necessities such as food, water, medicine, blankets and clothing. We, first and foremost, quickly heeded the S.O.S. call for financial support of District Governor Ed Chiongbian of District 3860. But that was not enough as we saw the urgency of helping the victims, majority of whom are fishermen, recover their lives and their dignity. Hence our Boat for Lives project was born. Today, we have provided fishing boats to 86 families in Panitugan, Bantayan, Cebu (D-3860), 45 fishermen in Ajuy, Iloilo (D-3850), 10 beneficiary families in Cadiz and Magalona, Negros Occidental (D-3850), and to this hour, 27 boats are currently being fabricated for fishermen in Marabut, Eastern Samar (D-3860).

In closing, fellow Rotarians, a few thoughts on global warming and climate change vis-a-vis Rotary. The recent disasters in our country have made us more conscious of the need to be better prepared and above all be always ready to help those who might be affected. With this realization, we Rotarians must clearly understand what our role/s should be, what our responses should be as a non-government player in disasters, tragedies, or crisis of this magnitude. Necessarily, we must understand the dynamics of complex emergencies such as the Yolanda aftermath as well as the social, political and economic underpinnings of these tragedies. And it should also dawn on us that complex emergencies usually do not follow the relief-rehabilitate-develop continuum but occasionally experience zigzags along the way. A strong understanding of these contexts enables the use of strategies and approaches that are mitigating and helpful rather than complicating.

Fellow Rotarians, individually, we can only do so much, but collectively we can move mountains. This is what we did, we moved mountains, we moved mountains in keeping with the tradition of excellence, the culture built, and the DNA passed on to us by our past district leaders, our PDGs. Kudos to everyone!!!

Fellow Rotarians and our ever supportive spouses, it has been a great pleasure and honor for me to serve and lead District 3800 during this year full of change and challenges. You all did a great job beyond expectation.

Thank you and may God bless us all!!



District Reminders

By District Secretary Danilo "Dan" Santos



REMINDERS FOR CLUBS

- 1) Please submit your duly accomplished SAR and remittance of payment accordingly. Second Semester Semi-Annual dues = \$ 26.50 per member. The current exchange rate the month of June is PHP 44.00 to a \$ 1.00.
- 2) Please remit payment for second semester subscription to the Philippine Rotary Magazine (PRM) at PHP 270.00 per member.
- 3) Kindly report of any change in your club meeting day, venue and time.
- 4) Post your E-Bulletin in our Club Bulletin Hub (facebook.com/groups/cbhrotary3800) not later than the 15th of the following month.

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