



**Lend a Hand**

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DG Ed Foster

# District 6360 Gazette

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR GOVERNOR

As we go into the last month of my year as District Governor, let me say a great big thank you to all that have made this year one of the major highlights of my 40 years as a Rotarian. I could not begin to name everyone, as this newsletter would be far too long.

We are moving in a new direction as far as the District Administration is concerned under the direction of your new District Governor, Gayland Tennis. With the new half-time administrative assistant, we should be able to be much more efficient.

There are several items that I would like to make all Rotarians aware of, but especially the Club Presidents and Secretaries:

- 1) If you have a meeting time or place change, please let the District Office know of it.
- 2) If you have an email address or mailing address change, please do the same.
- 3) Please let us know if there is anything that you need help with in regard to any Rotary question that might arise. We may not have an immediate answer, but usually we are able to find the answer.
- 4) Please look over the schedule that has been laid out for the District Governor's Official visit and if there are changes that need to be made, let us know right away.

Again, thank you all for helping me have such a successful year and I look forward to serving the District and Gayland as District Secretary.

## MEET YOUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Linda Foster

The district office has been moved to **316 Beech Street, Charlotte, MI 48813-1006** and **the phone and fax number are new: 517-543-7929**. Please make a note of this. As you will recall, this position has been reduced to half time. There is voice mail on the phone and Linda will get back to you quickly if she is not in the office when you call. She also checks the email frequently and that is a great communication method ([district6360@cablespeed.com](mailto:district6360@cablespeed.com)). Remember when you leave a message to leave complete and clear contact information.

Linda grew up in East Lansing and graduated from Michigan State University with BA and MA degrees in Education as well as an associate degree in business. She taught for many years in the Charlotte Public School System, managed Special Occasions gift store for three years, and has done book work for Town & Country Animal Hospital and Edward G. Foster, DVM, PLLC.

She is married to PDG Ed (45 years!) , has three children and four grandchildren. She is an active volunteer in the community, holding several positions in the General Federation of Women's Clubs at the local, district and state level, has served as treasurer of her church Women's Fellowship for almost 30 years, and loves to play bridge, tennis and golf. She and Ed enjoy traveling in their motor home. Ed is serving as DG Gayland's District Secretary and together they plan to try to handle your needs at the District Office.

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### NEW DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

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## LETTERS FROM OUR GSE TEAM VISIT TO DISTRICT 1850

Letter from Dick Sammis, May 23, 2004

Hello all,

hello from Lingen. I am staying with Wolfhard Schmidt in his wonderful home, where I have an upper suite to myself. Frau Schmidt is in the hospital with a small operation and doing well, which is an awkward situation for me, but not for Herr Schmidt who seems to enjoy international visitors.

Monday was a wonderful day before leaving Bremen. I had a tour of the old Courthouse (the one with the 10 commandments) by a Rotarian who was Chief Judge of the lower District Court. Not only was he able to open every door so to speak, but he was and is a wonderful man with a great sense of humor. His report to his Rotary Club that day was more about my search for a dachshund in the old town square, and his amazement that I had named my dachshund for Kaiser Wilhelm. The club enjoyed this in a genuine way and not at my expense. (As far as I could tell, when I said es gibtein dachsel, das is mein hund (dog), he thought I was referring to a fraulein on the square). I got to sit in on part of a criminal trial. There is either 1 or 3 judges depending on the seriousness of the case. Two citizens sit next to the judge and have an equal judge. The judge does most of the questioning of the witnesses. What amazed me was a one point, the defense attorney began to openly argue and disagree with the Judge. This was completely tolerated for some 8 minutes until a recess was called. In the States, we can make our point, but never argue or openly question a ruling of a judge. The inside of the courtrooms where all wood paneled with ornate carvings. I would not be able to concentrate for the beauty of the surroundings. I was given a poster of the courthouse which I will frame and hang in my law office.

My team's first presentation, to the Bremen Rotary Club, went very well. Before we left, I was worried, but the team all practiced and their German was good. Our slide show went very well with a beamer (power point projector) I was able to give my short talk mostly from memory in German, including a well received funny story about coming to Germany as a student, introducing myself to all takers with 'Ich bin Dick', I am Dick, (people would laugh or smile), only to find out a week later that Dick meant fat in German. My first serious test as a team leader came after our presentation, when a German Rotarian made a presentation in English on German traditions. By the way, most rotarians speak and understand English pretty well, but I was determined my group would speak German. His speech was more about the bad experience Germany has had with war and treatment of prisoners, and his concerns that American was headed into dangerous waters. It was not expected, and uncomfortable, but I also felt this man, a professor, spoke from genuine concern and not as a critic. I was not asked to further speak, and I was unsure what to do. The club president was raising his gavel to end the meeting, and I thought, oh hell, I can't leave it here. I stood and asked to be heard. I could tell they were hoping I would do this. I spoke for maybe 3 to 4 minutes in English. In short, I said that despite the killing and torture of American soldiers, this does not excuse the humiliation and torture of Iraqis. Not any excuse. I also said that while many Americans do not want to take advice from foreign countries, freedom of speech is still very important, and as a friend and ally, Germany should continue to share their views with America about Iraq, and that whether we listen or not, we will only be better for such advice. The strong ovation was heartfelt, but more importantly, a touchy issue was dealt with openly instead of ignored. I will only add that the following day, I had a long talk with a Rotarian from Toledo, who had lived the last 30 years in Lingen as a music professor. He has never become a German citizen though he never plans to leave Germany, because he would have to give up his American citizenship which he cherishes. Only recently, because of the Iraq situation, has he seriously considered doing this. I'm sure many Americans would say good riddance, but he seemed to be a very sincere man who loved America very much after all these years. I will be sorry to lose him if it happens. Lingen is much smaller, maybe 70,000, but with great charm. I have been spoiled with fine restaurants, including a meal tonight from Provence, France. And yes, I had my first and second glasses of wine in 10 years this night. Wunderbar.

More soon,

Richard, or yes, Dick

Letter from Dick, May 24, 2004

Hello all,

Our 3rd stop is Delmenhorst, only 14 kilometers from Bremen. Small town about the size of Lingen. Our stay here will be too brief since tomorrow we leave for Berlin for 3 days. At my beautiful home here (another upstairs suite to myself), Norbert is a partner in a civil law firm, and he has had a long career in Social Democratic party politics (our democrats). Wife Erika has a collection of over 5000 owl figurines of all shapes and sizes, and is a school teacher. Excellent political discussions into the late hours of the night. Another visit to German courts, where I witnessed 2 juvenile proceedings.

My hosts are going to bed. More after Berlin Pam thanks for the address

Dick

Letter from Team Leader Dick Sammis – May 30, 2004

hallo to all,

I am now in Aurich, a town of 26,000 but area of 40,000. Aurich is the furthest north I've been, only a half hour ride to the coast of the north sea. Tomorrow we have another trip to an island in the North Sea. Rain expected, which is not uncommon for Northern Germany. Our weather has been unseasonably on the cold side, but not too much rain. No weather complaints.

Today was a wonderful (they really do say wunderbar here for wonderful bike trip into the country with host family Robert and Christa Boewe. Both are in their sixties, and still help run Robert's 3 shops – a gift shop with fine china and cookware, a large industrial hardware store, and a third with ironware and toilet equipment. He, like all Rotarians we meet, has done well. Beautiful house, with the strangest basement. A concrete pool was poured in the basement when the house was built, but because of a drastic increase in fuel costs some years ago in Germany, the pool sits unfinished, a big concrete hole in the basement. The bike trip: Robt and Christa are typical Germans - they hop on their bikes and ride several times a week, if not more, during spring summer and fall. Their are bike trails along almost every road in Germany, and they are always full of bikes and walkers. We rode for 22 km, about 13 or 14 miles. They take 1 or 2 long tours every year. The countryside here is beautiful, with farms and pine forests. We also rode along a canal for a great while. Canals are common in north Germany, and link cities with the North Sea, or the Baltic Sea. Some are big enough for barge traffic, others only for recreational. Many bridges which the boat captains must stop their boats for, and lift the bridges up themselves. The Bike trails are narrow, 4 feet wide at most. Bicyclists pass each other at full speed from both directions - unnerving for me, no big deal for them. Fields have 2 feet high mounds between them, left over from long ago when there were few trees, and the winds from the North Sea would sweep away the top soil. These mounds prevented this. They are now historically preserved; can't be removed.

We had drinks at a Gasthaus (bar that serves food) half way. While my hosts always drink beer or wine, my favorite drink is half apple juice, half sparkling water, which%2

**CEREAL CITY SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB HONORS LOCAL MEDICS WITH "STARS OF LIFE" AWARD**



**Battle Creek, Michigan---**The Cereal City Sunrise Rotary Club recently honored two of Battle Creek's outstanding Medics with a Star of Life Award.

Paramedics Kevin Swank of LifeCare Ambulance Service and Jim Stevens a community volunteer for over 35 years, received the club's first "Star of Life Award" in ceremonies at the Battle Creek Country Club. The club plans to present the award annually to Battle Creek's top Medics.

Swank and Stevens also received a National Star of Life Award from the American Ambulance Association during ceremonies in Washington D.C. in May; they were two of 106 Medics nationwide to receive the association's highest honor.

Joe Schwarz, M.D, former State Senator and Battle Creek Mayor was the keynote speaker for the inaugural event. As mayor, Schwarz was instrumental in the initial organization of LifeCare Ambulance Service as a local non-profit community asset and spoke about the huge advances in professional emergency care.

**PLEASE NOTE SOME VERY IMPORTANT ITEMS:**

- 1) Jay Larson's email will be changing as of July 1 to the following: [larson337@cablespeed.com](mailto:larson337@cablespeed.com)  
It appears that all those accounts that have a voyager.net email address through Digital Millennium will be changing to a cablespeed.com address.  
Also, DG Ed's email is now [egfoster@cablespeed.com](mailto:egfoster@cablespeed.com)
- 2) Gil O'Rourke has informed us that he has been advised by Dave Groner to sign up for the Westin Hotel on Michigan Ave. in Chicago for those who plan on attending the Centennial Celebration at the RI Convention June 18-23, 2005. **MAKE YOUR RESERVATION ASAP** at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) or use the registration form in your Rotary Magazine. We are still seeing if a train trip to Chicago might be a viable option for those that would like to travel that way.
- 3) The District Directory is published and will be distributed to the clubs via your Assistant Governors. However, if you didn't get one or need one, please let us know at the District Office. As noted on page one, the office has been moved, so please contact us at the new phone number or email address.
- 4) This is my last official newsletter and a huge thank to all Rotarians in the District for their support this past year. I look forward to serving the District as District Secretary for DGE Gayland Tennis and I know you will all give him the tremendous support that you gave me.

**POSSIBLE SPEAKER FOR YOUR CLUB**

George Jacob – Community Service Director – Freedom Village of Holland, MI. 616-399-4880

**FREE (Not "commercial") PowerPoint programs of about 30 minutes each on the following topics:**

- 1) How to save money on just about anything you need or want to buy!
- 2) What handwriting reveals about personality!
- 3) What you need to know to invest like a pro!
- 4) Freedom to live life to fullest!
- 5) The time of your life!
- 6) How to avoid the stress mess!

He is a retired School Superintendent with a second career. He has talked to several Rotary Clubs in District 6290 as well as several General Federation of Women's Clubs.

## Governor's Official Visits For 2004-05

July 09 Lansing Fri 11:45 AM	Sept 16 Plainwell Thurs 12:15 PM
July 13 South Haven Tues 7:00 AM	Sept 20 East Lansing Mon 12:00 PM
July 13 Berrien Springs / Eau Claire Tues 12:00 AM	Sept 21 Constantine Tues 12:00 PM
July 14 Jackson Noon Wed 12:00 PM	Sept 28 Union City Tues 12:00 PM
July 15 Michigan Center Thurs 12:10 PM	Sept 30 Lansing/DeWitt Thurs 7:30 AM
July 20 Jackson BR Tues 7:00 AM	Oct 04 Quincy Mon 12:00 PM
July 22 Mason Rotary Thurs 12:15 PM	Oct 06 Eaton Rapids Wed 7:00 AM
July 27 Williamston SR Tues 7:30 AM	Oct 07 Dowagiac Thurs 11:45 AM
July 27 Haslett/Okemos Tues 12:15 PM	Oct 11 Hastings Mon 12:10 PM
July 28 Benton Harbor SR Wed 7:00 AM	Oct 12 Marshall Tues 12:00 PM
July 28 Paw Paw Lake Wed 12:15 PM	Oct 19 Galesburg Tues 12:10 PM
Aug 04 Kalamazoo SR Wed 7:15 AM	Oct 20 Vicksburg Wed 7:15 AM
Aug 04 Portage Noon Wed 12:15 PM	Oct 20 Grand Ledge Wed 12:00 PM
Aug 06 Oshtemo Fri 12:15 PM	Oct 25 Kalamazoo Mon 12:00 PM
Aug 10 Delta Waverly Tues 12:15 PM	Oct 27 Parchment Wed 12:00 PM
Aug 16 Allegan Mon 12:15 PM	Oct 28 Delton Thurs 8:00 AM
Aug 17 Charlotte Tues 12:15 PM	Nov 01 Niles-Buchanan Mon 12:00 PM
Aug 18 Hillsdale Wed 12:00 PM	Nov 04 Three Rivers Thurs 12:00 PM
Aug 23 Litchfield Mon 12:00 PM	Nov 08 Marcellus Mon 6:00 PM
Aug 24 Middleville Tues 12:15 PM	Nov 09 Jonesville Tues 6:00 PM
Aug 26 Albion Thurs 12:00 PM	Nov 10 White Pigeon Wed. 12:00 PM
Sept 01 Ionia Wed 12:10 PM	Nov 16 St. Johns Tues 12:15 PM
Sept 08 Cereal City SR Wed 7:00 AM	Nov 17 South Lansing - Holt Wed 12:00 PM
Sept 08 Climax Wed 12:00 PM	Nov 18 Coldwater Township Thurs 7:00 AM
Sept 09 Gull Lake Area Thurs 7:30 AM	Nov 18 Paw Paw Area Thurs 12:00 PM
Sept 09 Lakeshore Thurs 12:10 PM	Nov 22 Sturgis Mon 11:45 AM
Sept 13 St. Joe Benton Harbor Mon 12:10 PM	Nov 23 Coldwater Noon Tues 12:00 PM
Sept 13 Reading Mon 6:00 PM	Nov 29 Battle Creek Mon 12:00 PM
Sept 15 Bronson Wed 11:45 AM	Nov 30 Otsego Tues 12:00 PM
Sept 16 Portage AM Thurs 7:00 AM	

**CLUB PRESIDENTS, PLEASE NOTE THE DATES ABOVE AND IF THERE IS A CONFLICT,  
PLEASE NOTIFY THE DISTRICT OFFICE RIGHT AWAY.**