Like nothing else, literacy is a stepping stone away from poverty.

Lead the Way — William B. Boyd, President
March is traditionally, Discon Month. It is also, traditionally, a time for a vacation. The conjunction of these two activities is auspicious because DG Toto Locsin chose Boracay as every Rotarian’s destination, not just for a vacation but also for an assembly. The event is repeated every year but one cannot help but feel the novelty of it all. The excitement and anticipation is pervasive, yet, its regularity cannot even describe the attraction it provides to every Rotarian from the four corners of the District.

Perhaps, there is a yearning in all of us to share and compare notes because we know that what we are doing is being replicated in the other parts of our District. Sharing a cause is a particularly powerful rallying point. And when the call is made, every man and woman who have the same dreams respond equally.

In this sense, the Discon is a gauge of the state of the District. It is a means to fathom just how strong the organization is. For then, one will not just proceed to a place if there is no meaning to his journey. Even a sojourn is less satisfying without the company of people of the same mould.

It is also a place where we can be recognized. For all the projects that we have completed for the community, the medical missions, feeding programs, and literacy projects, we take pleasure in reporting that we have done our share. And what better compliment is there than to be recognized by our peers?

More importantly, the Discon is a renewal. It marks the beginning of a new resolve, the start of another cycle. It is a center where we can be reinvigorated.

For then, the purpose of this great movement called Rotary lies in every malnourished or illiterate child; the sick and the infirm or even the environment that needs to be healed. The Discon is a launching area for another year of service. Its true meaning is in the manner it can strengthen the District for greater tasks ahead.
Like nothing else, literacy is a stepping stone away from poverty.

Dear fellow Rotarians,

As members of a family of book lovers, we have always made literacy a high priority in our lives. Our home is full of books, and neither Lorna nor I ever travel without two or three. Reading is a great joy for both of us, and it is a joy we’ve shared with our children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, for many people around the world, the simple pleasure of reading seems hopelessly out of reach.

Without literacy, all the written words we encounter every day – not just in books and newspapers, but in maps, labels, street signs, and billboards – are mysteries and roadblocks to full integration into society. For me, teaching someone to read is one of the most rewarding acts of service imaginable. All it costs is patience and time, and the rewards are incalculable.

Like nothing else, literacy is a stepping stone away from poverty. It is a gift of self-reliance, one that can be freely passed on from generation to generation. Once there’s literacy in a family, it’s almost always there to stay, as literate parents raise literate children. Literate parents are also more likely to raise healthier children, whose horizons will stretch far beyond their own homes and villages. Literacy, quite literally, opens up a new world.

We need to be aware that illiteracy is not a problem only of the developing world. Even in the wealthiest countries with universal education, many people are functionally illiterate. Where illiteracy carries a stigma, it can be especially difficult to combat. Yet, in highly literate societies, being able to read and write is crucial in almost every job. Go into any prison or hospital, and you will find a disproportionate number of people who are functionally illiterate. Too many of those who work in unskilled jobs are illiterate and need their workmates to read for them. But Lorna and I have seen illiterate women in Uganda learn to read within days and children exposed to books for the first time in South Africa finding a new world they didn’t know existed. We’ve seen Rotarians in India and Nigeria and Turkey using the concentrated language encounter method to teach thousands of women and children, and some men, to read. The issue is not one of intelligence but of opportunity.

Literacy has rightly been high on Rotary’s service agenda for many years now, and it should feature among the projects of every Rotary club. Whether the goal is donating books, running literacy classes, supplying elementary school students with dictionaries, or just helping children with their schoolwork, literacy projects bring great results with very little investment of money. As someone who has spent many hours sitting on undersized chairs listening to children read, I wholeheartedly believe that the stiff muscles are a small price to pay for the lifelong benefits of literacy.

W.B. (Bill) Boyd
President, Rotary International
The best memories that I have of Rotary fellowship are those that came from the numerous District Conferences that I have attended. The Discon offers a wealth of recollections every Rotarian will treasure. It is the highlight of the Rotary year and the culmination of Rotary’s year of service.

Knowing your expectations of the Discon and having been privy to previous assemblies that have provided us with great displays of hospitality and camaraderie, the Discon Organizing Committee and I prepared long and hard in order for us to live up to the standards that have been set by the District’s tradition of excellence in all aspects of Rotarian activity.

Boracay is the most logical venue for our conference and I am elated that as early as March last year, we made the right choice. Having RC Boracay as a co-host of the event was also a perfect. It was then that every so often, RC Boracay members would often shuttle to Iloilo for coordinated planning sessions and meetings with their counterparts from RC Metro Iloilo. Metro Iloilo Rotarians would also look forward to having a few days in Boracay in order to have first hand knowledge of the physical arrangements for the different activities; from the registration to the plenary, to the dinners and fellowship. It was a long and arduous task. But in the end, the long hours of preparation paid off and we had another Discon that provided us with another memorable gathering.

I believe that the Discon is a reflection of the District Leadership and I hope that we were able to showcase what the Rotary Year was like through the window of the Discon. I have so many person to thank and through this message I am extending my gratitude. Everybody took their share of the workload. This made our work easier to accomplish.

I wish to congratulate the District Organizing Committee from RC Metro Iloilo and RC Boracay, headed by co-chair PP Francis and PP Bot. To them I say, “Well Done.”

Meanwhile, we look forward to more Rotary projects and humanitarian missions. Our work does not end at the Discon. As we closed one chapter of our history there, we are also beginning to weave a new one.
The DisCon Opening Ceremonies

The emcees PP Oliver Ong of RC Zamboanga City and Rtn. Dang Romero of RC Boracay

A few of the dignitaries present during the Opening

Guest Speakers, PDGs and other dignitaries

A view of the Plenary Hall

The Bgy. Logon (Boracay) Ati Choir singing the Doxology

The Bgy. Logon (Boracay) Ati Choir singing the National Anthem

DisCon Co-Chairs, Francis & Bot with RC Boracay & RC Metro Iloilo Presidents Del Nano & Ronnel Quiñon

Entrance of Colors

RI President’s Representative PDG Jason Hsu delivering his message

GML March 2007
CATEGORtY AWARDS

GROUP 1 INDIVIDUAL AWARDS (Category A & B)

1.1 Most Outstanding / Outstanding Club President Award
- Outstanding (Category A) : Pres. Jean Chua (RC Bacolod West)
  - Pres. Lorenzo “Nonong” dela Cruz (RC Metro Bacolod)
- Outstanding (Category B) : Pres. Augusto “Gus” Solmirano (RC Kalibo)
  - Pres. Santiago “Apo” Alati-it (RC Metro Roxas)

Most Outstanding (Category A) : Pres. Nida “Nenette” Tan (RC Zamboanga City Central)

Most Outstanding (Category B) : Pres. Jose Vicente “JV” Attilano III (RC Zamboanga City Central)

1.2 Most Outstanding / Outstanding Club Secretary Award
- Outstanding (Category A) : Sec. Alexander “Alex” Ong (RC Central Iloilo City)
  - Sec. Leonardo Rey “Cachito” Vasquez (RC Zamboanga City West)
- Most Outstanding (Category A) : Sec. Sheilla Lee (RC Zamboanga City Central)
  - Sec. Melanie “Mega” Lunn (RC Kalibo)

GROUP 2 CLUB AWARDS (Category A & B)

2.1 Most Outstanding / Outstanding Rotary Club Award
- Outstanding (Category A) : RC Bacolod West
  - RC Metro Bacolod
- Outstanding (Category B) : RC Kalibo
  - RC Bacolod North

Most Outstanding (Category A) : RC Zamboanga City Central

Most Outstanding (Category B) : RC Zamboanga City West

GROUP 3 AVENUE OF SERVICE AWARDS (Category A & B)

3.1 Most Outstanding / outstanding Avenue of Club Service Award
- Outstanding (Category A) : RC Metro Bacolod
  - RC Metro Roxas
- Most Outstanding (Category A) : RC Zamboanga City Central

Most Outstanding (Category B) : RC Zamboanga City West

3.2 Most Outstanding / Outstanding Avenue of Community Service Award
- Outstanding (Category A) : RC Ozamiz North
  - RC Metro Bacolod
- Outstanding (Category B) : RC Kalibo
  - RC Bacolod

Most Outstanding (Category A) : RC Zamboanga City Central

Most Outstanding (Category B) : RC Zamboanga City West

3.3 Most Outstanding / Outstanding Avenue of Vocational Service Award
- Outstanding (Category A) : RC Bacolod West
  - RC Zamboanga City West
  - RC Bacolod North

Most Outstanding (Category A) : RC Zamboanga City Central

Most Outstanding (Category B) : RC Metro Roxas

3.4 Most Outstanding / Outstanding Avenue of International Service Awards
- Outstanding (Category A) : RC Jaro Centraline
  - RC Midtown Iloilo
- Outstanding (Category B) : RC Zamboanga City West

Most Outstanding (Category A) : RC Bacolod West

Most Outstanding (Category B) : RC Bacolod North

GROUP 4 PROJECT / PROGRAM AWARDS (Category A & B)

4.1 Highest Membership Percentage Growth Award
- (Category A) : RC Metro Bacolod
- (Category B) : RC Metro Roxas

4.2 Most Number of New Members
- (Category A) : RC Metro Bacolod
- (Category B) : RC Metro Roxas

4.3 Best Club Bulletin Award
- (Category A) : RC Zamboanga City East – “La Unidad”
  - RC Zamboanga City Central – “El Orgullo”
- (Category B) : RC Zamboanga City – “Venta”
  - RC Zamboanga City West – “The Fortress”

4.4 Club Attendance Award
- (Category A) : RC Iloilo South
  - RC Zamboanga City West

4.5 Best Vocational Service Project Award
- (Category A) : RC Guimaras – “Career Orientation Program for 19 Schools”
  - RC Zamboanga City Central – “Livelihood Project for Women”
- (Category B) : RC Bacolod North – “Career Fair in Negros”

4.6 Best Community Service Project Award
- (Category A) : RC Boracay – “100 Homes in 100 Days”
  - RC Iloilo City – “School Building Project”
- (Category B) : RC Zamboanga City West – “Adopt-A-School Project”
  - RC Iloilo – “Community Wells Project”

4.7 Best International Service Project Award
- (Category A) : RC Metro Kalibo – “Ear & Eye Screening Project”
  - RC Bacolod South – “Rotaplast Medical Surgical Project”
- (Category B) : RC Bacolod North – “Gawad Kalinga – Rotary Village Project”

4.8 Highest Contribution to The Rotary Foundation Award
- (Category A) : RC Ipi Silbogay
- (Category B) : RC Zamboanga City Central
  - RC Zamboanga City West

4.9 Best Public Relation / Public Image Project Award
- (Category A) : RC Zamboanga City Central
- (Category B) : RC Zamboanga City West

4.10 Highest Per Capita Contribution to The Rotary Foundation Award
- (Category A) : RC Pagadian West
  - RC Ipi Silbogay
- (Category B) : RC Zamboanga City West

NON CATEGORY AWARDS

GROUP 5 PROJECT PROGRAM AWARD (Non Category)

5.1 Extension Award
- RC Metro Roxas
- RC Metro Iloilo

5.2 Outstanding Rotaract Club Award
- Rotaract Club of Dipolog (RC Dipolog)
- Rotaract Club of STI Zamboanga (RC Zamboanga City Central)

5.3 Outstanding Interact Club Award
- Interact Club of Negros Occ. High School
  - RC Metro Bacolod
  - Interact Club of Dipolog (RC Dipolog)

5.4 Outstanding Rotary Community Corps Award
- Busilak 2000 Association (RC Bacolod North)

5.5 Best Rotaract Project
- “Hear Well – Speak Well – Live Well”
  - RC Bacolod North
- Rotaract Club of Bacolod East “1st Negros Eco-Race”
  - RC Bacolod East

5.6 Best Interact Project
- Interact Club of Dipolog “Dimfest 2006”
- RC Dipolog

5.7 Best Rotary Community Corps Project
- Busilak 2000 Association (RC Bacolod North)
Presentation of Rotary Year 2006-2007 District Awards

RC Metro Bacolod President Nonong dela Cruz

RC Bacolod West President Jean Chua

RC Metro Bacolod President Nonong dela Cruz

RC Bacolod North President Willy Villar

RC Metro Roxas President Ago Alati-it

GML March 2007
Scenes from the plenary sessions
Presentation of the newly chartered RC Metro Roxas Central and the Provisional Rotary Club of Metro Passi
The **Rotary Foundation**

**Contributors**
Cocktails with the RI President’s Rep.
The 1st Night: Welcome Reception
The 2nd Night: Hawaiian Night

Spouses from the Rotary Club of Zamboanga City West present a dance number.
Cong. Joven Miraflores of Aklan welcomes DG Butch Francisco of D3850

Cong. Joven Miraflores of Aklan welcomes RI President’s Representative PDG Jason & Betty Hsu

Dance number from Rotarians, Spouses and kids of the Rotary Club of Metro Roxas

D-5240, California, USA GSE Team
The 3rd Night: Governor’s Ball

DG Toto Locsin delivering his Closing Address

RI Pres. Rep Jason Hsu delivering his Closing Plenary Address
Our DISCON Conference Speakers

PDG Alex Huang
Topic: Overcoming Poverty through Literacy Program

PDG Lina Aurelio
Topic: On to Salt Lake City RI Convention

PDG Bimbo Salazar
Topic: Water for all - A 21st Century Priority

PDG Bobby Viray
Topic: The Family of Rotary & its Impact on Membership

PDG Danny Yu
Topic: Our Giving to Rotary Foundation

PDG Bimbo Salazar
Lady Elizabeth Francisco
Topic: Professional Image Enhancement

Mr. Johnny Litton
Topic: Enhancing Rotary’s Public Image

PDG Alex Huang
Topic: Overcoming Poverty through Literacy Program

GML March 2007
District Governor Ramon “Toto” Cua Locsin and Arelene, All of the PDGs, DGE Renier “Prince” Gerochi, Conference Committee chair Francisco, Co-chairs, my fellow Rotarians and all of the members of the family of District 3850:

Ma A Yong Gab Ea Sa In Yong Tanan:

This has been a great conference and all of you should feel proud of the District you belong to. During this conference all of you have proven yourselves as true Rotarians- eager to get involved and Lead the Way.

The level and extent of participation at this conference is evidenced by the leadership of your conference. This conference consisted of one the best programs that included innovative and inspirational presentations on Rotary programs; appropriate emphasis on this years theme the Family of Rotary and its impact on membership. Also well planned about RI President emphases Literacy program, Rotary Public Image, Water project. Moreover, had encouraged every Rotarian to support The Rotary Foundation program and financial contribution which is the highest in the history of district 3850 with 74 thousands US dollars, My congratulations!

This conference excellent promotion of RI Convention at Salt Lake city. On behalf of RI President Bill Boyd, I welcome you to attend the convention. The convention is a unique opportunity to learn more about Rotary's global concerns and in addition, experience the hospitality of the host country. Lorna and Bill Boyd look forward to seeing you there.

I give you my sincere admiration for this magnificent success. I was deeply touched by your district’s various wonderful entertainments, especially the fist night Welcome reception, second night Hawaiian Night Beach Fellowship, and tonight Governor’s ball.

I just can not find the words to describe how moving I have felt. It is an excellent conference! More importantly, I thank you all for your warm hospitality, especially my aid PDG Chick and PDG Nanette. I will treasure every friendship that I have established during the conference here in Boracay, the island paradise.

We will always cherish District 3850 District Conference held on “The best white beach in the world ” Boracay Island

Lastly, I congratulate Governor Toto, the Conference Committee co-chairs PP Francis De la Cruz of RC Metro Iloilo, PP Bot Gersbach of RC Boracay and all the Conference Committee members for organizing this spectacular accomplishment!

Thank you
Maraming Salamat
10th International Rotary Matched Clubs Invitational Golf Classic Welcome Dinner

PP Wennie Abulencia, PP Ray Celis & Sec. Paul Francia of the host organizing committee

PDG Jason Hsu of D3500 Taiwan

PDG Paul Street of D9710 Australia

DG Mamuro Sato of D2820 Japan

PDG Jason & Betty Hsu, with DG Toto, DG Sato, PDGs Alex Huang, Lina Aurelio, PDG Paul Street of Australia & PDGs Kitamura & Shimizu of D2820, Japan

DG Toto welcomes the international golfers from different districts

PP Yo Omori of RC Itako, D2820 Japan

Golfers from different clubs of Manila & Japan
Lady Elizabeth Francisco (Spouse of DG Butch Francisco of D-3830) talks about “Professional Image Enhancement”.

Lady Betty Hsu, the spouse of RI President’s Representative Jason Hsu, demonstrates to the spouses the different ways of using a scarf.

“Madamo gid nga salamat...”

PP Bot Gersbach
RC Boracay

PP Francisco dela Cruz
RC Metro Iloilo

Discon sa Boracay 2007
Co-chairs
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<th>Club Name</th>
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Dear Governor Toto,

I returned recently from my vacation in Thailand following the Group Study Exchange in the Philippines. Although I must say that I missed all my new friends from District 3850 while I was there.

I’m following up now to thank you so much for your support to the GSE program and, in particular, to our team during our visit. We had such a wonderful time. We were received so graciously by everyone we met and, of course, learned so much about your country through our vocational meetings and the cultural events we attended.

Our team members have been reviewing our photos and working on our journals. We will be meeting later this month to finalize our reports and plan our PowerPoint presentation that we will make to Rotary Clubs in District 5240. We have some great photos so I think our presentation will be quite interesting.

I speak for all the team members when I ask you to convey our thanks and kindest regards to all the presidents of the Rotary Clubs who hosted us during our visit, as well as to the local coordinators, our hosts and members who accompanied us during our visit. Special thanks also go to Ben Jimena for coordinating the Exchange throughout the District.

I have been asked to chair our Group Study Exchange for 2007/08, so I’ll learn first-hand just what a big job it is.

Once again, many thanks for your support. And, wow! What a wonderful District Conference (Discon) to end our visit!

Best regards,

Janet Napier
GSE Team Leader 2006/07
Rotary District 5240
Communities in action: New service resources

When a club conducts effective service projects, it not only inspires current members to stay involved in the club, it also draws in new members who want to get involved in the projects. Luckily, planning and implementing effective projects just got a little easier with a new and improved service kit (605-EN). This new resource bundles updated versions of Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects and A Menu of Service Opportunities, as well as a new addition to Rotary’s service library, Community Assessment Tools.

Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects (605A-EN) is Rotary’s comprehensive guide to selecting, planning, implementing, and evaluating effective service projects in a community. The revised version includes new sections about project liability and protection, tips on promoting projects, updated information about RI programs and resources, and a new project submission form.

A Menu of Service Opportunities (605B-EN) includes information sheets on important social issues such as literacy, poverty, hunger, health, and the environment. It highlights Rotary’s approach to addressing these areas, tips for taking action, and Rotary stories from the field. Look for extensive lists of online resources for each issue, as well as a new section on Rotary and the UN Millennium Development Goals. It can serve as an excellent resource for presentations at club meetings or district training events.

Community Assessment Tools (605C-EN), a new publication, is designed to provide clubs with some simple tools to evaluate needs in their communities and improve the effectiveness of their service projects. This resource provides eight session guides for carrying out practical and low-cost community needs assessments. In addition, it’s an excellent resource to help clubs understand their community better and identify hidden assets that might contribute to a project’s success.

The entire kit can be ordered from the RI Catalog, or each piece can be downloaded for free at www.rotary.org.

Editor:

Jana Bodensteiner, senior coordinator, Membership Development, Rotary International
E-mail: membershipminute@rotary.org

Dates to Remember

March 2007

Literacy Month
- 1: Governor’s Cup Golf Tournament
- 2: 10th Rotary International Matched Club Invitational Golf Classic
- 1-3: Discon 2007 - Boracay
- 3: 2007-2008 AG & District Team Training Seminar
- 12-18: World Rotaract Week
- 15: Deadline for the receipt by DG of Club Resolution suggesting candidates for the office of DG for RY 2009-2010
- 23-24: Sectional PETS/DISTAS for Panay Area (Roxas City) Host: RC Metro Roxas
- 28: Selection of Nominee for District Governor by the District Nominating Committee
- 30-31: Rotaract District Conference Villa Rosa Resort, Iloilo City

April 2007

Magazine Month
- 14-15: Sectional PETS/DISTAS for Negros Clubs (Bacolod City) Host: RC Metro Bacolod
- 15: Deadline for DG to submit Presidential Citation certification forms for clubs to RI. Advise the district governor if your club has met the qualifications for the Presidential Citation according to the schedule determined by the district governor.
- 22-28: Council on Legislation; Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 27-28: Sectional PETS/DISTAS for Mindanao Clubs Marcian Hotel, Zamboanga City Host: RC Zamboanga City Central

June 2007

Rotary Fellowships Month
- 17-20: 2007 Rotary International Convention; Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Mail to: