



## JANINE'S MESSAGE

### Happy Holidays to District 5220 Rotarians and families!

Can we believe that 2008 is almost over? That this Rotary year is almost half over? Time truly does move more quickly each year. We have such busy days ahead as the holidays rapidly approach. R.I. President D.K. Lee's theme this year is "Make Dreams Real". As Rotarians, we have taken up this challenge to better the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. For this upcoming Holiday Season, I have a dream. My dream is for you to be healthy and to spend time with your family and friends! What could be better? Remember, in Rotary, December is Family Month.

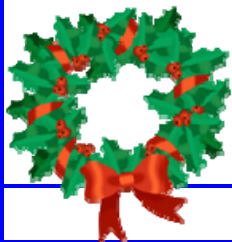
I have come across several pieces of Rotary information that I found interesting. Thought I would share them with you. Here's one: Interact is 46 years old. The first Interact Club was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Florida in November 1962. Within a year, 177 Interact clubs were active in 24 countries. Today there are more than 200,000 Interactors in 109 countries. In District 5220 we have very active Interact clubs thanks to the dedicated Rotarians who sponsor them.

How about starting to think... "off to Birmingham"...the site of the 100<sup>th</sup> Rotary International Convention in June 2009? Some background...the first Rotary convention was in August 1910 with 60 men (my, how things have changed!) attending. At this time Rotary had 15 clubs and 1000+ members. Seven years later, WWI had started and the convention in Atlanta was known as the Great Patriotic Convention. Rotary was truly an international organization with 32,000+members and was destined to become a champion of peace. 1945, during WWII, the convention was back in Chicago with only 141 in attendance. In 1946 there was a spirit of jubilation at the convention in Atlantic City...the war was over! Rotary founder Paul Harris spoke to the 11,000 in attendance and noted that 50 Rotarians had served as delegates and consultants at the 1945 United Nations Conference in San Francisco. This was his last convention. Paul Harris died seven months later. In 1955 Rotary celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday at the convention in Chicago. The friendship shared at the event gave way to the chill of the Cold War. The featured speaker at the event was Vice President Richard Nixon who congratulated Rotary on its support of the UN. Tokyo was home to the first convention in Asia in 1961. The previous attendance record was 7,000; Tokyo drew 23,000 visitors from 74 countries! At the 1985 Convention in Kansas City, Dr. Albert Sabin, developer of the oral polio vaccine, urged Rotary not to give up on global polio immunization. It was at the Philadelphia Convention in 1988 that Rotary established a fundraising goal of \$120 million for the PolioPlus campaign. Fireworks and balloons celebrated the announcement. Current RI President Charles Keller described this as "Rotary's finest hour." 2004 found Rotarians in Asia once again. At this convention in Osaka, Japan broke all records with 45,000+ in attendance. At Salt Lake City in 2007 William Gates, Sr said: Given what I know about Rotary, I want to urge you in the strongest possible terms: *Think Big*. Think big, because anything less would be a waste of your potential. Thing big, because thinking smaller would betray the optimism you have earned the right to. Think big because big ideas are what the world needs from you." Wow! That's us...Rotary! Did this whet your appetite for the next RI Convention? Go to [rotary.org](http://rotary.org) for information.

Happy Holidays my Rotary Friends. Thank you for your dedication to  
**Make Dreams Real.**

***Janine & Jim McClanahan***

DECEMBER IS FAMILY MONTH



NOV-DEC 2008	
Index	
<b>Club Happenings</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>International</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Foundation &amp; Youth</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Club and District</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>8</b>