



Greene Rotary Newsletter

Old Mill Diner
Wednesday @ 12:05 pm

September 19, 2008

Volume 2,



Members Present last week 09/19/2008: _____

Bob Sternbergh, Jim Saroka, Nancy Kemmeter, Cindy Furgesen,

Make-ups Fibber Magee - Golf Outing

Guests: Dean Quick

Important Dates To Remember

- October Vocational Service Month
- Oct 1, 2008 Big Brother Big Sister meeting with GCSD High school.
- Oct 18, 2008 Membership and Foundation Seminar
- October 30, 2008 - Foundation Dinner
- November Rotary Foundation Month
- Nov . 8, 2008 - Rotary Day at the United Nations Headquarters
- Dec 2008 Elect Club President and Secretary
- Dec 31, 2008 - 2008 Deadline to report new slate to RI

Last Week's Meeting:

In my absence, Jim Saroka ran the meeting. Since this was the last meeting before the golf outing, this event was the main topic of the day. Jim reported that we had 17 foursomes with a possibility of more. Bob reported on the status of door prizes.

Meals On Wheels:

Many thanks to Cindy and Nancy for taking care of the meals and wheels for Friday 9/19.

We need coverage for 9/24, 9/26, 9/29, and 9/30.

Remember this is a Green Rotary Function. It is considered a make up.

Please contact Jim & Nonie Saroka to arrange for your day to serve.

Massive India flood strands millions

By Ryan Hyland
Rotary International News -- 19 September

Past RI President Rajendra Saboo visited the Saharsa District of Bihar, India, last week to survey the devastation caused by August's massive floods.

The Kosi River in Bihar, one of India's poorest states, overflowed its banks in August after torrential rainfall from heavy monsoons caused a dam to burst in Past RI President Saboo (middle) listens to residents affected by the massive August flooding in Bihar, India. At



bottom; flood victims make their way to refugee relief camps. *Photos courtesy of Saboo*

southern Nepal, setting off the worst flooding in 50 years. Millions of people have been displaced, and hundreds of villages are under water in northeast India.

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"These are unprecedented conditions. Bihar presented a deadly picture of devastation," says

Saboo, a resident in the Union Territory of Chandigarh. "We saw the human spirit fight for survival."

During a two-day visit to the region, Saboo, accompanied by Past Governor Ranjit Bhatia of District 3080 (India), met Governor Lal Bahadur Singh of District 3250 (India) to tour affected areas and assess Rotary's response so far.

"I'm happy to see how Rotary clubs and districts from all over the country are responding," says Saboo. "Rotarians are doing a good job during the intermediate relief stage. As the rehabilitation stage nears, I believe Rotary has tremendous potential of doing good, as we have in many other natural disasters."

Relief aid trucks have been coming in from districts throughout the country. Districts 3131 and 3140 have already sent trucks full of medicine, food, clothes, and blankets. Two doctors from District 3100 arrived to provide medical care.

Because areas in Bihar are so ravaged by the flood and conditions are still too dangerous to return, nearly half of the 1.2 million people left homeless are in government and relief agency camps.

Homecoming kits

The Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar plans to send 3,500 *ghar wapasi* -- or *homecoming* -- kits, each of which provides comprehensive shelter relief for a family of four, including two roof tarps, a kerosene stove, cooking supplies, 500 chlorine tablets, toothpaste, a mosquito net, and other consumables.

Rotarian volunteers have arrived in Bihar to help distribute kits and other aid to camp refugees as well as families stranded deep inside swampy villages.

Saboo said the main need for people in the flood zones is basic medical care.

As the water recedes, Saboo fears the crowded and often unsanitary conditions in refugee camps could lead to outbreaks of water - and airborne diseases.

Rotary districts in India also are arranging accommodations for visiting volunteer doctors who are coming to provide preventive

care in the refugee camps, he adds.

Under the guidance of RI Director Ashok M. Mahajan, funds collected by Rotary in India will be leveraged with support of the RI community and The Rotary Foundation.

Saboo admits to being moved by the spirit and determination of those affected by the flood. "One thing that hit me hard was the realization and the appreciation of the power and strength of these people."

"Rotary's compassion and action will make the difference for victims," says Saboo. "This is the time when the sincerity of purpose will bring a sense of tremendous satisfaction far more than any recognition or credit."

Considering that flooding is not uncommon during the monsoon season this has to be really bad.

GOLF OUTING:

Our annual golf outing is now history. Many thanks to Jim Saroka for all of his hard work in organizing this event. Many thanks to Bob Sternbergh for his perseverance in recruiting donors of door prizes, Sherry for helping out during the event to make this event a great success, Debbie for her efforts to keep the golfers from dehydrating. We will hear more from Jim on the success after he recovers from a very tiring day.

We had a reasonably good turnout as well. Those who attended the dinner are: Jim Saroka, Jeff Henry, Bob Sternbergh, Ralph Osborne, Sherry & Neil Guiles, Debbie Eggelston Bill & Carol Read, Fibber & Sally Magee

Birthdays & Anniversaries

My apologies, I omitted a couple anniversary celebration in last weeks news letter.

Sept 10,- Happy belated Anniversary - Paula & Andy

Sept 18, - Happy belated Anniversary - Jeff & Chris

He Profits most who serves best!