

October 2011 Zone Institute – Speaker info...

FRIDAY , October 21, 2011

Barry Rassin – Past Rotary International Director 2006-2008 - Nassau, N.P., Bahamas HAITI – One Year Later

As account holder for The Rotary Foundation donor advised fund “The Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund”, PRID Director Barry Rassin will share with us what has taken place in Haiti since the last Zone Institute . A 7.0-magnitude quake struck Haiti on 12 January 2010, killing more than 220,000 people and crumbling the country's infrastructure.

Barry has been a Rotarian since 1980, President of The Rotary Club of East Nassau in 1987-88, District Governor in 1991-92, and was awarded the Service Above Service Award in 1996 . He has held a number of positions in Rotary, from President's Representative to Polio Eradication Chairman for multiple districts , as 7020 District Trainer, Rotary International Training Leader , chaired or co-chaired the GETS program for Zones 33 and 34, and representative for Council on Legislation for several years.

He has an M.B.A. from the University of Florida and is a Board Certified Healthcare Executive (F.A.C.H.E.). He has been a guest lecturer at St. Benedictine University in Nassau, speaking on "Leadership and Quality", taught "Bahamian Health Services Economics" at the College of the Bahamas, and many years as Chairman of Project Read (Bahamas) Limited, an adult literacy program.

Dr. Jim Withers – Pittsburgh Street Medicine

Operation Safety Net (OSN) is a Street Medicine program in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. OSN was founded when Dr. Jim Withers began to make “house calls” at night under the bridges, along the river banks and in the abandoned buildings of Pittsburgh. It has grown into the nation’s first full-time street-based medical delivery system. OSN’s primary functions are to improve the well-being of the unsheltered homeless of Pittsburgh, advocate for health-care justice, educate health-care students, and to assist other cities to develop their own street medicine programs.

Dr. Jim Withers is the medical director and founder of Operations Safety Net. He was raised in rural Pennsylvania, where he made house calls with his father, a family practitioner. Dr. Withers received his undergraduate degree at Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania, and completed his medical school training at the University of Pittsburgh in 1984.

[Friday continued]

KEN FRANTZ - Bridges to Prosperity.

Bridges to Prosperity is a US-based nonprofit organization that trains local people in developing countries to build pedestrian footbridges. Footbridges are simple and inexpensive enough for rural communities to build with only modest outside help, and they provide major benefits such as improved safety and access to markets, schools and medical care.

Since its founding in March 2001, Bridges to Prosperity has expanded to 17 countries across Southeast Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. Bridges to Prosperity is supported by and partners with a number of other organizations such as Rotary International.

Ken is the original founding member of Bridges to Prosperity, the board director, and full time volunteer from Gloucester, Virginia.

Ken has been in the construction & development industry for over 30 years, most of which was directing the activities of his own firm. He has received national and state commendations for construction and scheduling excellence, and was on the Board of Directors for the Associated Builders and Contractors. Ken has volunteered thousands of hours for over 20 charitable organizations, ranging from the Friendship Force to Rotary International, and is currently on the Board of Trustees of Hampton Roads Academy. Ken received his undergraduate degree from Washington State University and his Masters from Golden Gate University. He lives with his two boys, daughter, and wife in Yorktown, Virginia. Ken has donated substantial financial resources, and volunteers full-time to Bridges to Prosperity activities.

Ashok M. Mahajan - The Rotary Foundation Trustee 2009-2013

Vice-chairman of fund development committee of Rotary Foundation 2011-2012; TRF Director 2007-2009; Member of the International Polio Plus Committee & Service Awards for a Polio-Free World sub-committee; Member of President D . K. Lee's Advisor Committee 2008-2009; Rotary International Liaison Director Interact Committee 2007-2009 and Extension of Rotary – South & South Asia Committee 2008-2009; District 3140 representative 2001 Council on Legislation; RI Presidents' District representative ten times: Member World Affair Committee-Asian 2003-2005; Member World Affair Committee- Asian 2003-2005; Member India Presidential Polio Plus Summit 2001-2002; Zone Coordinator for-- Avoidable Blindness Task Force 2000-02, Membership Task Force 1998-99 and 1995-96, Rotary District 3140 Governor 1993-94; Joined Rotary Club of Mulund in 1973 and served as Club President 1982-83.

[Friday continued]

Thomas M. Thorfinnson – Rotary International Vice-President – Director 2009-11, USA

Tom Thorfinnson is a corporate attorney engaged in the private practice of law, and is on the board of directors for the First Minnetonka City Bank. A member of the Rotary Club of Eden Prairie Noon, Minnesota, he has served Rotary as a task force member and a Reach Out to Africa Service Associate Countries Subcommittee member. Tom also was part of the North America Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign leadership team. He has received the RI Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. He has led 11 volunteer trips to Haiti and Nigeria and is an active supporter of water projects in developing countries. Tom and his wife, Jamie, live in Eden Prairie.

John Hewko – Rotary International General Secretary

John Hewko, an attorney with extensive international experience in both the private and public sectors He is a former partner with the international law firm of Baker & McKenzie and was vice president at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. government agency established in 2004 to deliver U.S. foreign assistance to the world's poorest countries. During his 15 years at Baker & McKenzie, Hewko specialized in international corporate transactions in emerging markets. He participated in the establishment of the firm's Moscow office and was the managing partner of its offices in Kyiv and Prague. While in Ukraine in the early 1990s, Hewko assisted the working group that prepared the initial draft of the new Ukrainian post-Soviet constitution and was a charter member of the first Rotary club in Kyiv. Prior to joining Baker & McKenzie, he worked for leading Brazilian and Argentine law firms and later with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Washington and New York handling Latin American and project finance transactions Hewko is a 1985 graduate of Harvard Law School, and holds a master's degree from Oxford University (where he studied as a Marshall Scholar) and a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. He speaks six languages.

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SATURDAY, October 22, 2011

Eduardo da Costa, Brazil - Rotary Peace Scholar - Duke University

Eduardo Costa is an economist, scholar and social/environmental activist in the Brazilian Amazon. As an economist for the Pará State Chamber of Commerce, he has pioneered the mobilization of local corporations on issues related to corporate social and environmental responsibility. He has assisted local business leaders with the design and implementation of socially and environmentally responsible corporate projects and advocated for the development of sustainable small businesses in the Brazilian Amazon. As a professor in the Program of International Relations at UNAMA-Amazônia University, his academic interests focus on conflict prevention, human rights and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in the Brazilian Amazon. Eduardo believes that only economically viable, socially just and environmentally sustainable development policies can ensure that the needs of the local populations are met, that the Brazilian Amazon has the opportunity to develop its economy, and that the rainforest persists as an ecologically functioning ecosystem that plays a vital role in regulating the global climate. Upon completion of the Rotary World Peace Program, Eduardo wishes to seek employment with a private consulting firm, international NGO or multilateral organization that works towards the promotion of sustainable development policies in the Amazon and around the world.

Sakuji Tanaka – Rotary International President-Elect

Sakuji Tanaka, a member of the Rotary Club of Yashio, Saitama, Japan, was elected president of Rotary International for 2012-13 by delegates during the fourth plenary session at the 2011 RI Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. For 32 years, Tanaka was president of Tanaka Company Ltd., a wholesale firm that went public in 1995 and later merged with other leading wholesalers in Japan. Currently, he serves as vice president of the Yashio City Chamber of Commerce and adviser to Arata Co. Ltd., an animal feed and pet food wholesaler. He also chaired the National Household Papers Distribution Association of Japan for eight years. Tanaka studied business at Nihon Management Daigakuin and Tokyo Management Daigakuin.

A past trustee of The Rotary Foundation, Tanaka chaired the 2009 Birmingham Convention Committee. His other service to Rotary includes RI director, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, district governor, and member of the Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force, the Permanent Fund Committee for Japan, and the Future Vision Committee.

Tanaka established an endowed Rotary Peace Fellowship, and he and his wife, Kyoko, are Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors of the Permanent Fund, and Major Donors.

He is a recipient of RI's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award.

[Other speaker prospects pending]=====

SUNDAY – October 23, 2011

Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte – Recipient of the 2010-11 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award

Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte, an attorney and president emeritus of Florida State University in Florida, USA, a former member of the Rotary Club of Tallahassee, Florida, and a Paul Harris Fellow, is widely commended for his efforts in the areas of dispute resolution and rule of law for international legal reform throughout Eastern Europe. He has also received numerous awards for his university leadership and pro bono legal service.

In 1989, D'Alemberte became president-elect of the American Bar Association (ABA), which gave him an opportunity to provide pro bono support for newly emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. With the support of prominent U.S. jurists, lawyers, and ABA members, he and a colleague, Homer Moyer, created the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI) in 1990, which helped implement constitutional, legal, and institutional reforms in those regions. Similar programs were established in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. In 2007, the ABA established the Rule of Law Initiative to oversee these programs and now operates in 40 countries.

"One of the most important things I have been able to do was to work with others in setting up CEELI. This project can be directly linked to interests I developed as a [1958-59] Rotary Foundation Scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science," says D'Alemberte, who credits his father, a Rotarian, for opening his eyes to the world beyond his small Florida hometown.

After his scholarship, D'Alemberte earned a law degree, with honors, from the University of Florida College of Law. Convinced that the legal profession would enable him to make a difference in the lives of others, he went on to concentrate on media and public law. His work included a case that led to the first rule allowing camera access to courtrooms. It was a milestone that won him an Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 1985.

[Other Speaker Prospects Pending]=====