



Fellowship of Rotarian PDGs (and Friends)



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December 2013 Newsletter

The Rotary year is passing rapidly, and we are now approaching the midpoint. Wow! It seems as if the convention in Lisbon was only yesterday, and here we are in mid-December. I can't really account for the disappearance of the past few months. Perhaps someone stole them while I wasn't looking!

December means the advent of another international assembly in San Diego, which is always one of the most exciting meetings of the year due to the energy and enthusiasm of the district governors elect. It is truly a brave new world for many of them, and as John Kenny would say, the future of Rotary is in their hands!

January is also the month for the Past Officers Reunion, commonly known as the POR, and it is an excellent opportunity for PDGs to enjoy fellowship and learn about the new initiatives in Rotary. It will be back in the Manchester Grand Hyatt hotel this year on 11-13 January, in conjunction with the international assembly, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the Rotarians who plan and stage the annual meetings. The POR is truly supportive of our mission, and we plan to feature a POR representative on our AGM program again this year.

Speaking of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the PDGs Fellowship in Sydney, it will be held on Friday afternoon, 30 May, at 2:00 pm with a reception for members and spouses at 4:00. We hope that our members will arrive in time for our meeting and get a head start on the convention Down Under. There are fewer competing meetings on Friday, and we plan to hold the meeting downtown before Rotarians begin making the daily trip to Olympic Park for convention activities. Moreover, Bob Aitken of *Rotary Down Under* fame is searching for an attractive venue for us to kick off the convention in grand style. And who knows, some of the photos of our AGM may end up in the pages of Bob's outstanding regional Rotary magazine!

One of the objectives of the PDGs Fellowship is to encourage low cost reunions for PDGs, and it is important to note that such reunions will not be operated by the Fellowship itself, but by enterprising PDGs around the world who recognize the significance of keeping our PDGs engaged and well informed. So we are calling on our members to look for opportunities to plan reunions that will be attractive and worthwhile for other PDGs. In parts of the world, there are many PDGs in small areas, and in other parts, there are only a few PDGs in large areas. But the beauty is that all PDGs know their own areas, and they are the ones best equipped to develop good ideas for reunions in their respective parts of the globe. So put on your thinking caps and be the first ones to try some new ideas for low cost reunions for some very important Rotarians, -- our PDGs!

A date that seems wonderfully well suited for such reunions is the annual anniversary of Rotary on 23 February. The Rotary anniversary often goes unnoticed and uncelebrated, and we need to do better. The PDGs in Kirksville, Missouri, USA, are hosting a champagne brunch on Sunday morning, 23 February, for PDGs in the region, and so far, the response is encouraging. So try your wings, and let's celebrate this year!

For questions about the fellowship, please contact the chair, Ray Klingensmith, at rayklaw@sbcglobal.net or the secretary, Ann Lee Hussey, at annlee001@yahoo.com.