

Skaneateles Suntarian

Editor: Elaine Taggart, Sec.

Lend a Hand (2003-04 Rotary International Theme)

July 31st, 2003 issue

Skaneateles Sunrise Rotary Club

Meets every Thursday Morning, 7-8 am

at The Skaneateles Community Center, Skaneateles NY

Officers: President, Rhett Weiss; Secretary, Elaine Taggart; Treasurer, Toni Feldmann, Pres-Elect: John Paddock

4-Avenues of Service Chairs: Club Service - Bill Lynn (temporary); Community Service - Ralph Edmonds; International Service - Rhett Weiss; Vocational Service - Elaine Taggart

Board Members: Bill Lynn, Rhett Weiss, Elaine Taggart

District Advisor: PDG Ward Vuillemot **Skaneateles Rotary Club Support Team:** Peter Anderson, Bill Stevens, Donn Nottage & Dick Poppa

Last Week

- ?? **Present:** *Robert de Wetter, Ralph Edmonds, Dave Labouradette, Tim Lynn, John McCarthy, John Paddock, John Rooney, Paul Sheedy, Doug Smith, Toni Feldmann, Rhett Weiss, Ron Bond*
- ?? **Visitarians:** *Brad McLennan, Bill Rosbrook, Art Fellerman:Skaneateles Evening Club*
- ?? **Guest:** *Diane Walsh* from the Skaneateles Festival
- ?? **Program** - As she did last year, *Diane Walsh* spoke to our Club as the Artistic Director of the Skaneateles Chamber Music Festival. The schedule format is the same for 4 weeks starting August 7th. The Thursday and Friday evening performances will be at the First Presbyterian Church at 8:00 PM and the Saturday evening performances will be at Brook Farm at 8:00 PM with Saturday rain location being the Marcellus High School. If our Rotary Club is interested there are always opportunities to volunteer such as being an usher. There are also open rehearsals on Wednesday afternoons at the Presbyterian Church which Ralph noted might be a good opportunity to use the Laker-Limo to transport Senior Citizens to the rehearsal.

Several announcements and discussion about upcoming events

- ?? **Curbstone Festival** - Thanks to all who manned the booth! This event was very successful on many fronts. Many people were intrigued with iron lung and appreciated the polio education and RI's work to eradicate it. One local woman even recognized a picture of her brother from 50 years ago. The "Share your Life" program also had success in educating and registering people. The booth also generated interest for our local Rotary Clubs including some prospective members. The polio and water bottle donations grossed \$85 and \$234 respectively.
- ?? **Charter Dinner – Thursday October 2** - Toni is still collecting \$35 from members (made out to Skaneateles Sunrise Rotary) and is more than half way toward the \$700 down payment.
- ?? **Winterfest** - January 30th & 31st. Dave noted that the Bonfire will be Friday night with Dave Allyn's band playing. Saturday events will include dog sled rides, chili cook-offs, ice sculpturing and more.
- ?? **Board Meeting – July 31** following the morning meeting
- ?? **Group Study Exchange – Oct 11th - 16th** The Auburn Rotary Club is sponsoring a group of people from South Africa to share Literacy Initiatives. Our Sunrise Rotary club is invited to help as well as host people in our homes if interested.

Future Programs:

- ?? July 31 – John McCarthy, Photography followed by Board Meeting
- ?? August 07 – Club Assembly
- ?? Possibly someone might speak to our club(s) about the disease Jim Kelly's son has.

A Message from RI President, Jonathan Majiyagbe

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Very often, the clothes we wear reflect our backgrounds and our cultures. Just look at the amazing array of traditional garb worn proudly by Rotarians at the RI Convention, International Assembly, and other major Rotary meetings. Although styles and customs may vary, Rotarians recognize that one common strand runs through all cultures: the ideal of service, the urge to help people in need, wherever they live.

In the months ahead, this column will showcase some of the traditional clothing that reflects Rotary's diversity in order to demonstrate that our clothes do not alter our common commitment to Service Above Self.

Through our theme for the year, I am asking Rotarians to *Lend a Hand*, not only to increase our membership but also to retain members. We can do this by creating in each club a family of Rotary committee, charged with making the Rotary experience more "family friendly." We should strive to welcome and include non-Rotarian family members – spouses, adult children, widows, and widowers – as active participants in club activities and fellowship. The more hands we have, the more effective the services we render. Today, millions of people subsist in abject poverty. In the world's poorest countries, men and women literally wear rags because they own no clothes, and children run naked, their emaciated bodies a testament to hunger. This grim scenario is not uncommon throughout the developing world, a fact that many Rotarians know well. In many nations of Africa, my homeland, poverty wears a very visible and wretched face. But poverty has many faces. In wealthier countries, its face may be concealed, making it easier to ignore. Yet almost every community has people in serious need. As Rotarians, we must open our eyes to see those around us who cannot afford shelter, health care, food, and other essentials. We must address these problems with compassion and pragmatism. I ask all Rotarians to make the alleviation of poverty our number-one aim.

Our other areas of emphasis, as described in the 2003-04 Presidential Citation, encourage us to *Lend a Hand* to address health concerns and promote literacy and education. This year, four RI task forces – Family of Rotary, Poverty Alleviation, Health Concerns, and Literacy and Education – stand ready to help all clubs and districts address these issues. And we must promote the programs of The Rotary Foundation of RI and maintain and expand the Foundation's financial resources.

This Rotary year is the 99th year of our existence as the most prestigious and oldest humanitarian organization on earth. What a delight that we can all help prepare for the celebration of our centennial, the eradication of polio, and the graduation of the first class of Rotary World Peace Scholars. I am confident that both individually and collectively, all of us can redouble our efforts to serve others in Rotary's next century if we *Lend a Hand*.

Jonathan Majiyagbe

President, Rotary International