



Conference Gazette

District 7610 Conference Announcements

Vol. 1 No. 2

December 2011



Put A Piedmont Virginia Spring In Your Plans

Fellowship, outstanding service projects, a review of a year well done, and lots of fun are in the cards for Rotarians attending the annual Spring conference of District 7610.

Mark your calendars: March 29-April 1, 2012 in Charlottesville, and make reservations on the District website beginning early in January.

Wine country tasting tours, a rocking 1960's era Sock Hop, the ever-popular Hall of Friendship and Project Showcase (both of which provide clubs opportunities to show off their work of 2011-2012) are all featured on the agenda. Two outstanding service projects are planned, with opportunities on both Friday and Saturday afternoons for rolling up your sleeves and helping out.

An outstanding speaker heads the lineup for the Saturday Foundation Luncheon and the Rotary International President's Representative will come from Connecticut to participate.

Rotarians from the three Charlottesville clubs will act as hosts for the weekend and have invited everyone to an Early Bird welcoming hospitality event on Thursday evening.



Scattered throughout this issue of the *Conference Gazette* is information about programs, tours and special events to help make registration choices easier.

Also, the *Conference Gazette* gives guidelines and applications for displays at the Hall of Friendship, the gift basket auction for PolioPlus, and the Project Showcase, a Friday morning snapshot of club highlights for the year.

How To Plan A Conference

"It takes a village" - a 20+ member committee-to plan a conference. With two major concerns: affordability and a worthwhile program, committee members start work a year in advance.

The actual "registration fee" for a conference is surprisingly low. Typically, \$35 per registrant covers the costs of materials and events such as the conference service projects. All other costs associated with the registration charges are for food at the meals served during the three-day event.

Extras, like wine tours, a Behind the Scenes Tour of Monticello, and excursions to microbreweries are reserved individually at their actual costs.





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Showcase Club Projects

By Glynn Bates

Clubs will again this year have the opportunity to showcase their signature projects during the opening Plenary Session of the District Conference on Friday. This segment of the program is the Club Project Showcase (the old “Club Snapshots”), with each club’s presentation limited to three minutes and accompanied by PowerPoint slides.

Space and time are limited, so clubs will be accepted in the order that applications are received. Whether a club has one signature project, or several, each club is invited to submit an application. The challenge for clubs granted a slot in the line-up will be condensing the descriptions of their projects to a three-minute showcase. The fast-paced presentations will provide the entire district with quick glimpses of the best of Rotary clubs’ activities and engagements.

Clubs are encouraged to review their accomplishments with consideration for applying to present at the Project Showcase.

Applications will be on the district website <mailto:rotary7610.org> in January, with acceptance of completed forms beginning January 15. Clubs are encouraged to select a Project Showcase representative who will begin to organize for the presentation. Details of what is required, and directions for submitting the application form and the PowerPoint slides, are on the application form.

Packing Backpacks

There are school children in the Charlottesville area, and in every area, who don’t have basic necessities for a successful school life. One of the DisCon 2012 service projects will help meet that need for a lot of children. Nelda Mohr (Stafford RC) is heading a drive to fill backpacks with school supplies AND with some food items.

Clubs are asked to donate any Rotary dictionaries left over from distribution this year and to start collecting: pencils, erasers, nutrition bars, note paper, ballpoint pens-any backpack item for elementary school children.

Contact Nelda at staffordrotary@yahoo.com for more ideas.





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Hall of Friendship Exhibits at DisCon 2011

Hall of Friendship Tables Exhibit Club/Project Success Stories

By Sue Liberman



Plan now to exhibit your Club's outstanding project(s) at *DisCon 2012*. Reserve your space in the Hall of Friendship and join other District Rotary Clubs, Rotary Service Organizations, Action Groups and Fellowships who are securing their booths...now! Space is limited so don't miss out on this special opportunity to brag a bit and show off your Club's accomplishments. Exhibitors will staff their booths during the times the "Hall" is open...before Receptions, between Sessions and before Dinners... a perfect time to showcase your projects and network with other Club members throughout our District. Participating Clubs are encouraged to augment their displays with electronic video presentations, viewable laptop computers, flat screen monitors, DVD players, etc. Deadline for submitting your request for Exhibit Space is midnight, February 15th. No requests can be accepted after that date.

*For additional information and questions regarding the House of Friendship, please contact:
Sue Liberman... sue@branchlands.com... or ...Glenn Yarborough... WGYARC@aol.com*

Upon completing the form below, please email to Sue or Glen

**Request for Exhibit Space
(Table Size...6')**

Club or Organization: _____

Description of Exhibit and Project(s): _____

Require Electrical Outlet? ___Yes ___No **If yes, bring your own extension cord**

Name of Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Private *Behind the Scenes* Tour

By Brad Bodager

This is an opportunity to view Monticello, led by experienced guides, for a comprehensive tour of Mr. Jefferson's three story mansion.

While many of us may have visited Monticello in the past, our guests will have the opportunity to travel by motor coach from the Boar's Head Inn to the Monticello Visitor Center, where they will be transported by mini-buses to the top of the mountain and greeted by guides in two groups of twenty, to experience the house on its three main levels and basement passageway level. This private tour will provide the added dimension of the second and third floors, including access to the iconic Dome Room on the third floor with its huge round windows with views toward Carter's Mountain. Because of the diminutive size of the bedrooms, nursery and sitting rooms on these levels and the very narrow staircases, the two tours will start at opposite levels and participants must be able to negotiate Mr. Jefferson's three full flights of very narrow stairs with shallow returns (both up and down).

Following the guided tour, participants will have time to walk around the west oval gardens and the lower dependencies of the main mansion before returning to the visitor center by mini-van. There will be sufficient time for others who may choose to walk down the hill and back to visitor center along the newly re-commissioned gardens and buildings of Mulberry Row and past the Jefferson burial obelisk.

Advance registration on the District website and payment of \$68 (all inclusive) per person is required on a first come, first served basis for tours on Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

Departure time: 1 p.m.

Arrival and mini-van to Mansion: 1:45-1:55 p.m.

Tours commence at house: 2 pm

Guided Tour Duration: 1 1/4 hour

Visitor Center Displays and Gift Shop: 3:30-4:15p.m.

Departure for Boar's Head Inn: 4:15 p.m.

Arrival at Boar's Head Inn: 5:00 p.m.



Escorted Winery Tours

By Brad Bodager

Join a group of 14 adults for an escorted tour by van of three of Albemarle County's top wineries – all with remarkable wines and views. The group will travel west on Route 250 from the Boar's Head Inn to the first stop at Pollak Winery (pollakvineyards.com) with a vista overlooking a lake toward the exposed rocks on the ridge line leading up to the Blue Ridge Parkway; followed by Veritas Vineyard & Winery (veritaswines.com) with its pristine setting in the Afton valley near Nellysford and concluding with an extended stop at Pippin Hill Farm & Winery (pippinhillfarm.com) with its overlook to the 5000 acre Bundoran Estate. The group will enjoy wine tastings with flights of whites and reds from among the top Virginia varietals, including Viognier, Pinot Gris, Petit Manseng, Cabernet Franc, Meritage and Petit Verdot. Cost of tastings are included with an afternoon repast of cheeses and breads to accompany the tastings, with a concluding selection of light hors d'oeuvres and a glass of the wine of your choice in the open air terrace seating at Pippin Hill Farm. You may mistake the setting for a villa in Palladio's Veneto. Limited to 14 participants at \$65 person
Departure from the Boar's Head Inn: 1:00 p.m.

Thursday and Saturday

Return to the Boar's Head Inn: 5:00 p.m.

*itinerary, order and format subject to adjustment according to weather and site capacity

** depending on interest and pre-paid registrations, an additional alternative itinerary will be offered for fourteen persons to visit the Jefferson Winery, Trump Winery and Blenheim Winery in eastern Albemarle County (Also note that each of the listed wineries will be open to the public these dates and may be visited independently; tasting charges run from \$5 to \$10 per person).

Celebrate! 250
Charlottesville
1762-2012

Menon Named RI President's Rep

Prasad Menon, PDG of District 7890 in Connecticut, has been named official representative of the Rotary International President to the District 7610 annual Conference.

Menon was born and brought up in the State of Kerala, India. He received his B.E. from University of Kerala and M.B.A. from McGill University, Montreal, Canada. After a lengthy career at Cigna Companies, Prasad retired as Vice President, Asset Management to devote more time to his Rotary activities locally and internationally.

PDG Prasad joined Rotary in 1979. He is Past President of Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club and has been its Polio Chair from 1988 to 2008. He has also chaired its Paul Harris Fellow Committee until 2009.

At the District level, Prasad was Community Service Chair from 1994 to 1997. As part of his activities, he was responsible for arranging host families for over 7,000 visiting athletes and coaches for the World Special Olympics in Connecticut. Under his leadership, Rotarians built the State's first handicapped accessible play ground for children with disabilities. He is actively involved in polio eradication activities and has participated in an NID in Northern Nigeria.



Prasad's wife Sree is a CPA and with the U.S. Department of Treasury. His son Sanjay is a Portfolio Manager for an Investment Firm in New York and daughter Meena is a second-year Law student at UCLA. Prasad and Sree are Rotary Foundation's Major Donors and Benefactors. Both Sanjay and Meena are Paul Harris Fellows.

Prasad is Past President of Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers and a Board Member of the New Hartford Art League. He is an active member of the CT Institute for Non-Violence. He is a passionate Nature and Wildlife photographer and has travelled extensively all around the globe.



For the Adventurers

There is Boar's Head Ballooning, for those who crave adventure, want to see spectacular views of the Blue Ridge and Charlottesville, and don't mind being up at "O Dark Early" in the morning.

Rick Behr, who owns Boar's Head Ballooning, will offer Rotarians and their guests the weekday, summer rate of \$175 per person, for a flight during the conference, weather permitting. Flights begin at 7 a.m. and normally last about an hour.

Just imagine soaring over the Rotunda at the University of Virginia or a close pass by Mr. Jefferson's Monticello!

Because weather holds the upper hand in this adventure, reservations should be made through boarsheadballooning.com. The basket can hold 10 people.

New Conference Feature to Highlight Photographers

By Dave Mercer

Sift through your very best Rotary-related photographs taken during the 2011-2012 Rotary year: District 7610 is set to inaugurate the **First Annual Rotary Photo Contest!**

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at DisCon 2012 at the Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville. There are five categories and \$100 will be awarded to first place in each. Second and third place will receive certificates; all winners will receive ribbons. The five winning photographs will be published in the District newsletter and on rotary7610.org and will be framed for display at the conference. Additionally, news releases will be sent to local papers of the winners

Deadline for submission of photos is March 1, so take a look at what you have or plan for what is coming in your club or at District events.

Judges will be advanced photographers, who will look at the photo's impact, composition, lighting, simplicity and Rotary content.



2011-2012 Photo Contest Rules

- Amateur photographers only.
- One print size per image.
- Digital images only.
- Basic post-processing adjustment of brightness, contrast, color and sharpness, digital manipulations are not allowed.
- Photo must be entrant's own work.
- Photographers may submit entries for any and all categories, but each entry can only be designated for one specific category.
- Photographers may submit up to 5 digital images.
- Prior contest winning entries are allowed.
- Rotary content will be verified by a Rotarian on the Conference Committee.

Deadline for submission is March 1, 2012.

Categories

- Rotary subjects only as entries.
 - Family of Rotary
 - Club Community Projects
 - Club International Projects
 - New Generations Activities
 - Any general Rotary photo
- Digital submissions must be sent via email to District Executive Secretary at execsec@rotary7610.org in digital format. CD/DVD or memory sticks of entries may be mailed to her.
- Written permission must be submitted for any child who can be identified in photograph.
- District Executive Secretary will accept, blind label entries and forward to judges.
- Digital photos must be standardized size and format and submitted with a resolution of 72dpi (pixels per inch).
- Winners will be asked to submit high resolution image (min 240dpi) for printing.



Put PolioPlus Donation In a Conference Basket

The silent auction of club-donated gift baskets was so successful at DisCon 2011, we're doing it again!

Rally your club to fix up a basket, maybe representing your area of the District, or with goodies like the McLean RC gave last year—a wheelbarrow full of whiskey. The more imaginative, the better price the basket will bring at auction.

And, the sales price will be credited towards the club's annual PolioPlus donation goal. PDG Travis White made certain in Gettysburg that each basket was appropriately credited to the club.

Jennifer King (Charlottesville RC) and Karen Rogers (Albemarle RC) are in charge of the basket auction this year. Contact Karen or Jennifer to get your basket on the list for the Boar's Head Inn.

Thursday Rotary Dinner Specials

By Brad Bodager

For guests arriving on Thursday, there are many local dining options in Charlottesville and throughout Albemarle. Among them is one of Charlottesville's newest attractions, the Commonwealth Restaurant and SkyBar. Rotarians and guests are invited to gather on the open air gallery on the top floor in the SkyBar for an informal private reception with cash bar from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. (Stairs; no elevator access) Parking in public garage on Water Street and 2nd. Registration is with conference registration at \$10 per person.

Those joining the reception have the option to make reservations for dinner at the Commonwealth Restaurant on the first level. Chef and Owner, Alex George, will offer a prix fix menu option along with the a la carte menu that changes daily. Call 434-202-7728 for dining reservations referencing *Chef George and Rotary Conference* (reservation space is limited; commonwealthskybar.com).

Also, following the reception, Rotarians may consider making dining reservations at several other restaurants, including: The C and O Restaurant 434-971-7044 515 E. Water Street (candorestaurant.com). The Downtown Grill 434-817-7080 201 W. Main Street (downtowngrille.com). Hamilton's Restaurant 434-295-6649 101 W. Main Street (hamiltonsrestaurant.com).

Additionally, for an exquisite French dining experience, l'etoile Restaurant at 817 West Main Street (1.1 mile distance from downtown mall SkyBar location) will offer a prix fix menu at \$30 per person, prepared by Chef/Owner Mark Gresge; guests may also order from a la carte menu. Reservations may be made in advance at 434-979-7957 referencing *Rotary Conference*. (letoilerestaurant.com). On street parking and in lot across the street.

For those interested in authentic Thai cuisine, a less formal option is available at Bangkok99; located just 8 miles west of the Boar's Head Inn entrance in the Blue Ridge Shopping Center (540 Radford Lane). A special three course option, as well as a la carte menu, will be available to those who identify themselves at attending the *Rotary Conference*. (434-823-5881 Bangkok99usa.com) Advance reservations are not required.

Conference Committee

Conference Chairs:

Julie Franklin (Stafford)
Wayne Murphy (Blue Ridge Mts)

House of Friendship:

Sue Liberman (Charlottesville)
Glenn Yarborough (McLean)

Magazine Ads:

Colleen Bonadonna (West Point)
PJ Maddox (Dunn Loring/Merrifield)

Service Projects:

Randy Huffman (Albemarle)
Nelda Mohr (Stafford)

Tours:

Brad Bodager (Charlottesville)

Golf Tournament:

Dave Varrelman (N Stafford/G'ville)
Peyton Ledford (Charlottesville)

Auction:

Jennifer King (Charlottesville)
Karen Rogers (Blue Ridge Mts)

Registration:

John Savage (Albemarle)

Project Showcase:

Glynn Bates (Crystal City/Pentagon)
Kay Brooks (Caroline)

Decorations:

Sandy Duckworth (Stafford)

Logistics:

Bill Cawley (West Point)